

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community Committee
Meeting date	6 February 2024
Report author	Victoria Moore
Agenda item	9

REPORT OF THE PROPERTIES & EVENTS OFFICER

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 For members to approve a 10yr contract between Abingdon Town Council and Bob Wilson Fun Fairs Ltd from 2024 – 2034.

2. **Summary**

- 2.1 To date a new 10yr contract has not been agreed and approved between Abingdon Town Council and Bob Wilson Funfairs. A contract needs to be signed in line with the Oxfordshire Act 1985.

3. **Action required**

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve either option A or B under point 5.2.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives.**

- 4.1 KO3: to manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

5. **Key information and options**

5.1 Abingdon Michaelmas Fair

At the meeting of 23rd November 2023, the Properties & Events Officer submitted to members a proposal from Mr Wilson of Bob Wilson Fun Fairs to hold the Abingdon Michal Fair service on Sunday at 16:00 followed by the fair opening instead of the traditional 19:00pm service only. The fair would open from 16:30 and run until 20:00.

Although there would be no additional cost to the town council for this proposed change as the fair is in situ by Sunday afternoon Members felt the annual fees charged to the fair be increased due to the extra trading hours and income received by operating on Sunday.

Members rejected the proposal and instructed the Properties and Events Officer to return to Mr Wilson stating Abingdon Town Council will allow the earlier fair service on Sunday at 16:00 followed by the opening of the fair until 20:00 however Abingdon Town Council will increase of annual rent from £17,500 to £21,000 due to the extra Sunday trading hours.

Mr Wilson of Bob Wilson Fairs Ltd rejected Abingdon Town Councils proposal to increase the annual fees to £21,000 hold the Michaelmas Fair service on Sunday at 16:00.

Mr Wilson has proposed a final offer, to hold the fair service at 15:00 followed by the opening of the fair and closing at 9pm. Mr Wilson wishes to leave the 10yr contract set at £17,500 with a 3yr review but, would donate an extra £1,500.00 to Council separately. Bringing in a total of £19,000.00

Should Mr Wilsons proposal be rejected by the committee he will defer back to the original agreement of a 7pm Sunday service only at a fee of £17,500.

5.2 Abingdon Michaelmas Fair options for approval

Members are required to approve either of the following.

Option A – Fair service at 15:00 Fair open until 21:00 at a fee of £17,500 with separate donation of £1,500.00 to Abingdon Town Council.

Option B – Remain as is. Sunday only fair service at 19:00. Fair opening at noon Monday at an annual fee of £17,500.

Victoria Moore
Properties Officer
January 2023