

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN BUCKINGHAM
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 2005 AT 7.30 PM.**

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| PRESENT | Councillors | H Cadd P Collins Mrs P Desorgher D Isham H Lewis H Mordue Mrs H Saul P Strain-Clark R Stuchbury (Mayor) |
| | Town Clerk | Ms P J Heath |
| | Parishioners | 16 |

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ms R Newell, R Lehmann, Mrs P Stevens, and C Strain-Clark

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 30th March 2004 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman as such.

2. REPORT BY THE MAYOR OF BUCKINGHAM

The Mayor Cllr R Stuchbury thanked everyone for attending and gave a lively account of the Councils work in the preceding year. With the awarding of the Quality Parish Status to Buckingham, the council has been building on its links with the District and County Council. The Mayor spoke of the Councils sadness at the loss of Cllr Liverseidge and welcomed Cllr H Lewis to the Council.

3. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

3.1 Environment & Property

Cllr H Mordue, Chairman of the Environment & Property Committee, spoke of the work of the Committee in the previous year. 2005 saw the Town Council take over completely the management of the Parks and Cemetery; this has meant improvements within the park and also in the management of some of the facilities. The Committee have also been working in partnership with other authorities and organisations to improve the quality of the environmental aspect of the area.

3.2 Planning

Cllr P Strain-Clark, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke of the work of the Committee and its role within the larger planning decision process both locally and nationally. He explained the amount of decisions reached by the Committee and the relationship of those decisions to the finally decision by Aylesbury Vale District Council the Planning Authority.

3.3 Finance and Administration

Cllr Collins, Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, spoke of the processes the Committee goes through when scrutinising the finances of the Council and their application of funds. The Committee also deals with the general administration of the Council and the Personnel, ensuring that tax payer's money is well spent and the people of Buckingham given the access to the first tier of local government they need.

3.4 Events

Cllr Lehmann, Chairman of the Events Committee, report was read by the Town Clerk in his absence. The report spoke of the events organised directly by the Town Council as well as those which the Town Council has more of a sponsorship role.

4 REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS OF 2004/2005 GRANTS

4.1 Buckingham & Winslow CAB

The Manager of the Buckingham & Winslow CAB thanked the Council for the Grant which had been used to improve the IT capabilities of the organisation.

4.2 Buckingham & Winslow Cross Road Carers

Ms Baker of the Buckingham & Winslow Cross Road Carers thanked the Council for its grant which is used to improve the amount of support to carers in Buckingham.

4.3 Buckingham School

Mr Fealey of Buckingham School thanked the Council for its grant which was used to help the school to achieve the special school status in sports. Bringing improved facilities not only to the school but the wider community.

4.4 Project Street Life

Mr Pennington of Project Street Life thanked the Council for the grant which had been used to support the work of PSL to work with the more troublesome element of the town's youth.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

5.1 Mr Harris Stowe Close - 2 lime trees in the Close were cut down by the County Council, these were 80 years old and there were no plans to replace them.

Cllr Stuchbury informed the meeting that the Town Council had contacted the County Council at the time, the trees were diseased, and a copy of the tree surgeons report was available in the office.

5.2 Mr Peevers, Buckingham Society – raised the issue of litter in the parks and in the river.

Cllr Stuchbury pointed out that the Town Council carries out a yearly river rinse, which is advertised and with increasing number of volunteers can cover larger stretches of the river.

The Council is also putting more bins into the parks. The Council would also chase the other authorities over areas of land owned by them that had not been kept cleared.

5.3 Mr Bloomfield – asked about Coopers Yard development

Cllr Stuchbury explained that this was a private development and that the developer had 5 years from the granting of planning permission to actually start work.

5.4 Mr Grimsdale, Access for All, - asked about the Moreton Road Toilets which the group had not thought particularly disabled friendly

Cllr Stuchbury explained that these were owned by AVDC who had project managed the work; they had been put in the wrong way round. The Town Council had not paid any money towards the toilets.

5.5 Mr Mackey – asked about the speed limits on Gawcott Fields and the height of the vegetation on the roundabout at the junction of Gawcott Road and the A421.

Cllr Stuchbury explained that the Roundabouts were under the control of the Town Council, the height and style of the vegetation was managed as per the contract with BCC, which set it at between 1 – 1.5 meters. The Council agreed to re visit the maintenance of the roundabout at future E & P Meeting.

5.6 Unknown – Asked about the transfer of Verney Close and the tree works, particularly in view of the state of some of the trees.

Cllr Stuchbury explained that the land is owned by the County Council and that the Town Council is actively seeking its transfer in order the area can be enhanced. The Council has a duty of care in respect of the trees; the Town Council currently carries out surveys on its own land and seeks professional advice when required.

5.7 Mr Grimsdale – asked about the Christmas lights which he felt were not as good

Cllr Stuchbury explained that a new contractor had been appointed, to carry out the work including supplying new lights as many of the old ones were in poor shape. The Council had a limited budget of £11,000; The Events committee report having already explained about the issues as relating to the traders. Hopefully if the traders now get involved the display will improve over the next few years.

The meeting thanked the Council for their work in keeping the car parking free in Buckingham

MAYORS POINTS OF INTEREST

There were no Mayors items

There being no more questions or comments the Chairman closed the meeting at 8 50 pm.

Chairman of Buckingham Town Council Date