

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10th MAY 2004

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

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions in the public session

The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their support and assistance over his first year as Mayor.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors H. Cadd, K. Liverseidge, and Mrs. P. Stevens.

2402 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

2403 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2004, and the interim meeting held on 26th April 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr. G. Loftus and Cllr. R. Newell arrived

2404 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

Members were informed that the following newsletters/brochures were available from the office

NALC – LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW MAY 2004 ISSUE

EU – THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR COHESION – 3RD REPORT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION

CLERKS & COUNCILLORS DIRECT ISSUE NO 33

INVITATIONS AND NOTICES OF DIARY DATES (COPIES OF NOTICES ALREADY DISTRIBUTED)

AV LOCAL COMMITTEE 29TH APRIL 2004 AT WINSLOW CENTRE

ROAD CLOSURES

WAITING RESTRICTIONS TOWN CENTRE VARIOUS - 29TH MAY TO 31ST DECEMBER

30TH MAY 2004 – BUCKINGHAM SPRING FESTIVAL

22ND MAY 2004 – BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH – CHURCH HILL

DIS

ISSUE NO. 577, 579

TRANSFER OF LICENCE/NEW LICENCES

TESCO'S STORE FROM JANE HOOTON , MARC SMITH TO DOUGLAS HERRIOTT, MARK SMITH, MARC SMITH

WOOLPACK – SPECIAL HOURS CERTIFICATE 11AM – 12 MIDNIGHT FRIDAY/SATURDAY

2405 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2405.1 PLANNING – 05/04/04 & 26/04/04

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

2405.2 ENVIRONMENT 19.04.04

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

2405.3 ADMINISTRATION 19.04.04

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

*(530 proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Administration Committee undertake with the Clerk and Clerical Assistant a full evaluation of the work being undertaken and the hours worked. The result of the evaluation would form the basis of any future work plans and the Committee would agree an overtime/time in lieu payment for additional hours; this to be backdated to the start of the financial year.)*

AGREED

*(535 Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that the quotation from Mr. G. Smith to repair/renew the footpaths in Buckingham Cemetery to the specification provided be accepted.)*

AGREED

The Chairman informed members that a letter had been received that day from AVDC asking the Town Council to consider becoming the Burial Authority as part of the agreement over the maintenance of the Cemetery; this would be placed before the Environment and Property Committee.

2405.4 TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS 26.04.04

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed, with the inclusion of Cllr Lehmann in the list of those present.

*(527 Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** by a vote of 6 to 0 that the Town Council pays the £25 licence to Buckinghamshire County Council to enable the reproducing of the Charter photographs as postcards).*

AGREED by a vote of 10 – 0

529 Request from Buckingham Twinning Association

The Mayor and the Chairman informed Members that a letter had been received from the Twinning Association to say that in view of the Council's decision they were not proceeding with the Boules match. The Chairman and the Mayor both expressed their disappointment at the decision taken by the Committee. The Members were reminded that as the minutes had been agreed and resolved they could not alter the decision taken by the Committee; the Chairman agreed to take it back to the Events Committee for further discussion.

2406 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

2406.1 BBCTP TRAINING COURSE ON 8TH JUNE 2004

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and Agreed that Cllr Mordue should attend at a cost of £10

2406.2 THE BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY – REPRESENTATIVE FOR A PRESENTATION AND PANEL

It was agreed that Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Mordue should act as the Town Council's representatives

2406.3 CPRE – MARKET TOWNS SURVEY

2406.4 EMAIL BUCKINGHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB – FUNDING RECEIVED

2406.5 TV POLICE INCIDENT REPORTS (CONFIDENTIAL AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE)

Following a query the Town Clerk explained that the incident reports are sent to the Town Clerk, for the Council, and can not be released to the general public; the Clerk had to undergo a police check before these notices could be issued.

2406.6 PAYPHONE REMOVALS – 1X POST OFFICE, 1X COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members queried whether the payphones being removed were coin or card operated; they had no objection as long as a coin operated phone was available in the town centre.

2406.7 BCC – GOVERNORS APPOINTED BY MINOR AUTHORITIES

Members felt this letter explained the situation concerning the current term of office of governors appointed by minor authorities and should be taken into consideration when discussing minute no 2407.1

2406.8 EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY

The Town Clerk explained that she had obtained the AVDC – Empty Home strategy from a source other than AVDC. The Strategy indicated that Town & Parish Councils were a partner but no consultation or communication had been received from them concerning either the preparation or implementation of the strategy. Members noted the report.

2407 BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

2407.1 To receive and discuss letter from Bourton Meadow School governors – (2375)

A copy of the letter from the Chairman of Governors at Bourton School had been circulated with agenda, stating that due to the reorganisation of the Governors constitution there would no longer be a Minor Authority Governor. Members asked that a copy of the County Council's letter be sent to the Chairman of Governors pointing out that Cllr. Stuchbury could serve till the end of his term of office. Members did not feel that following the end of that term the Town Council's representative could become a Sponsor Governor as that presupposed the Council would provide some financial support.

2407.2 Buckingham Twinning Association – minutes dated 31st March 2004

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham Twinning Association which had been circulated prior to the meeting

2408 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

2409 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

2410 VERBAL REPORT ON THE MEETING HELD WITH AVDC RE PARKING

The Mayor, Cllr. Lehmann, and Cllr. Mordue reported to the Council on their meeting with Mr. D. Betts and Mrs. V. Baxter of AVDC concerning the future management and charging in Cornwall's Meadow and Western Avenue Car Parks. Members felt that a full discussion was not possible as some of the information request from AVDC had not been received.

One solution discussed was the leasing or transfer of ownership to a charity body such as the community centre, as they could be eligible for 80% rates relief; independent confirmation of this had not been received from the Valuation and Rating body. The Charity Commission indicated that it would need to be connected with the work of the Charity but foresaw no major problems. Members discussed the costs of maintaining the car park based on the estimates received from AVDC and the Actual 2004 figures telephoned to the Clerk earlier. Members were concerned that 'Asset Rental' which had made up a major percentage of the cost had been removed and, although AVDC said that this cost would not be passed on, Members felt that future administrations may change this. The current costings were not felt to reflect the true situation as they show the electrical cost for the year at £8 and members felt the lighting of the car park would be considerable higher. The future maintenance of the land was discussed; the Town Clerk explained that several areas of subsidence had appeared across the car park, also the new landscaping was weed clogged, and the lighting had been highlighted as insufficient for many years.

The Clerk was asked to indicate to AVDC that the Town Council was still interested in discussing the future of both car parks and to chase the information still outstanding. It was **AGREED** to place this on the Interim Meeting on 7th June .

2411 VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON THE VISION 2031 MEETING

The Town Clerk reported on the Vision 2031 meeting held on 26th March 2004. Delivery 2031 was the delivery vehicle for the MK & SM Study; this has a board of 17 members and will be a Limited Liability Partnership. The Board is made up of 4 AVDC Members, 4 BCC Members, 1 each from SEEDA, English Partnership, and AV Primary Care Trust; these are known as the "Owners". The rest of the board include a representative from Bucks. Economic Partnership, a Commercial Representative, Sustainable Environment Representative, Community & Voluntary Sector Representative, the Managing Director of the LLP and Chairman of the Vision 2031 Group. The board will be in office for 3 years and report to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Vision 2031 group will act as a sounding board to Delivery2031, and will receive reports and act as a communication and information point, in theory.

At the meeting the representatives for Commercial, Sustainable Environment, Community & Voluntary areas, and the Chairman, were appointed; these were from nominations put forward by the "Owners" with no opportunity for other candidates to be considered, giving a perception of a lack of open government . Concerns have already been expressed, including by the ODPM, that the Board with 17 Members was too large and would be unworkable. There were also concerns at the lack of consultation both prior to the setting up and constitution of the LLP. The Vision 2031 Group, which was supposed to be 59 members from several categories with direct reference to the representatives elected, was not set up at the meeting nor is there any indication that it will be established in the future. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would attend the next meeting on 8th October.

2412 BOURTON MEADOW COMMUNITY HALL – FUTURE USE BY THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

Members were informed by the Mayor that groups using the Community Hall at Bourton Meadow School had been notified of a price increasing which would prevent many of them continuing to use the facility and also that the School intend to use the Community Hall for teaching purposes. Members understood the Community Hall had been built as part of the school but was not to be used as part of their facilities although the School pays for its maintenance, administration and cleaning. The Mayor had requested a copy of the Centre's Constitution but had been told by BCC Legal Department that the constitution had been part of the original sale agreement and therefore as the Town Council had not been a party to the sale the constitution could not be sent to the Town Council. The Members understood a sub committee was supposed to run the centre and agree both the rent and its usage; it was felt that the Council should monitor any changes to ensure continued community use. A letter from a user of the Centre addressed to the Mayor, complaining about the rent increase and the reduction by the school of the hours available, had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that the Mayor should respond.

2413 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no comments from the District Councillor present at the meeting.

2414 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

There were no Town Mayor's items for information.

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