

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Tuesday 30th May 2017** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:	Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
	Cllr. P. Collins	
	Cllr. J. Harvey	Mayor
	Cllr. P. Hirons	
	Cllr. D. Isham	Vice-Chair
	Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
	Cllr. M. Smith	
	Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
	In attendance:	Ms. C. Childs
	Mrs. K. McElligott	

Cllr. Isham took the Chair in the absence of the Chair.

77/17 Election of Chair/man

To elect a Chairman of the Committee for 2017-2018
Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and agreed unanimously that Cllr. Smith be Chair/Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Cllr. Smith took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

78/17 Election of Vice Chair/man

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2017-2018
Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Hirons that Cllr. Isham be Vice-Chair/Vice-Chairman;
proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark that Cllr. Gateley be Vice-Chair/Vice-Chairman;
Cllr. Isham was elected by a majority vote as Vice-Chair/Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

79/17 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Mr. L. Philips (GSM), Cllrs. Bloomfield, Gateley, Mahi and Newell (outgoing Chair).

80/17 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.
None.

81/17 Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 and approved at Full Council on the 8th May 2017.
There were no matters arising.

82/17 Terms of Reference

To review and agree the terms of reference as agreed at Full Council.

Per Min. 19.1/17 the term Chairman had been replaced by Chair/Chairman throughout.

AGREED

Members discussed ToR 11.1 (Overseeing the management, administration and provision of the following services:

- Outside services including, parks, cemetery, open spaces and property within these areas
- Devolved Services)

as it excluded the Lace Hill Community Centre, and **RECOMMENDED** the following change:

11.1 Ensuring the management of all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and administration of the Council's property including buildings, parks, cemetery and open spaces, and the management and administration of Devolved Services.

and 11.4 (Managing all aspects of upkeep and maintenance of Brackley Road Cemetery, Chandos Park, Bourton Park, the Ken Tagg play area, Railway Walk, the Circular Walk, Castle Hill, the green at Gawcott and any other land or property acquired by the Council). Cllr Hiron queried the inclusion of the green at Gawcott; Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the Parish Council be reminded that this Council had no objection if they wished to acquire the green, which they maintain.

Cllr. Isham said that he would take the matter to the meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Thursday 1st June and report back.

ACTION CLLR. ISHAM/17th JULY AGENDA

[Clerk's note: Cllr. Isham has since confirmed that title to Gawcott Village Green was transferred to the Parish Council in 2013]

83/17 Action Report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

The Chairman noted the omission of the following from the list:

913/16 The installation of notices in playgrounds excluding dogs (GSM)

916/16 The sending of a letter to AVDC reminding them of the DisabledGo listings, and advocating DDA recognition when setting planning conditions in Buckingham (Cllr. Newell)

Cllr. Stuchbury felt that a better distribution of use of the Lace Hill playgrounds could be achieved if a notice was installed at each one showing where the other play areas were; this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION 17th JULY AGENDA

(913/16 Dog Bins) This had been graded as a single subject; Cllr. Harvey felt that it should be considered as four separate matters (new bin/poster competition/bag dispensers/signage) and prioritised individually.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

(783/16 Additional benches) Cllr. Harvey noted that this was rated 7/10 but had not been resolved; the Chairman agreed that any action graded > 7 should be completed before the next meeting.

ACTION CHAIRMAN/GSM

(520/16 Bus shelter & 630/15 Wildflower planting) It was felt that these had not been given high enough priority, and the season for wild flower planting had now passed for this year. The prioritisation system would be reviewed next meeting.

ACTION 17th JULY AGENDA

84/17 Budgets

To receive the latest figures

Cllr. Bates asked about Roundabout No.4 (A413; Russell & Butler); she felt that it was unattractively plain. Cllr. Stuchbury said that there was a planting scheme for it, and that CCTV was to be installed. GSM to investigate.

ACTION GSM

(Cost Centre 201; first three entries) Members felt the column entries should only reflect green spaces work and not include other tasks such as event road closures so as to give a truer picture. Costs might be allocated in half-day tranches.

ACTION CHAIRMAN/DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members discussed a new budget line to deal with matters arising from the Tingewick Triangle s106; it was decided that this should remain with Planning for the time being to avoid duplication, and then be referred to Full Council.

85/17 Festival of Health – 10th/11th November 2017

Cllr. Harvey updated Members: a co-ordinator had been appointed who would be paid from a grant made by NHS England. The Chairman pointed out that there was £250 available from Destination Buckingham to cover publicity for the event. Both sums should be put in Earmarked Reserves for accounting purposes.

Cllr. Harvey was asked to provide a written report for the Committee; the meeting after next was suggested.

ACTION 4TH SEPTEMBER AGENDA

86/17 HS2 Community Environment Fund

Committee Members to formulate innovative project suggestions that would be of benefit to the town. Suggestions are to be fed back to the next Resources Committee meeting (minute 969/16 refers).

The suggestions generated by Planning and TC&E had been circulated at the meeting to avoid duplication.

Cllr. Bates suggested a sensory garden in connection with the picnic area mooted for the riverbank below the Grand Junction in the BNDP.

Cllr. O'Donoghue suggested a 'green gym' for older/less able people with exercise equipment in a single spot in the park.

Cllr. Harvey suggested a replacement sculpture for the recently removed large otter statue, perhaps in the form of a railway locomotive. Members agreed to a replacement sculpture, but felt that any item that could be used for play should not be sited so close to the water; and for anything railway-themed, perhaps Railway Walk might be a better site.

Cllr. Harvey also suggested an auditory play space, perhaps including a glockenspiel and other sound generating items, a speaking tube, etc.

Cllr. Stuchbury also suggested information boards as below.

ACTION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

87/17 Section 106

Committee Members to discuss and propose Section 106 projects (minute 915/16 refers)

Cllr. Stuchbury pointed out that trial pits on the Tingewick Road Triangle site had produced finds from the Mesolithic to late Roman times, and suggested funding for a proper archaeological exploration of the site, and information/ interpretation boards for these results and for St Rumbold's Well.

Cllr. Harvey would like the next playground planned to be fully accessible and include equipment for children in wheelchairs.

Cllr Hirons wanted funding for laying out and provision of buildings on the new cemetery.

Cllr. O'Donoghue felt that setting aside a fenced area specifically for exercising dogs off the leash would be a good idea, Cllr. Harvey supported this, adding that funding for a dog warden for the parks for 5 – 10 years could also be submitted.

ACTION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

88/17 Interpretation Boards

To receive a verbal update regarding new Interpretation Boards for Bourton Park (x2) and for the canal (x1) – funded by DBG

The Chairman gave a brief update. Members asked where the information on the old interpretation boards had come from, and whether it could be re-used. The Chairman thought probably AVDC, and that this was an outdated style of board. It would be better if the GSM liaised with the Conservation Group and Canal Society respectively to design the boards.

ACTION GSM

89/17 Cattle Pens

To receive a verbal update regarding the repainting of AVDC's finger post in the Cattle Pens – funded by DBG

Members felt it should be repainted in dark green as the other fingerposts, and masking out-of-date destinations.

90/17 Access Awareness

Cllr. Bates has the DisabledGo stickers.

She had also written to Stowe Gardens about access, and received a response that action will be taken to improve the situation.

She had also written about the installation of a handrail for the Chantry Chapel steps.

Cllr. Harvey encouraged all Councillors to attend the Dementia Awareness events (it is hoped that two are to be organised as part of becoming a Dementia Friendly Town). Cllr. O'Donoghue said that young people should be included.

91/17 Brackley Road Cemetery

To receive and agree a response to correspondence

Members **AGREED** that the Council should meet half the cost of kerbing and the full cost of a separate headstone; or, if additional wording were to be added to the existing headstone, half of that cost; to be met from Contingencies.

ACTION TOWN CLERK/GSM

92/17 Town Action Commission

To receive and comment on the Town Action Commission's Action Plan and note the Tree Warden Information

Cllr. Strain-Clark felt that line S4 in the Action Plan should read 'Include outstanding trees and groups of trees in the "Town Trails" leaflet'. **AGREED**

Cllr. Harvey felt the leaflet was off-puttingly wordy but received no support from other Members, who thought it attractive. The Deputy Town Clerk was commended for her work on the leaflet and booklet.

Cllr. Bates asked if there were plans for a Junior Tree Warden scheme; the Deputy Town Clerk said that Mix 96 had proposed something of the sort, and she would be contacting them for details, and then involving the schools.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

93/17 Chandos Road toilets

93.1/17 To note a letter regarding the incident at Chandos Park toilets on the 11th February 2017.

The writer had been identified from CCTV footage and sent an apology for their actions.

93.2/17 To receive a verbal report regarding recent issues at Chandos Road toilets.

Members discussed the several anti-social behaviour incidents at the toilets. Earlier closing was discarded as a solution, especially in the summer months. Emphasis on the CCTV coverage, signs asking anyone noticing bad behaviour to contact the police, asking the Fire Service to conduct a targeted education programme in schools, and anti-climb paint to prevent access to the Bowls Club from the toilet roof were all discussed, as was inculcating pride in the town at primary ages – Councillors expressed themselves willing to go into schools to talk to children.

The picnic bench had been put in the river before its concrete base had set, but had been retrieved and replaced.

ACTION GSM

94/17 Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre

94.1/17 To receive a verbal update regarding recent incident at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on some ant-social behaviour and made suggestions on how to counter-act it and ensure safe single-person working as necessary, which were agreed.

94.2/17 To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the Lace Hill Tea & Tots Group

Members agreed the recommendation in the report.

94.3/17 To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk on Winslow Lions Football Club

Members agreed the officer recommendation providing the team played under the Buckingham name.

ACTION LHSCC CO-ORDINATOR

95/17 News Releases

95.1 (92/17) Tree Wardens

95.2 (arising 93/17) To advocate parental awareness of their children's activities, and for the public to report misbehaviour and damage.

95.3 (87/17) The s106 wish list when completed; the Chairman felt that this was better as an article in "Buckingham Town Matters".

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK/CSG

96/17 Chair's Announcements

While praising the replanting of the boxes outside the Sorting Office, it was felt that the weeds in the surrounding paving needed eradicating, and the white trip rail repainting. Royal Mail would be asked to do this.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

97/17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17th July 2017.

Cllr. Isham asked that his apologies be noted.

Meeting closed at: 8.40pm

Chair..... Date.....