

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 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            | Town Mayor |
| Cllr. P. Hirons            |            |
| Cllr. D. Isham             | Vice-Chair |
| Cllr. A. Mahi              |            |
| Cllr. Ms. R. Newell        |            |
| Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue   |            |
| Cllr. M. Smith             | Chairman   |
| Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark |            |
| Cllr. R. Stuchbury         |            |

**In attendance:**

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

#### 459/17 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

#### 460/17 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 461/17 Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and approved at Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

**AGREED**

#### 462/17 Action Report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

Members were in agreement that the new format of the Action Report was helpful and that all completed actions could be deleted.

##### 462.1/17 Dog Wardens

Members discussed and **AGREED** to request the following amendments to the patrol areas when drafting the new contract:

- Badgers Estate Roads be deleted (but the grassed area adjacent to Otters Brook be retained); and Chandos Park be added
- Replace 'Lace Hill Estate' with 'grassed areas and residential streets of Lace Hill'

- Include patrols in the The Old Church Yard, Church Green, Overn Avenue and the public greenspace on Linden Village.

462.1.1/17 Members to receive and discuss the response to Cllr. Stuchbury's written question of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016.  
Noted

#### 463/17 Sports Provision

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported on the meeting with The Buckingham School, the Royal Latin School and Buckinghamshire County Council on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 to progress the agreement for a new sports pitch at Verney Park. The schools and County Council agreed to discuss their requirements in November and feedback to the Town Clerk. Members **AGREED** the report recommendation for the Town Clerk and Cllr. Smith to carry on discussions with all parties.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK & CLLR SMITH**

#### 464/17 Purchase of a Scrubber Dryer machine for LHSCC

To receive a written report from the Estates Manager

Members discussed and **AGREED** the report recommendation to proceed with company C to come from the budget Lace Hill Equipment 4164/250.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

#### 465/17 Purchase of a chainsaw and PPE equipment

To receive a written report from the Estates Manager

Members discussed and **AGREED** the report recommendation to proceed with company A to be paid from budget 4112/210 Environment Equipment.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

#### 466/17 Budgets

466.1/17 To receive the latest figures

Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre – Members discussed which Committee(s) should have management and/or oversight of events run at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre (LHSCC).

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and **AGREED** for a feedback report on any event organised by the LHSCC Coordinator at the LHSCC to be sent to the Town Centre & Events Committee.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

466.2/17 Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Try and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Environment Committee to create a budget heading for future Buckingham tree planting that residents planning tree works can voluntarily contribute towards.

Members discussed and **AGREED** the above recommendation and welcomed Cllr. W. Whyte's voluntary donation of £100 from his Community Leader's fund. Members **AGREED** to issue a press release on the creation of a 'Community Tree Planting Fund'.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

466.3/17 To discuss and propose budgets for 2018/19 (Precept)

Cllr. Smith noted there may be a need to increase the budget to incorporate any potential shortfall from future devolved services funding, in order to maintain standards in Buckingham.

**467/17 Devolved Service**

To receive a verbal update from the Estates Manager on services provided and costs covered.

The Estates Manager informed Members that the Greenspaces Team were currently responsible for hedge cutting, weed spraying, sign removal, footpath clearance, cleaning of signs and assorted minor repair works. Recently, the Team had seen an increase in the number of jobs assigned by County that were not within the Town Council's remit e.g. the installation of hand railings and other street furniture. The Estates Manager advised that the Town Council needed to renegotiate with Transport for Bucks (at contract renewal) which services fall within the remit of BTC. The Estates Manager suggested that BTC push for responsibility of hedge and grass cutting only as minor works was becoming onerous.

Members **AGREED** that the Estates Manager produce an article for Buckingham Matters on what the Town Council does and does not have responsibility for and that they are monitoring the rising cost involved in providing these services.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**468/17 Archaeology Report for Buckingham Town Cemetery**

To receive a written report from the Estates Manager on the draft Archaeology Report findings from Buckingham Cemetery.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury to **AGREE** the report recommendation to fund carbon dating and/or additional analysis into the archaeological finds to establish the provenance of the remains. Any further investigations, up to a value of £1,500 are to be taken from budget heading: 4112/201

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Against: 2

Motion carried

**ACTION ESTATES MANGER**

**469/17 Festival of Health**

To receive an update on the Festival of Health from the Project Coordinator.  
Noted.

**470/17 Mind the Gap**

To receive verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk on the review of the hire agreement.  
Noted.

**471/17 Access Awareness**

Church Hill footpath – Members discussed and **AGREED** for the Greenspaces Team to paint yellow hatch markings on the entrance to the church yard to discourage parked cars from obstructing the footpath.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**472/17 Rights of Way**

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

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*EQUALITIES ACT 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, racial equality or diversity.*

Initial .....

Members were in agreement that the section of Railway Walk belonging to the University of Buckingham should be designated as a formal Right of way.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to continue the investigation into the rights of way along Railway Walk. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**473/17 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

There was nothing to report.

**474/17 News Releases**

The following press releases were **AGREED**:

- o Tree Planting Fund
- o Right of Way along Railway Walk **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**475/17 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair noted that the Church spire was to be illuminated purple on 24 October to mark Parkinson Awareness Day.

Crocus Bulb Planting – 5000 bulbs have been donated to the Town Council by Buckingham Rotary Club and Members **AGREED** for the Estate Manager to decide the most appropriate locations for planting.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**476/17 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Meeting closed at: 20.30

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