

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 5th January 2004 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillors P Collins
 Mrs P. Desorgher
 D. Isham
 H. Mordue
 Ms. R. Newell
 Mrs. P. Stevens
 Mrs C. Strain-Clark (Mayor)
 P. Strain-Clark
 R. Stuchbury
 Ms P. J. Heath
Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J. Barnett, H. Cadd, R. Lehmann, K. Liverseidge, and Ms. H. Saul

2353 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

2354 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2003, 1st December 2003 and the interim meeting held on 15th December 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2355 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

Members were informed that the following documents were available from the office

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - FLOOD ACTION – ISSUE NO 2

AVDC – COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – DRAFT 2003

BALC – MATTERS ARISING – WINTER 2003 ISSUE

AVDC – NEWS FOR THE PARISHES – ISSUE 7/2003

GUIDES – GIRL-GUIDING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – ANNUAL REVIEW 2003

BUCKS & MK FIRE AUTHORITY – RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2004-2009

BCC – AV AREA NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2003

DIS ISSUES NO 568, 569,

2356 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2356.1 PLANNING – 24.11.03 & 15.12.03

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

2356.2 ENVIRONMENT 01.12.03

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

2356.3 ADMINISTRATION 08.12.03

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

*(487 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council Supports the project being organised by Buckingham Business Club to put on a "Job Fair" in 2004.)*

AGREED

491 - This recommendation concerning the level of Grant allocation would be carried forward to the Precept Meeting on 26th January.

*(492 Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council adopts the following Terms of Reference for the new committee structures (as listed in the minutes))*

AGREED subject to the following resolution

Proposed by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **RESOLVED** by 8 votes to 0 that the Finance Committee should be renamed the Finance and Administration Committee.

*(495 Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **RECOMMENDED** by 5 votes to 1 to accept the following agreement in principle.*

AGREEMENT – Subject to Council's ratification

1. That Buckingham Town Council provides an underwriting of cash flow up to £10,000 for the financial years of 2004/5, 2005/6, and 2006/7.
2. That Buckingham Town Council will provide £6000 per year for 50/50 funding of capital expenditure, the balance each year being carried forward, for the financial years of 2004/5, 2005/6, and 2006/7.
3. That Buckingham Town Council will provide 3 Councillors as designated representatives.
4. That Buckingham Community Centre Management Committee will continue to fundraise where possible
5. That any profits made in a financial year by the Community Centre are divided 50/50 with the Town Council.

AGREEMENT – Subject to Council's ratification

1. That Buckingham Community Centre Management Committee would undertake to guarantee that the toilets would be open to the Members of the public from 9am to 4 pm Monday to Friday.
2. Buckingham Town Council would pay for the daily cleaning of the toilets between 12 noon and 1pm at a cost to be notified and agreed prior to the Council's budget meeting.
3. Buckingham Town Council would pay for the additional labour required to cover the Centre Manager's absence at a cost of £1000 for the financial year 2004/2005; all future years to be notified and agreed prior to the Council's budget meeting.
4. Buckingham Community Centre Management Committee will arrange for advance warning notices to be displayed for the Saturdays when either through a private booking or no bookings the toilets will not be available to the Public.)

It was confirmed that the above recommendation was only accepted in principle and that the funding would be agreed at the Precept meeting.

2356.4 TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS 22.12.03

These minutes had not been circulated due to the Christmas Holiday and would be carried forward to the next Council meeting.

2357 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Thames Valley Police update non-emergency calls

DEFRA Minister of the Horse

TV Police Police incidents figures

The Clerk read a letter from BT Payphones in response to minute number 2294 stating that following the Council's intervention, the payphones at Chandos Road and Overn Avenue would not be removed, but would be continued to be monitored and may be considered for removal at a later date.

2358 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES

Notification of Cllr. P. Strain-Clark's resignation from Grenville Combined School Governors
Cllr. Strain-Clark explained the reasoning behind his resignation. Members accepted the reason and thanked him for all his hard work. It was **AGREED** to place this item on the next Council agenda to decide a replacement.

ACTION THE CLERK

2359 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the invoices per attached list be approved.

The annual subscription to the Mace Bearers' Guild was discussed; Mrs Farmer had indicated that she had been unable to attend any of their functions and felt that she was not getting value as a member. It was agreed not to continue with Membership.

2360 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the payments made per the attached list be approved.

Members queried the donation to the Wine Circle and the allocation of groups doing the refreshments; it was **AGREED** to pass this to the Town Centre and Events Committee for discussion.

Members noted that the payments in respect of the Christmas Parade appeared on the listing; they expressed disappointment that the publicity of the event did not inform the public that the Council funds the Parade.

ACTION CHAIRMAN OF TOWN CENTRE AND EVENTS

2361 LETTER FROM AVDC RE MORETON ROAD TOILETS

A copy of the letter and quotation from Mr. T. Hobbs, Architect at AVDC, had been circulated with the agenda. The quotation was to insert a purpose built sealed unit into the current building of the toilets; this would be considerably cheaper than the demolition and rebuild being sought by the Town Council. The cost of the Danfo unit would be £60,150.85; AVDC would require a donation from the Council of £10650.85 plus £10,000 contingency fund.

Members queried the costing and ask the Clerk to seek clarification of the additional amounts, and confirm that AVDC would be paying £61,000. Members also asked for confirmation that the maintenance would continue to be funded by AVDC

Members discussed the layout, feeling that the storage space indicated at the rear of the building could be utilised for additional toilets. The Clerk explained that in order to access the space or if the toilets run the length of the building instead of facing the street, it would create a narrow dark passage and would bring the Council in conflict with the Crime and Disorder Act section 17.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr Collins, and **RESOLVED** by 7 votes to 1 with 1 abstention that this Council should proceed as per the quotation, and that £20650.85 should be allocated from the current year's capital budget 4079/131.

2362 COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Parking Charges

Cllr Isham as AVDC Councillor informed Members that the Town Council had paid over the years £160131 towards the cost of Cornwall's Meadow and Western Avenue Car Parks thereby keeping them free of parking charges. Cllr Isham sought the reassurance of the Council that they still wished to see free parking in Buckingham, as there appeared to be some confusion amongst his fellow District Councillors. Members present confirmed that this Council still wanted free parking. Members discussed the recent meeting with Mr Betts from AVDC concerning the contribution made by the Town Council; the level of this would be agreed at the Precept meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Stevens, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to AVDC confirming this Council's wish to keep free parking in Buckingham with a copy to all Buckingham District Councillors.

2363 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

2363.1 Grenville Cottage

The Mayor informed Members that the developer had begun demolishing Grenville Cottage; the Clerk was asked to contact AVDC Planning Enforcement Officer and confirm he has permission for this.

2363.2 Well Street Parking

Cllr Stevens informed Members that the Well Street Centre was now shutting the car park at night. The residents and customers of the Chip shop have used this over many years; the closing has exacerbated the already problematic parking in Well Street and Members asked if talks could be held with the County Council to allow its use during the evening while the Chip Shop was open.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN..... DATE.....