

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:15pm.

**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 (Deputy Mayor)  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. M. Smith  
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk  
 Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk

**435/16 Apologies for Absence**

Members noted apologies from Cllrs. Mahi and Try

**436/16 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. O'Donoghue declared an interest in agenda item 12.1 as a resident of Hightown properties.

*Members **AGREED** to take agenda item 12.3 next for the benefit of members of the public present.*

**437/16 16/03302/APP**

**OPPOSE AND ATTEND**

**Land to the rear of the Grand Junction Public House, High Street**

Members agreed that a town centre location was a suitable site for a care home, but this was in the floodplain – as are two of the existing sheltered housing complexes. This site was not included for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan for this reason – the preferred use of the site was for an extension to Cornwalls Meadow car park, with permeable surfacing and some open space adjacent to the river. AVDC's comments on the BNDP Site Assessment acknowledged a possible alternative use for retail or other employment. Use of land in Flood Zones 2 & 3 for housing, especially of vulnerable people, is contrary to the NPPF. The Flood Survey omitted the July 2007, 2012 and 2016 flooding incidents. Photographs from these events show substantial parts of the land were underwater including the principal access point.

Members recollect that their recent application to site public toilets on the recycling corner where the access is proposed was dismissed by the District Council on the grounds of safety for pedestrians crossing the car park entrance. Frail elderly residents, possibly with walking aids or mobility scooters, would be even more at risk.

Criticism was made of the suggested new sites for the recycling point, which included BT's compound, disabled parking bays behind Waitrose, and Verney Close woodland.

Cllr. Hirons called for a vote on this item. The results of the vote were:

13 in favour  
2 abstaining

Proposed by Cllr. Cole, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **AGREED** that this Council would **OPPOSE** and **ATTEND** the application. **ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

Cllr. Newell said that she would refer Mrs Robinson's comments onto the AVDC Tree Officer.

*Members of the public left at 7.30pm and the original agenda order resumed*

#### **438/16 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meetings held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016 **BTC/05/16**

Cllr. Strain-Clark proposed an amendment to minute 305/16 reading "some parking spaces could be created perpendicular to the wall at the end of Verney Close where many people already do park. Parking parallel to the kerb allows for very few cars, and makes access difficult for those with mobility problems. Markings to encourage parking perpendicular to the kerb rather than parallel would allow for additional accessible spaces. This is particularly important for disabled badge holders as the Verney Close surgery's patient car park has only one disabled space" seconded by Cllr Smith and **AGREED**.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016 **BTC/06/16**

With alterations to the title date from 'Monday' to 'Tuesday' and including Cllr. Mordue's apologies.

Amendment to minute 330/16 to read "Members recorded thanks to Officers, Town Clerks and Members"

**AGREED**

#### **439/16 Interim Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016. **IM/03/16**

**AGREED**

#### **440/16 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 **PL/05/16**

**AGREED**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 **PL/06/16**

Cllr. Hirons noted that a Recommendation had been omitted from the agenda. The Recommendation is included for completeness.

Proposed by Cllr, Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council form a working group to formulate how the Council responds to the A421 Expressway proposals.

**AGREED**

**441/16 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

**TCE/03/16**

**AGREED**

**442/16 Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016. **E/03/16**

**AGREED**

**443/16 Resources Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016. **R/03/16**

Amendment to include Cllr. Smith's apologies.

**AGREED**

**444/16 Motion – Cllr. Cole**

**Buckingham University League Tables: Motion to Council (proposed by Cllr. Cole)**

*Cllr. Smith declared an Interest in the following item as a Friend of Buckingham University.*

Prompted by the news that the University of Buckingham has topped *The Sunday Times* 'best UK university polls' in three categories: Best Teaching (for the second year running, Best Student Experience and Best Student/Staff Ratio.

"Its achievement in topping three of our nine league table indicators is bettered only by Cambridge," says *The Sunday Times Good University Guide*, which is widely seen as the teaching industry standard. "For many years Buckingham was Britain's sole private university, and is still the only one in our main league table."

Cllr. Cole said the following: "We can be proud of the work done by the faculty in achieving this, and as we work towards renewing good communications between Town and Gown in its 40<sup>th</sup> year". Members are asked to offer their formal congratulation to the University.

Members took a vote and unanimously **AGREED** with Cllr. Cole' Motion.

**445/16 Motion – Cllr. Stuchbury**

**Friends of Buckingham Library: Motion to Council proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury)**

Cllr. P. Collins asked the Chairman if six Councillors had signed a paper saying they wanted to discuss the following motion. The Chairman confirmed there had not been such a request and referred to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk said that he had sought advice from BALC and because the motion was neither thrown out nor agreed it was not deemed as having 'failed' and therefore the six month rule did not apply.

Cllr. Smith suggested that the motion could be placed on the next Full Council agenda if six fellow Councillors were in agreement. **AGREED** for members to discuss externally as to whether the item is placed on the next Full Council agenda.

**446/16 Action List**

Toilets (220/14) The Town Clerk said the developers hope to start work on the toilets in the first week after the New Year. During development Shopmobility is to be rehomed in the Verney Close Centre or inside the library.

Buckingham Partnership (710/15) Cllr. Smith said that Mr Stocker, Estates Manager of Buckingham University had welcomed the creation of a partnership group.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to contact Mr Stocker to form an initial Partnership Meeting.  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**447/16 ADDITIONAL PLANS**

**16/02641/APP**

**OPPOSE AND ATTEND**

**Hamilton Precision Ltd, 10 Tingewick Road**

Demolition of existing Class B2 warehouse and construction of 51 residential units with access and parking

Further to their previous comments, none of which have been modified, Members have added:

The Environment Agency objects to the current scheme, which supports local opinion on flooding and drainage of this site.

The applicant's consultant ecologist does not support a riverside buffer/wildlife corridor contrary to the comments of the AVDC biodiversity staff on this and the site immediately to the west (Clarence Park:14/02513/ADP), and the expressed wish in the BNDP for a continuation of the Riverside Walk to link Fishers Field with Clarence Park.

It is not clear how sewage from the lowest part of the site is to arrive at the Tingewick Road main 'under gravity', as the previously mooted pump has been deleted.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Members would maintain their position to this **OPPOSE** and **ATTEND** this application.

**ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

**NEW MAJOR APPLICATIONS**

**16/03138/APP**

**OPPOSE AND ATTEND**

**Land To The Rear Of Hamilton House, West Street [Summerhouse Hill]**

Residential development comprising 38 dwelling including parking, cycle and refuse storage and associated landscaping works.

Members noted that this was a new application, rather than an amendment to the original, and would therefore like to know how much of the development will be affordable housing, economic conditions having considerably improved since the original application.

Given the amount of new development since 2009 – including Lace Hill and Moreton Road, over 700 new houses - and the increased number of dwellings proposed on this site, Members felt that an up-to-date Transport Assessment should have been produced; for example, 5 of the 7 bus services listed no longer exist, the #60 service has been radically altered and reduced, and the X5 is not mentioned at all. The addition of some 2014 survey data does not properly address the increased pressure on the town centre junctions, or the extra burden on other infrastructure.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **AGREED** that this Council would **OPPOSE** and **ATTEND** the application.

**ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

Members voted 13 in favour and 2 abstentions

**448/16 Lace Hill Cleaning**

To receive and discuss a report from the Town Clerk

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **AGREED** unanimously to accept the report recommendation. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**449/16 Buckingham & Stowe Running Club Half Marathon**

To receive and discuss an email from Chris Usher, Chairman, Buckingham & Stowe Running Club

Members discussed the correspondence and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to respond to Mr. Usher nominating the Youth Club as recipients for this year's donations. Members would welcoming being consulted on future year's donations.

**450/16 AVDC Audit of Sports and Community Facilities**

Members **AGREED** to review the databases and send any amendments to the Town Clerk by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Members noted the following additions: The Old Church yard, The Youth Centre's Sports Hall (BCC) and Ford Meadow Sports Hall (owned by the University)

**451/16 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review**

To receive and discuss an email from Alice Fisher, Democratic Services, AVDC Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith and **AGREED** unanimously to note and accept the review with the following caveats. The inclusion of the Risboroughs within our constituency should be reconsidered as they are much closer to Aylesbury. Any future election counts (for our constituency) should be located in either Wolverton, Stony Stratford or Buckingham.

**452/16 Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18**

To receive and discuss a Technical Consultation Paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government

Members held a lengthy discussion on the Government's proposal for a Council Tax referendum.

Proposal by Cllr. P. Collins to oppose the consultation. No Member stood as seconder for this proposal.

Cllr. Hirons said that there are some points that are worth considering but it is the referendum proposal that is causing concern.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to respond to the consultation stating that Buckingham Town Council does not agree with the principle of a referendum on Council Tax. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members voted 13 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention

**453/16 Communications with Buckingham University**

To discuss and agree a formal communication process with the University  
*[Agenda item discussed at minute 446/16].*

**454/16 Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire**

To receive and discuss the Executive Summary

Cllr. P. Collins stated that he was in favour of a 'smaller and cheaper' Unitary Council.

*Cllr. Stuchbury declared an interest in this agenda item as District and County Councillor.*

Cllr. Smith said he disagreed with Cllr. P. Collins as Buckinghamshire was a diverse County with many different towns and villages that shouldn't be considered as one entity. Cllr. Smith urged Members to wait for sight of all the options before they respond.

Cllr. Strain-Clark said that some of the 'joined up working' principles of a Unitary Council are sensible but it has to make sense and Buckingham is very removed from towns in the South of the County. Cllr. Strain-Clark spoke about the strong links between Buckingham and Milton Keynes and said it should be at least be mentioned in these proposals.

Proposed by Cllr P. Collins that Members accept the Unitary proposal. No Member stood as seconder for this proposal.

Proposal by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** that Members wait to receive all of the options from District, County Council and Bucks Business First before setting up a working group to respond. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members voted 11 in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions

#### **455/16 Correspondence**

455.1/16 (294/15) Reply from Mr. C Stocker, University of Buckingham  
Noted

455.2/16 (774/15) Reply from Mr. C Stocker, University of Buckingham  
Noted

455.3/16 Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils AGM.  
Noted

455.4/16 Community Right to Bid: Buckingham Athletic Sports & Social Club  
Noted

#### **456/16 To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

**Cllr Mordue provided the following updates:**

BCC have purchased land on the Ken Brook Road Industrial Estate to develop another refuse collection depot as the existing site is too small for the current number of vehicles. The site would also facilitate the maintenance and testing of heavy goods vehicles.

Unitary Proposals – BCC's report was commissioned by four District Councillors and Deloitte. The interim report will be available for scrutiny from next week and consultation seminars are to be held within Aylesbury. Cllr. Mordue said the some parishes do not want more responsibility and others welcome it. BCC want to take these matters on board before producing the final report. Cllr. Mordue added that Milton Keynes is still in Buckinghamshire they are just an operating Unitary within the County borders. There are some large scale services such as Adult Social Care or Highways that could be considered in conjunction with Milton Keynes Council. Our option is not the cheapest but we are looking for the best value for money.

**Cllr Stuchbury provided the following updates:**

District Council

Cllr. Stuchbury took a motion to AVDC regarding 106 monies for new developments within Buckingham. The matter was voted down but Cllr. Stuchbury will take the motion back to Council in six months. He also expressed disappointment in AVDC's response to questions on the public toilets in Buckingham.

County Council

Voice of the child – A report that stems from the Vulnerable Children Assessment is being written in conjunction with Social and Support Workers.  
 Children's Centres - Concerned that the funding for Children Centres has not been ring-fenced for the new budget. Cllr. Stuchbury added that Buckingham's Children Centre is a valuable resource that identifies and helps vulnerable families and yet there is no certainty on their future.  
 Cotton End Steps – A meeting was being held this week to discuss the issue  
 Street Lighting – A press release is to be issued  
 Bypass works – Awaiting a response from Transport for Bucks

**457/16 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Access for All meeting minutes 08/08/16 & 12/09/16  
 Cllr Strain-Clark explained that there had been no developments since the launch of DisabledGo as their press officer had been taken ill.

**458/16 Mayoral Engagements**

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

- 28/8/16 Open and close Bandjam
- 16/9/16 BCQ 40th anniversary
- 17/9/16 First football match at Lace Hill pitch
- 17/9/16 Fair Trade at Gaol
- 17/9/16 Rotary Club Food & Wine event
- 17/9/16 Bartlett's Tea Rooms raffle
- 18/9/16 Buckingham University / Milton Keynes Hospital event at MK Dons Stadium
- 23/9/16 MS Soc. 'Walk a Mile' event in town

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

- 10/09/16 Opening of the New Scout Hut
- 11/09/16 Installation of new Archdeacon of Buckingham in Aylesbury Church.
- 22/10/16 Twining Lunch

**459/16 News Releases**

Press release on Buckingham Town Council's opposition to planning applications 16/02641/APP and 16/03302/APP.

**460/16 Chair's Announcements**

There was none

**461/16 Date of the next meeting:**

Interim Council – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016  
 Full Council - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

Meeting closed at: 20.59

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

Town Mayor

