

**MINUTES OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBER ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004 AT 7 PM.**

**PRESENT** Councillors J. Barnett  
H. Cadd  
P. Collins  
Mrs. P. Desorgher  
D. Isham  
R. Lehmann  
H. Lewis  
H. Mordue  
Ms. R. Newell  
Mrs. H. Saul  
Mrs. P. Stevens  
Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
P. Strain-Clark  
R. Stuchbury  
Town Clerk Ms. P. J. Heath

**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G. Loftus

**2521 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda

**2522 THE MINUTES OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004, the minutes of the Confidential meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004, and Interim meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2523 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS PER ATTACHED LIST**

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

AVDC – News for the Parishes issue no 6/2004

Clerks and Council Direct – issue no 36

BCR – On Trak Nov 2004

BALC – Matters Arising

DEFRA – Rural Services Review

NALC – Local Council Review issue no 56/4

NALC – Annual Review and Accounts

BTCV – Contact autumn 2004

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

25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 – Buck Society AGM

16<sup>th</sup> December 2004 – Rotary Club Carol Service, St Bernardine's Church

DIS

Issue no; 592,593, 594

Plus MEMO: 594/32 NLGN Calls for Councillors to play bigger role in tackling anti-social behaviour / 594/21 Local Democracy Week 2005

ROAD CLOSURES

11<sup>th</sup> December 2004 – Christmas Parade

NEW LICENCES/TRANSFER OF LICENCES/PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Fletchers of Buckingham – From Betty Fletcher to Sarah Leary

P.E.L.

Canteen and Jubilee Hall, Buckingham School CHANGE of application

from Fri. & Sat 7.30 pm to 11.45 pm to Fri. & Sat. 7 pm to 11.30 pm

**2524 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**2524.1 PLANNING COMMITTEE 01.11.04 & 22.11.04**

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

**2524.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 08.11.04**

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

(45.1 Members' Allowance: following a long discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **RECOMMENDED** that Buckingham Town Council does not pay a Members' Allowance.)

**AGREED**

(46/2004 Members discussed the three diary dates options circulated prior to the meeting. Following a lengthy debate and a split vote of 4 for option 2 and 5 for option 3 with the Chairman's casting vote it was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Council 2005 diary dates option 3 which allows for the Council to meet on the Tuesday after a Bank Holiday Monday)

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that the Council should adopt diary dates option 2 (as circulated with the agenda); the amendment fell by 5 votes to 7. As the substantive motion the original recommendation was **AGREED** by 8 votes to 4.

(48 Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council should purchase name badges for all Councillors and the Clerk at a cost of £175 for the die and £12.50 each for the badges)

**AGREED** by 10 votes to 2.

(49 Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that a set of keys and the alarm code be supplied to Mr. M. Gadd for the main entrance door, the Chamber door and the intermediate door; the keys would not include the Clerk's Office)

**AGREED** by 13 votes to 0.

(51 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that a sum of £100 from section 137 payments be made to Anne Frohock to support her attending the "Friendship Train" in Australia representing Buckinghamshire.

**AGREED** by 12 votes to 0.

53.2 Buckingham Youth Centre

*Cllr. D. Isham and Cllr. R. Lehmann declared a personal interest as Members of the Management Committee.*

Cllr. J. Barnett the Town Council's representative reported that discussions had been held in respect of the installation of the CCTV cameras.

**2524.3 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE 08.11.04**

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

(62/2004 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council negotiates a fixed term lease with Chandos Park Bowls Club for the Chandos Park Pavilion and Bowling Green).

**AGREED** by 8 votes to 4.

(64/2004 Proposed by Cllr. Desorgher, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council purchases a door bell and CCTV system for the entrance door.)

**AGREED**

65/2004 Council Chamber Extension

The Chairman confirmed that a meeting had been held with AVDC Architect to discuss the plans; they would produce amendments for consideration by the Environment and Property Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004

**2524.4 EVENTS COMMITTEE 15.11.04**

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

59/4 Christmas Lights

Following recent comments in the local newspaper it was agreed that the Events Committee would look at the current and past Christmas lights contractors, and the possibility of improving the display.

The Mayor informed Members that he had approached the previous Christmas lights contractor who, in a private conversation, had indicated his willingness to connect the pea lights in the Old Cattle Market for £250; stating he still had keys to the Council's storage facility.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the delegated authority be given to the Mayor and the Chairman of Events to discuss the connecting of the lights in the Old Cattle Market and agree the connection if sufficient money was available in the budget.

**2525 TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE PER ATTACHED LIST, FOR INFORMATION AND FOR ACTION**

Mrs A Liverseidge – Thanking for the Councils kind thoughts  
AVDC – Quality Town & Parish Council

It was confirmed that any discussions would be reported and agreed by the Council.

Buckingham Access for All – minutes of meeting  
AVDC – Adoption of open space Hilltop Avenue  
TV Police – Confidential crime details  
AVDC – Community Safety Consultation

Members discussed the best way of responding to the consultation.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Lewis, that all Councillors should respond individually and that the Council as a body should not respond.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, that although each individual Councillor should respond a Town Council response compiled by the Chairman's Strategic Group should be sent upon ratification by the Council.

The amendment was agreed by 10 votes to 1 and as the substantive motion by 11 votes to 0

Environment Agency – Flood awareness campaign

Members commented on the length of time it is taking for the flood alleviation work to be started. (Clerk's note: Members' attention is drawn to minute no 2396)

Standards Board – Guidelines "Lobby groups, dual-hatted Members and code of conduct

## **2526 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### 2526.1 Buckingham Community Plan

Cllr. Barnett reported that the Sub Groups meet on a monthly basis. They are currently looking at their particular action plans and assessing how they can facilitate completion of these points. Officers from AVDC and Bucks. CC have agreed to attend meetings in the future.

### 2526.2 Buckingham Twinning Association

Members noted the minutes circulated prior to the meeting dated 03/11/04, 10/11/04 and 01/12/04 from Buckingham Twinning Association; the twinning visit is scheduled for October 2005.

### 2526.3 Grenville Combined School

Cllr. C. Strain-Clark as the Town Council's appointed governor reported that the changes scheduled for the catchment area had been withdrawn by the County Council education department.

## **2527 TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

## **2528 TO RECEIVE FOR RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL ACCOUNTS PAID.**

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

Cllr. Mordue and the Mayor raised concerns over the Section 136 payment to AVDC feeling that in view of their concerns over the level of work the cheque for £32,093.2 not be paid and a meeting be sought with AVDC to discuss the level of maintenance on the

Cemetery and Chandos Park Bowling Green; these concerns had only been raised in part at the Environment and Property Committee. After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RESOLVED** by 9 votes to 2 with 1 abstention to pay 50% of the invoice and seek a meeting with AVDC to discuss concerns as to the level of maintenance on section 136 items.

The Council did not agree with advice given by the Clerk.

In response to a question the RFO confirmed that the payment to G. Smith was for the Cemetery paths; the invoice had been cleared at 25<sup>th</sup> October meeting.

#### **2529 RECEIVE & AGREE RESPONSE TO MK & SM STUDY RESPONSE AS CIRCULATED**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. P. Stevens, and **RESOLVED** to accept the response to the Milton Keynes Study as per planning minute no 4715 and circulated with the agenda.

#### **2530 DETAILS ON THE PROPOSED LANDSCAPING FOR THE SKATE PARK**

Members discussed the plans and costing displayed on the Chamber wall; the Clerk reminded Members of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2003 between AVDC and representatives of the Town Council which had agreed a design and manufacturer (Full Council minute no 2166 & Planning minute no 4604.2). The bench indicated by AVDC was straight and had a quoted price of £7000. The Clerk had obtained a comparable quote for a curved bench, being the design and manufacturer originally agreed, at £5500 for one colour or £5750 for multi coloured. Members also queried the proposed species of tree feeling that an Alder would be more suitable; it was **AGREED** that the design be accepted in principal but the bench be changed to the design and manufacturer originally agreed at a quoted price of £5750, and that the tree should be changed to an Alder if budget permits.

#### **2531 NOTICES UNDER SECTION 66 – ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND**

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Lewis and **RESOLVED** that this Council has no objection in principle for the Buckingham Lawn Tennis Club to apply for planning permission to erect floodlights on Council owned land, but Members reserve the right to make comments during statutory planning consultation.

#### **2532 REPORT FROM CAR PARKING MEETING HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2004**

A copy of the notes from the meeting made by Cllr. Barnett on behalf of the Town Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. The representatives from the Town Council (Cllr. Lehmann, Cllr. Barnett, Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Collins) reported that it had been a positive meeting and the Council's case, which had been agreed by the representatives at a meeting the day before, was well received.

Members discussed the offer made by the representatives of a 5 year plan, with the Town Council paying an increased donation each year in return for the car parking remaining free.

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Saul, and **RESOLVED** by 12 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, that this Council confirms the offer made by the Town Council representatives to AVDC to keep parking free in Buckingham; in that Buckingham Town Council will pay in 2005/06 £20,000, 2006/07 £22,500, 2007/08 £25,000, 2008/09 £25,000 plus inflation, 2009/10 £25,000 plus inflation; and to meet with AVDC in 2008 to discuss extending the offer after 2010.

*Cllr Cadd arrived during this item but took no part in the discussion or the vote.*

### **2533 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STRATEGY GROUP MEETING ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER ON ANY ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE FULL COUNCIL AGREEMENT**

The Clerk informed Members that as the first part of the minutes of that meeting, for which she had been excluded, had not yet been given to the office the minutes had not been circulated. In the absence of the minutes the item was deferred.

### **2534 REPORT CONCERNING THE REDISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH SERVICES BETWEEN STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL AND HIGH WYCOMBE HOSPITAL – THE MAYOR**

Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Stevens reported on the Buckingham Partnership meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at which a representative of the “reshaping Buckinghamshire Health Service” had spoken on the decisions made to realign the services provided by Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Wycombe Hospital. This realignment will result in ‘centres of excellence’ being set up in one or other of the hospitals. Members expressed grave concerns that with Heart and Stroke specialist units being based at Wycombe Hospital Buckingham residents may be getting less of a service. Members discussed at great length the problems associated with residents accessing the services and visiting people in the hospitals. Concern was also expressed over the increasing reliance of the hospitals on the capability of the ambulance services, in many cases assuming that a trained paramedic is on the ambulance despatched to a 999 call. It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Health with a copy to the Regional Strategic Health Board and the MP for Buckingham asking for the joining of the two hospitals and the division of specialist services to be reconsidered.

### **2535 TO DISCUSS MORETON ROAD TOILETS REFURBISHMENT – THE MAYOR**

Members discussed the concerns being expressed by the residents of Buckingham at the design and cleanliness of the new Moreton Road Toilets. The cleaning of the toilet is by AVDC contract staff; it was **AGREED** that the District Council be requested to investigate the frequency of the cleaning and the provision of supplies i.e. soap in the dispensers and accessible toilet paper.

The disabled toilet is only accessible with great difficulty and almost impossible for a wheelchair user unaided; this in part is due to the disabled toilet being built on the left instead of on the right thereby necessitating the need for a ramp created in a small area. It

was confirmed to Members that the plans originally seen and approved by this Council had the toilets on the right, the switch being made by the contractors.

Members **AGREED** that AVDC be asked to explain why it had not been built as originally planned and to give details of the project management which had been included in the original costing. The RFO confirmed no request for payment had been received from AVDC.

**2536 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Cadd informed Members that as the newly appointed County Council representative for Buckingham South he would be sitting on the Shanks McEwan Landfill Liaison Committee.

**2537 MAYOR'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.**

There were no Mayors Items for Information

*The following item was heard under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 which excludes Members of the Public due to the confidential and financial nature of the business to be discussed:*

**2537 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VERNEY CLOSE**

Cllr. Lehmann raised a point of order stating that this item should not be considered in closed session as the information being given by the Clerk did not include any confidential information. It was **AGREED** to receive the information in open session.

The Clerk reported on the ongoing negotiations with Bucks. County Council for the Council to purchase the land at Verney Close. With Members' agreement the additional piece of land originally suggested by their land agents, which is holding up proceedings, would be dropped from the negotiations; Members **AGREED**.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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