

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.  
on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow,  
Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. Ms. J. Bates  
Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. M. Cole  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. D. Isham  
Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try

Also Present: Nina Stockill Committee Clerk  
Prof. A. Alcock Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of  
Buckingham  
Mr. C. Stocker Estates Manager, University of  
Buckingham

#### 404/16 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G. Collins, Gateley, Hirons & O'Donoghue.

#### 405/16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Smith declared an interest in agenda item 3 as a friend of the University.

*Proposed by Cllr. Cole, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended.*

#### 406/16 Presentation by Prof. A. Alcock, on future plan to expand the University.

Prof. Alcock explained to Members that that the University of Buckingham has to grow which is forced upon them by increased regulations and increased base costs of running a University. Mr Alcock added that the University needs to be twice the size in order to meet all the current/future regulatory requirements and student needs. Mr Stocker said that they were in midst of building a Strategic Plan which will be presented to their Council in November 2016 and finalised in January 2017. He listed the projects that the University were committed to delivering in the short term:

- A new teaching hospital facility in Milton Keynes
- Larger premises in London. The University already has a small (500-700sq m) premises for research but this will require expansion.

Mr. Alcock pointed out that it was not solely Buckingham in which the University needed to expand. The University recognises that Buckingham is its priority area of

growth and therefore needs to maintain strong relationships with the various organisations and residents.

Mr Stocker listed the following active development projects within Buckingham:

- Vinson Centre (site opposite Yeomanry House)
- Ford Meadow – the University are trying to bring it back into use as a sports facility.
- Accommodation buildings on Chandos Road Car Park, including a footpath link to the old train station and reinstatement of the old platforms.

Mr Alcock explained that a long term project was to develop the Innov8 (Hartridges) site but, this was subject to sufficient funds being available. Mr Stocker noted that it would cost the University £1.5-2m to clear the site and £20-25m to develop the required accommodation and teaching facilities for medicine and other sciences. Mr Stocker added that the planning permission for the footbridge will expire in March 2017 and so they are keen to move that aspect of the project forward.

*Cllr. Try entered the meeting during this discussion*

Mr. Stocker passed round a map of Buckingham with the University's current premises and highlighting potential further development sites. Members noted:

- Tanlaw Mill refectory will need to be expanded to cope with additional student numbers.
- The hardstanding area and basketball court could be considered for development
- The rear of Prebend House could also be considered for development

Vinson Building – plans were displayed and circulated to Members [16/01850/APP considered on 4/7/16]

Chandos Road Car Park student accommodation – Mr Stocker explained that they have taken the comments made at the public consultation event; the ground has natural fall and therefore the carpark can be built into the ground, reducing its overall height. Mr Alcock concluded the presentation by stressing that the University were working hard to bring the plans in line with comments from the public consultation and that no formal application had been submitted.

Members thanked Mr. Alcock and Mr. Stocker for their presentation.

Cllr. Smith said that he was disappointed that Members of Buckingham Town Council hadn't been notified of the date and time of the public consultation, and added that he was surprised that the Innov8 site had not been prioritised as a development project by the University. Mr Alcock explained that there are large upfront costs to developing the Innov8 site and unless the University has £10m to invest in the project it was not worth them initiating any clearance of the site. Mr. Alcock stressed that the entire infrastructure at Innov8 needs replacing; even the sewerage pumps are now broken and needed full replacement. Mr Alcock added that the University still needed to grow and develop and therefore smaller projects would still be funded. However, it was not the case that all funding could be channelled towards getting the Innov8 development up and running. Further, the University were under pressure to provide more student accommodation and more seminar rooms. Adding that up until now they have been cautious and resisted borrowing but in the current financial climate it may be an option.

Cllr P. Collins said that it would make more sense to locate the student accommodation behind the teaching/academic block and not fronting onto the

Tingewick Road therefore avoiding an potential disruption to nearby residents from student parties etc.

Mr. Stocker confirmed that the University's new sports facility would be located in Ford Meadow (above the flood plain) instead of the originally proposed site on Chandos Road.

Members advocated a communication conduit between the University and Buckingham Town Council. Mr. Stocker said that they would give some thought as to the appropriate forum and feed back to the Council.

Cllr. Mordue asked what the floor spaces of the proposed Milton Keynes and London developments would be. Mr. Stockers confirmed that the floor area of the Milton Keynes hospital facility would be 2065m<sup>2</sup> and London would be approximately 500-700m<sup>2</sup>.

Cllr. Stuchbury drew attention to the number of resident's complaints regarding traffic and parking on the Chandos Road and explained that the proposed station footpath will become a major route to school for children from housing developments in West Buckingham. He also asked if there were plans for the medical students to engage with any of the medical services in the town. Mr. Alcock explained that the only medical students qualified to engage with local GP services would be based in Milton Keynes.

Mr. Alcock explained to Members that they were increasingly becoming a 'home University' and the bulk of their medical students were from the UK. Following Brexit all EU students (starting autumn 2016) will still have their loans honoured but this may not be the case in future years. Further, the University was aware that the general tone of the government post-Brexit may have caused students from other countries to be put off applying to the UK universities.

Cllr. Strain-Clark recalled the success of the Buckingham Partnership that involved representatives from responsible authorities across the town and Buckinghamshire. Mr Alcock said such a forum would make their lives easier as they currently have a complex web of communications across Buckingham.

*Prof. Alcock and Mr Stocker left the meeting at 19.56*

*Proposed by Cllr. Cole, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.*

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Harvey and AGREED unanimously to have a future agenda item on Full Council to discuss formal communication links with the Buckingham University.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

#### **407/16 Chairman's Announcements**

Members noted the launch of DisabledGo at Buckingham Community Centre on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Members were reminded that they need to confirm their attendance at the Twinning lunch; otherwise they would not be catered for.

#### **408/16 Date of next Meetings:**

Full Council	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2016
Interim Council	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016

#### **Please note the following:**

NHS Aylesbury Vale & Chiltern CCGs Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 6.30-8pm.  
AVCCG Venue: The Gateway  
Chilterns CCG Venue: Chiltern District Council Offices

Meeting closed at 19.55 pm

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....