

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 4th September 2017** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	Vice-Chair
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. M. Smith	Chair
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Ms. C. Childs	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

306/17 Apologies for Absence
RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllr O' Donoghue

307/17 Declarations of Interest
 Declarations of interest.
 There were none.

308/17 Minutes
 To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 17th July 2017 and approved at Full Council on the 14th August 2017.
AGREED

309/17 Action Report
 309.1/17 To receive the following report from Cllrs. Harvey and Smith regarding revisions to the existing Action Report.
 At the last Environment Committee meeting on 17 July, it was agreed (Minute 218/17) that Cllrs Harvey and Smith review the current Action report format. They met on 25 July and agreed to suggest the following additions to the current format:

- Deleted items be re-scored "0" and deleted immediately following each meeting;
- "Parked" items (i.e. those which currently could not be taken forward) be re-scored "1";
- The whole Action Report be transferred to a spreadsheet, so that entries could be more easily re-ordered following each meeting via the final (priority

order) column;

d) A new column on the left be added, containing a simple alphabetical sequence (A to Z), to be re-entered following each meeting so as to ease identification during meetings when Members wished to discuss specific Actions;

e) The use of colour-coding to determine what had been actioned or not be discontinued.

Members discussed and **AGREED** the recommendations and for the changes to be implemented ahead of the next Environment Committee meeting.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

309.2/17 Gates at Lace Hill Playground

To receive an update from the Estates Manager. The Estates Manager advised Members that purchase and installation of gates would cost approximately £3,000 and quotations were currently being sought.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **AGREED** to proceed with the procurement process and for quotations to be placed on the next Environment Agenda for discussion.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Mahi and **AGREED** for Cllr. Harvey to draft a Town Council Motion stating that any future applications for play areas in Buckingham must make provision for a gate in order to prevent dogs from entering the playground.

ACTION CLLR HARVEY

Members discussed and **AGREED** to write to the Lace Hill Developers highlighting the absence of gates at the Lace Hill play area and asking for a contribution towards their installation.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

309.3/17 Dog Bin Notices
To receive an update from the Estates Manager
The Estates Manager reported that the new notices concerning dog control were on order and would be installed as soon as they arrived.

309.4/17 Bourton Park Tree Works
To receive an update from the Estates Manager
The Estates Manager explained that the Tree Survey was underway and a few large trees in Bourton Park needed investigating by the AVDC Arboriculturist.

309.5/17 To receive the report and note the updated Action Report. Additional Town Centre Benches – Cllr. Strain-Clark suggested the Access for All Group could offer suggestions for suitable sites in the Town Centre for further benches.

Renewable Energy – Estates Manager to ask the Town Clerk for an update in respect of the Community Centre, for the next meeting. Members **AGREED** to increase the urgency score to 8

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Sports Provision – The Town Clerk is progressing matters with the local schools and would report back to Committee in October 2017.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Dog Wardens – Members discussed and **AGREED** for Cllrs. Smith and Stuchbury to write to The District Council requesting information on the outsourcing of Dog Wardens, the number of recorded visits to Buckingham and what investigations have been undertaken.

ACTION CLLRS SMITH & STUCHBURY

310/17 Budget

To receive the latest figures

Lace Hill Gas & Electric - The Estates Manager explained that the energy expenditure of the new system was being managed by a new computer system and an efficiency report was being drawn up for all of the Council's buildings, including the LHSCC. Cllr. Harvey suggested looking into solar panels for the LHSCC and this was **AGREED**.

Roundabouts – Members discussed and **AGREED** to submit a bid for managing the new roundabout on the Tingewick Road. **ACTION**

TOWN CLERK Lace Hill Equipment – Cllr Smith proposed moving £750 from 4164/250 Lace Hill Equipment (total budget £10000) into new budget line 'Lace Hill Events' which will be used to facilitate events and activities. **AGREED**

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Smith explained that the Lace Hill Coordinator was arranging a (chargeable) community Halloween Disco at the LHSCC for the 28/10/17. Members were in support of the event.

311/17 New Toilets

Members to discuss the actual and formal opening of Cornwall Meadows Toilets

Cllr Smith expressed concern that, despite repeated promises, the toilets were still not open and suggested there had been some serious project management failures to have allowed the construction timeline to have slipped so significantly. Members discussed and **AGREED** to request a feedback report from the Town Clerk and Cllr Bates on learning outcomes from the construction of the new toilets, the report to be presented to Full Council in December 2017. Cllr Stuchbury proposed that the report be initially

treated as confidential and once **AGREED** by Committee it could be made public.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Estates Manager explained that the outstanding issues were: Missing signage from the Changing Places toilet – this was on order and would be installed as soon as it arrives. Security cage for Air Conditioning Unit – this was on order and would also be installed as soon as it arrives. Shopmobility Shutters – The Town Clerk was investigating a suitable replacement to the manually operated shutters.

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** to open the regular toilets by the end of the week, with a temporary closure sign to be placed on the Changes Places toilets

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** that the toilets would require a thorough clean before they were finally open to the public and **AGREED** to delegate arrangements for the formal opening to the Mayor and Town Clerk.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

312/17 Festival of Health

To receive a written report from the Project Coordinator (Festival of Health) Members thanked the Project Coordinator (Festival of Health) for a comprehensive and accessible report. Cllr Harvey remarked that he had been impressed with the level of progressed and how many organisation had signed up. Cllr Smith asked whether free provision could also be made for a Buckingham Dementia Action presence, and was advised that this was in hand. Members asked for a feedback report to be submitted to the December Committee.

ACTION PROJECT COORDINATOR

313/17 Sports Pitch Provision

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk (*minute 218/17 refers*) Considered at minute 309.5/17 above.

314/17 Access Awareness

Cotton End Steps – Cllr Stuchbury expressed disappointment that the application would not be going before AVDC's Cabinet and therefore the work would not be completed by the end of year. The District Council felt that the request was premature as there was still some doubt over the ownership of the land and responsibility for future maintenance. District Members could see no real reason for the urgency and were also concerned that not all the residents had been consulted. Members were angered by this further delay, and Cllr. Harvey proposed holding a 24hr vigil on the steps to protest the decision. Cllr. Hirons commented that any protest would need thorough planning to ensure the local newspapers and radio stations would cover the

story. Members **AGREED** for Cllr. Stuchbury to investigate a potential date and contact local media companies. Members were in general agreement that a vigil did not need to take place until October 2017. Cllr Stuchbury remarked that a lack of consultation seemed to be the main reason that AVDC would not be considering the application. However, all local residents in the street had been consulted (in June and July 2016) and copies of the responses had been forwarded onto District. Cllr. Strain-Clark stated that AVDC appeared to be looking for any reason to not consider the application as an exception to their normal timetable. Members were in agreement that AVDC seemed to be inventing critical factors in the New Homes Bonus application that were not previously part of the process.

315/17 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

315.1/17 Minutes of the BCWP meeting from the 17th July 2017
 Members expressed their appreciation of the conservation work and improvements the groups had made to Buckingham. Cllr Harvey suggested approaching the University to ask if they had any storage space for the Conservation Group’s tools, and Cllr Smith reminded the Estates Manager that storage remained available at The Old Gaol.

ESTATES ACTION MANAGER

Cllr Strain Clark asked if there was a formal Right of Way along the entirety of the Railway walk, including the portion through the University’s land. Cllr. Isham said there was another permissive route from the end of Station Terrace towards the old platform (no more than about 5 yards).

TOWN ACTION CLERK

Members **AGREED** for a report on the Rights of Way from Station Approach to Station Terrace and along Railway Walk to be submitted to the next meeting.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

316/17 News Releases

None

317/17 Chair’s Announcements

The Chair reminded Members that the first River Rinse would be taking place on the 10th September at the Cornwalls Meadow Carpark, next to the skate park.

318/17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23rd October 2017.

Meeting closed at: 20:13

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

