

**MINUTES OF THE INTERIM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2004 at 8.00pm, following the planning meeting.**

PRESENT: Councillors J. Barnett
H. Cadd
P. Collins
Mrs P. Desorgher
D.R. Isham
R.C. Lehmann
G.P. Loftus
H. Mordue
Mrs. P. Stevens
Mrs C. Strain-Clark
P. Strain-Clark
R. Stuchbury (Mayor)

For the Town Clerk Mrs K.W.McElligott

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Liverseidge, Ms. R. Newell and Ms. H. Saul.

2415 POINT OF ORDER

Cllr. Lehmann raised a Point of Order: under Standing Order 1 a) 3. Interim Council meetings were for the progress of urgent business only. He asked which of the items on the Agenda were sufficiently urgent to merit inclusion.

Cllr. Stuchbury pointed out that item 3 – car parking – had been specifically referred from Main Council on 10th May; item 4 – response was required by 1st June, but the Town Clerk had negotiated an extension so that the matter could be discussed at this meeting; item 5 – licence transfers had been agreed as Interim agenda items to cut the response time; item 6 – was normally discussed at the first meeting after Mayor-making but could be deferred; item 7 had been requested by Cllr. Barnett in advance of the presentation and open meeting; item 8 – the consultation period ended on 20th June 2004, the day before the Full Council meeting. It was unfortunate, but coincidental, that so many urgent items had fallen together.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that Item 6 (To discuss and agree Town Council Representatives on outside bodies) be deferred to the Full Council meeting to be held on 21st June 2004, under Standing Order 6 (b).

Members felt that the Standing Orders defining Interim Agendas should be reviewed at the next Full Council but that the Town Mayor should have the final decision on what was “urgent”.

Proposed by Cllr. Loftus, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the meeting move on to the next item of business.

2416 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

2417 CORNWALL'S MEADOW AND WESTERN AVENUE CAR PARKS

Members discussed at length whether to pursue negotiations over the matter of charging for carparking and whether the Town Council should take on the responsibility of running the two car parks.

Members pointed out that the car parks were not just for the benefit of Buckingham residents, they were used by other local people and visitors, and as such should be the responsibility of the District Council. If the Town Council were to take on the car parks, the conjectured cost would considerably increase the precept on Buckingham ratepayers and this was unfair. Members regretted not having full figures on which to base their debate, but agreed that the Town Council should not take responsibility for the car parks.

It was generally agreed that charges would cause shoppers to go elsewhere, which might cause the closure of the smaller businesses to the detriment of the Town generally. Some drivers would undoubtedly park illegally, as currently, in order to avoid charges and this would clog up the traffic flow and cause additional hazards for pedestrians.

However Members felt that discussions should continue over charges until all possibilities had been exhausted. Figures for expenditure including estimated costs of enforcement, and forecast revenue, bearing in mind the loss of the Town Council's voluntary contribution, would be helpful.

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Loftus, and **AGREED** unanimously that the Town Council enter urgent discussions with AVDC to identify the revenue gap that would exist if charges were not introduced, and to explore further other avenues, excluding ownership by the Town Council, leading to the possibility of free car parking in Buckingham.

2418 COUNTYWIDE SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The roads within Buckingham Parish included in the review were the Gawcott Road between the by-pass and Gawcott Village, and the Tingewick Road between the by-pass and the town. Both of these were proposed as 50mph limits.

Members preferred to have the stretch of Gawcott Road past Gawcott Fields at 40mph, the remainder to the village at 50mph. There was no mention of the Bourton Road, or of reducing speed limits in the narrower streets within the town; this was regretted.

2419 TRANSFER OF LICENCES

2419.1 Wine Rack – Transfer from P. Stroud & K. Jeacock to R. Palmer & K. Jeacock

2419.2 Buckingham School – annual Public Entertainment Licence for the Canteen & Jubilee Hall; Friday & Saturday 19.30 – 23.45hrs for approximately 5 occasions per year.

Members supported both of these applications

2420 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Following the motion earlier in the meeting, this was postponed to the Full Council meeting on 21st June 2004.

2421 BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr. Barnett indicated that the recently appointed Project Manager, Mr. Mark Gadd, was present at the meeting. He then distributed copies of the leaflet being delivered to the residents of the town, and the issue analysis/action plan notes based on the response to the 2003 questionnaire for Members' information. This would be open to challenge and amendment at the Public Meeting in the Community Centre at 7pm on June 29th, an event he hoped Councillors would attend.

Cllr. Barnett answered questions on details of the plan, such as the age range of the respondents; he said that not all responses had given ages, although Buckingham School had been very helpful, and it was obvious from the wording that some questionnaires had been filled in by parents of school age children.

The full Action Plan is a large document and it was decided that a copy would be lodged in the Office for Members to consult. A copy could also be e-mailed to Members who preferred this.

2422 HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTH BUCKS

2422.1 (2374) "Shaping Health Services" Consultation

Members had been misled by the heading "Mid and South Bucks Health Community" when this document had been offered for consultation originally; it appeared that Buckingham and Aylesbury Vale were "Mid Bucks".

Two alternative models for hospital care provision in Buckinghamshire, excluding Milton Keynes, were offered. Both models concentrated certain specialities exclusively at either Wycombe/Amersham or Stoke Mandeville Hospitals; both models placed Cardiology, Haematology, Rheumatology, Dermatology, Renal Dialysis, Urology and ENT at Wycombe/Amersham. No mention was made in the document to access to hospitals in Milton Keynes or Oxford, or of the clinics currently available at Buckingham Hospital, and the rationalisation of services to particular centres was linked to the shorter hours for hospital doctors and the difficulty of recruiting extra staff. A&E services would remain available at Stoke

Mandeville but if the patient required admission to one of the specialist wards at the other hospitals, they would be transferred.

Members considered that High Wycombe and Amersham were too far away for patients (whether in emergency or for clinics) and their visitors to travel, especially by public transport.

Members decided that response should be made that neither model was acceptable, and that they were reluctant to see any diminution of services at Stoke Mandeville; that Milton Keynes must be considered as part of the services available, and also the clinics at Buckingham Hospital.

ACTION THE MAYOR/CLLR. STRAIN-CLARK/TOWN CLERK

2422.2 Proposed closure of Embleton Ward, Buckingham Hospital

Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the Access Group to the Bucks. Mental Health Trust listing 13 points against the proposed closure.

Members spoke of the loss of local respite care and how the people of the town had fought for, and funded, the services at the Hospital.

It was decided to write to the Access Group in support of their action, and copy the letter to the Trust.

ACTION THE CLERK

2423 MAYOR'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Mayor had been asked if Buckingham would support a move to install a plaque at Finmere Aerodrome commemorating the servicemen from the base who had been lost in the Normandy invasion; no such memorial exists at present. No formal decision has yet been taken.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

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