

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:05pm. following the Informal Meeting.

**Present:**

- Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
- Cllr. T. Bloomfield
- Cllr. M. Cole
- Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
- Cllr. P. Collins
- Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley
- Cllr. J. Harvey
- Cllr. P. Hirons
- Cllr. D. Isham
- Cllr. A. Mahi
- Cllr. H. Mordue
- Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
- Cllr. M. Smith
- Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
- Cllr. R. Stuchbury
- Cllr. M. Try

Mayor

**In attendance:** Mr. D. Jones Deputy Town Clerk  
Mrs. K. McElligott

*Member thanked Mrs. McElligott for attending on her leave day, to cover for the Committee Clerk's absence.*

#### **826/15 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllr. Ms. R. Newell & the Town Clerk.

#### **827/15 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Stuchbury declared an interest as a District Member in agenda item 10 (835/15). Cllr. Mordue said that this was unnecessary as the Unitary process was in very early stages of investigation.

There was a short discussion on whether Members with a strong connection to the Church should declare an interest in Agenda 15 (340/15) – The Centre, Verney Close – but it was agreed that declaration was a matter for individual Councillors to decide on.

#### **828/15 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (**BTC/10/15**).

#### **829/15 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (**PL/12/15**):

696/45: Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Environment Committee take on the issue in the first instance; to identify and further involve AVDC to address problem areas of rubbish accumulation around the town, educate householders, and investigate how to resolve frequently reported left waste.

Members discussed the Recommendation and the possible sources and causes, noting in addition that though businesses put commercial waste out for collection the evening before the appointed day, actual collection was often a day or two late, leading to a further accumulation of bags. Furthermore, binmen were not permitted to pick up extra bags (ie those not in bins), and some flexibility should be advocated to benefit the appearance and cleanliness of the town. AVDC would be asked to send out a standard letter to householders.

An amendment to the wording was **AGREED**, to obviate any ambiguity:

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Environment Committee take up the issue in the first instance with AVDC to address problem areas of rubbish accumulation around the town, educate householders, and investigate how to resolve frequently reported left waste.

**AGREED.**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 (**PL/13/15**):.

**AGREED.**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 (**PL/14/15**):

785/15: Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council adopt the following policy - Items on the Planning Action List over 6 months old that have not been acted upon are compiled and sent to District Members for follow up

Cllr. Smith proposed an amendment adding "and report back" to the last sentence, which was agreed by the proposer and seconder.

**AGREED.**

#### **830/15 Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (**E/06/15**).

**AGREED.**

#### **831/15 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (**TCE/06/15**).

With the alteration to 741/15 – insertion of "Cllr." before Smith –

**AGREED**

#### **832/15 Resources Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (**R/05/15**).

**AGREED**

Cllr. Harvey noted that a Recommendation had been omitted from the agenda, but that the matter was to be discussed later in the meeting (Min.840/15). The Recommendation is included for completeness, as it was agreed.

801/15: Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Clerk clarify the position with regards to access, facilities and cost, and that the Town Council decide formally whether to move Council meetings to the Red Cross Centre

#### **833/15 Motion – Cllr Harvey**

**"Good deeds and acts of random kindness"**: Prompted by a news story "More than 800 random acts of kindness completed by Somerset villagers" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-35252234>) and highlighted by Emma James on the 'Buckingham: What Matters to You' Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BuckinghamMatters/permalink/498138817034370/>), the Council will organise a similar plan to encourage

Buckingham people to record their good deeds for fellow people in the town. The Library has already agreed in principle to host a 'box' in which these good deeds can be posted. (Perhaps other institutions such as the schools, churches, etc. might be persuaded to participate also.) The aim is to honour and celebrate the good deeds already happening in our town and provide a stimulus for even more to be done.

Members felt that good deeds should be celebrated, but not by the agent which could lead to self-publicity; the recipient could well express thanks or commendation anonymously via the 'boxes'.

It was unclear how the box contents were to be collected and publicised; the Town Clerk was asked to suggest a plan for this. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **834/15 Action List**

To receive and discuss the updated list.

(710/15: Lace Hill Broadband) – internet connection was available, but no better than 1Mb speed. It was reported that the school was now connected.

(220/14: new toilets) – the lease was still awaited. Cllr Mordue offered to take this up with AVDC Legal. **ACTION CLLR. MORDUE**

Cllr. Strain-Clark asked for information on opening hours, lighting and CCTV. The Deputy Town Clerk thought that lighting and hours would be as Chandos Park toilets; CCTV would be an additional cost.

Cllr. P. Collins asked if the NHB funding could be reclaimed if no progress was made; Cllr. Mordue said not, if the work was started within 3 years.

In general, Members felt that this project had been too much delayed already, and looked to District Members to prompt some resolution of outstanding matters.

(541/15:MKCCG) Cllr. Stuchbury asked for a volunteer to attend the next meeting as he was otherwise engaged. Cllr. Cole had attended an AVCCG meeting in Winslow where a representative from MK had spoken about the closing of Bedford or MK A&E. A further meeting was expected.

#### **835/15 Unitary Council**

To agree a policy a Council position on a preferred option, should a Unitary Council process come to fruition.

Members agreed to postpone any discussion until the proposal was far enough developed to include a Business Case.

#### **836/15 Buckingham Town Cricket Club**

The cricket club had asked for a letter of support to enable them to seek grants to replace the damaged practice nets.

Members agreed. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **837/15 Moreton Rd Toilets**

To discuss whether the Town Council should pay to continue to keep the toilets open.

Members felt that the Moreton Road toilets should at least be kept open by AVDC until the new ones in Cornwalls Meadow were available, and possibly longer as an additional facility. If AVDC was proposing to close them, they should announce the fact well in advance to allow public comment. Furthermore the building was not in good order and had been built incorrectly, with the disabled toilet with the most difficult access.

The Town Clerk was asked to prepare a paper nearer the time on the costs of keeping Moreton Road open, if AVDC did proposed to close them.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### 838/15 Aylesbury Magistrates' Court Closure Consultation – Cllr. Cole

Members were directed to [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/499808/se-consultation-response.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499808/se-consultation-response.pdf) to read the full decision report.

The only remaining courts in the county would be at High Wycombe and Milton Keynes. Members felt that this would particularly affect family cases, but that the decision had now been made and was unlikely to be changed.

Cllr. Stuchbury wished it recorded that he had suggested writing to the House of Lords to try and get the decision amended, but Members had not supported him. Cllr. Mordue thought writing to David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury, might have been more appropriate.

### 839/15 AVDC Council Meetings

To receive for information the restrictions placed on Members asking questions at AVDC Council Meetings.

Noted.

### 840/15 The Centre @ Verney Close

To agree to use the Centre for Council and Committee meetings; to receive a written report from the Town Clerk

Members had been under the impression that Town Council use of the Centre was to be free of charge; whether the £30/meeting fee was sanctioned by the County Council, and whether the room would be set up and tidied away by Council or Centre staff.

Cllr. Hirons pointed out that approximately 1 Planning meeting in 5 involved additional attendees, whether residents or developers making a presentation, and a larger room would be an advantage, though exactly which meetings was unpredictable. Cllr. Strain-Clark felt that the Centre had better access.

Cllr. Mordue suggested using the Lace Hill Community Centre for planning and the Chamber for other meetings. Cllr. Mrs. Collins said that this would be difficult if the sports hall was in use, due to the noise.

Cllr. Isham thought that the Chamber had gravitas which the Centre and new the Community Centre did not.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **AGREED** that the use of The Centre @ Verney Close be abandoned and other solutions, such as removing the wall between the Chamber and the small office to make more room, be investigated. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### 841/15 The Mayor – Administrative Support

To discuss whether there should be a job description for the post of Mayor, and administrative support provided from the office.

It was noted that office support was given for occasions such as Mayor-making and Civic Services, and that other similar-sized towns (Leighton-Linslade, Aylesbury) had a dedicated part-time officer to organise events for their Mayors.

Cllr. Harvey said that this should have been discussed before the Precept was set, and that there was no budget in the forthcoming financial year for additional staff. The Town Clerk was asked to prepare a business case for the post, benchmarking against other Councils, and presenting two or three options with costs for discussion at Resources. **ACTION TOWN CLERK/RESOURCES AGENDA**

It was agreed there should be a guidance sheet for the post of Mayor, to which all the former Mayors and Deputy Mayors on the Council could contribute. The majority

of these former Mayors had been employed, not always in Buckingham, during their tenure and had managed their own diaries.

**ACTION CLLRS. P. COLLINS, HIRONS, ISHAM, MAHI, MORDUE, NEWELL, O'DONOGHUE, SMITH, STRAIN-CLARK and STUCHBURY**

**842/15 (537/15) Town Action Commission – Making Buckingham more parent-and child friendly**

The Deputy Town Clerk's written report had been circulated with the agenda. He reported a lack of public response, and so the idea had been spread via social media and directly to relevant organisations, which had elicited some replies.

Members felt that the questions were biased towards young children, and that parents of teenagers, and older young people, should be included for their views.

Members **AGREED** that the matter should be progressed.

**843/15 Local Area Forum**

To receive for information a report on the recent County Council review of LAF's – The full report is available at:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s76999/Local%20Area%20Forums%20-%20Review.pdf>

Noted.

**844/15 Fairtrade Status**

Fairtrade Town Status had been awarded to the town for a further 2 years; Cllr. Gateley presented the certificate to the Mayor.

**845/15 Rural Health Conference 29/01/16**

Cllr Bates was thanked for her report.

**846/15 To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported on a meeting held with the BCC Cabinet Member, Cllr. Mohammed, on planning for school places.

He had also asked a question on SureStart Centres on behalf of Mr. Riches, but it had not yet been decided how many were to be supported, and where.

Child Safety advisory boards were to be remodelled with a wider remit, which he felt would not be as effective in identifying cases of neglect and achieving prevention.

Cllr. Whyte had sent an email report, which would be circulated by email.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**847/15 Aylesbury Vale Times**

847.1 Proposed linking of Cherwell and South Northants District Councils.

Deferred pending more information.

847.2 Error in the bin collections for Easter.

Noted

**848/15 Swan Credit Union**

To receive an invitation to attend an AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Noted.

**849/15 (709/15) Minor Injuries Buckingham**

Members felt that the response from Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group had not answered the question asked. A further letter would be sent pointing out

that we had not asked for an A&E Department at the hospital but a part-time nurse-led first aid station which could be at the hospital or one of the GP practices.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**850/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Buckingham Community Hall Ass<sup>n</sup>

– Management meeting minutes 23/7/15 & 26/11/2015

Access for All meeting minutes - 11/1/16 & 8/2/16

Noted.

**851/15 Mayoral Engagements**

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Noted.

**852/15 News Releases**

(849/15: MIU) - depending on the response to the letter.

**853/15 Chair's Announcements**

**854/15 Date of the next meeting:**

Interim Council – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Annual Statutory Meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Full Council - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Meeting closed at: 9.40pm

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor