

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7 PM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor  
P. Collins  
Mrs P. Desorgher  
D.R. Isham  
G. Loftus  
H. Mordue (Chairman)  
Mrs H. Saul  
R. Stuchbury (Mayor)

Town Clerk Ms P J Heath

**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. R. Newell and Mrs. C. Strain-Clark.

**116/2005 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr. D. Isham declared a prejudicial interest on item no 13 on the agenda as a Trustee of Buckingham Community Centre.

**117/2005 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2005 which were ratified on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

**118/2005 TO RECEIVE ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES**

118.1/2005 (101.1/2005) Seat by Community Centre

Members were informed that a response had not yet been received from Budgens Supermarket. The Clerk confirmed that the Landlords had agreed to the placing of a bench under the canopy. It was **AGREED** to purchase a bench identical to the one already by the Community Centre and install it opposite under the Budgens Canopy.

118.2/2005 (101.3/2005) Footpath inspection by Cllr Isham/Cllr Desorgher

A copy of the report from Cllr. Isham and Cllr. Desorgher was circulated at the meeting. Members agreed to include their findings into the Town Audit reports.

**119/2005 REPORT IF REQUIRED ON CEMETERY LODGE REFURBISHMENT**

Members were informed that the authority to borrow had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; an application would be made to borrow £77,000 from the Public Loans Board.

**120/2005 REPORTS ON THE OPERATION OF BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY**

120.1/2005 Discuss and agree the length of "Right of Burial" - 75 - 99 years

Members discussed how long the right of burial deed should be issued for. The Clerk explained that the national trend was towards 75 years.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** by 4 votes to 3 that the Right of Burial deed should be for 75 years.

#### 120.2/2005 Programme to recheck memorials identified by AVDC being "at risk"

The Clerk informed Members that the reports and paperwork from the memorial testing in Brackley Road Cemetery had not been received from AVDC. It was agreed that should the information not be received by 17<sup>th</sup> May the Chairman and the Clerk would write to Mr R Carr, Chief Executive of AVDC.

#### 120.3/2005 Preparations for Memorial testing in areas not previously checked

The Members discussed the future checking of the memorials. Once the paperwork from AVDC had been received the retesting or checking of the extension can be programmed.

- It was agreed that the Council would commence testing of the memorials from May 2006. Publicity for the testing would start in the autumn of 2005.
- Press release on regular basis on the need and type of testing
- Posters in the Cemetery
- Large signs for key dates – Christmas, New Year, Easter and Mothers Day.
- Letters to known grave owners- can be used as a process for checking database
- Open days for owners to see what the testing involves
- Testing to be done in phases – map and key dates to be posted in the Cemetery

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **AGREED** that the Clerk would seek tenders for the testing of the Memorials, to be included in 2006/2007 budget.

#### 120.4/2005 Ratify the decision taken by the Chairman and Town Clerk re ext 383 grave

The Clerk and the Chairman explained the problems that had arisen with the burial in grave no 383a. This had been purchased as a double, but during the grave dig it was found that the bedrock at that location would not allow a double depth. The Chairman and the Clerk had offered the family the adjacent plot no 383b as a side by side at the same cost the family had paid for a double depth grave.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that the Committee ratified the decision taken by the Chairman and the Clerk.

#### 120.5/2005 Memorial installation request re Susan Clarke grave –Appeal.

As per the Council's procedure an appeal was received against the designated councillor's decision to not allow the application to erect a memorial on the Grave of Mrs. S. Clarke. The Committee, excluding the designated councillors, looked at the application and agreed to uphold the appeal on the condition that the red was a dark dull red and not a bright pillar box red.

**ACTION THE TOWN CLERK**

#### 120.6/2005 Update on proposal for a car park at the Cemetery

Members discussed the letter from New College re the cost of purchasing the specific piece of land required for the Car Park and the proposition to part exchange the land beyond the left hand hedge.

It was agreed to **defer** this to the next meeting to allow all members to view the land around the cemetery and the site of the proposed car park.

## **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

### **121/2005 REPORTS ON CHANDOS PARK**

#### 121.1/2005 Update on the arson attack and subsequent repairs

Members were informed that the repairs to the damaged equipment at Chandos Park would cost £603.

The Clerk informed members that further information had been received on the children who put out the fire and that due to that information the letters had not been sent.

#### 121.2/2005 Update on equipment purchase

Members were informed that the new equipment for the maintenance of the bowling green had arrived.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that a friendly bowls match and social should be organised between Buckingham Town Council and Chandos Park Bowls Club.

#### 121.3/2005 Comments from Mr Taylor re youth problems and Buckingham FC

The Clerk informed Members of the latest communication with Mr. Taylor of Buckingham Town Football Club, and recent history, concerning the problems he is experiencing with youths from Chandos Park causing damage at the Football Club.

Members discussed the concerns being raised by the football club over the kick wall; although it was pointed out that the fence was regularly being damaged before the kick wall was installed. Members agreed to investigate the cost of placing a fence on the football club side of the wooden fence to deflect any high kicked balls back into the park. Previous investigation on placing the fence on the park side had been problematic as the fence is owned by AVDC who insisted they had a meter gap, between the fence and any new high level fencing, for maintenance. It was suggested that the football club should place a notice on the wooden fence giving details on how the balls which go into the football ground could be retrieved.

## **ACTION THE CLERK**

### **122/2005 REPORTS ON BOURTON PARK**

#### 122.1/2005 Information on repairs to vandalised equipment and fittings

Members were informed of the recent vandalism to the footbridge and fitness equipment in the Park. Unfortunately for health and safety reasons, the piece of equipment by Bourton Mill Weir had to be removed as it was in an unsafe condition which, due to the nature of the damage, could not be repaired.

Proposed by Cllr. Saul, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** a record of all damage repair and the cost involved be kept.

122.2/2005 Notification of insurance claim re Miss Styles

Members were informed that the case had been closed as there is no case to answer.

**123/2005 REPORTS ON KEN TAGG PLAY AREA**

(104.6) Receive information on footpath and wood chipper

At the Clerk's request this was deferred to the next meeting.

**124/2005 REPORTS ON BUCKINGHAM TOWN AUDIT - ACTION REQUIRED**

Members discussed the latest Town Audit which had been circulated with the agenda. In response to a question, the Clerk informed Members that the lamp posts in Well Street were included on the Audit, and that a report from the County Council indicated these would be painted when funds allowed. Comment was made on the state of the Coat of Arms on the London Road Bridge; these had been made in coade stone which is no longer manufactured. Members were also concerned about the vegetation that was growing between the London Road Bridge and the adjacent footbridge and requested that the area should be cleared.

Members were reminded that the Audit which is carried out quarterly is sent to the Buckingham Partnership to be included on their agenda, and every 6 months a specific report is sent to each responsible authority to action.

**125/2005 A REPORT BY CLLR. MORDUE AND CLLR. STEVENS ON EWx2005**

Cllr. Mordue spoke of the various stands he and Cllr. Stevens had visited at the exhibition. There were several new designs of play equipment out which he felt would enhance the town. Also a new system to protect river banks had been shown which would strengthen areas such as Chris Nichols walk which was collapsing into the river; AVDC had been notified.

**126/2005 VEGETATION ON GAWCOTT HILL ROUNDABOUT FOLLOWING MR. MACKEY'S COMMENTS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Following the comments made by Mr. Mackey at the Annual Town Meeting Cllr. Mordue had visited the site and could understand his concerns. Members discussed at length the options for improving the crossing including a bridge, subway, and a pelican crossing none of which were financially viable at this point in time. Members agreed to cut the outer shrubs to below 1-metre high whilst still retaining the overall visual effect of the sponsored roundabout.

**127/2005 REPLACEMENT OF THE BAY WINDOW IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Members discussed the replacement of the Bay window which is rapidly rotting away. Members were given details of 3 quotations received to replace the window for a double glazed unit, with safety locks and opening windows

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council accept the Quotation from Astro Sections Ltd to replace the rotten bay window from contingencies at a cost of £1250 inc. VAT.

**128/2005 PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT BINS**

It was **AGREED** to update the survey on litter bins and arranged a phased replacement of missing bins, repair damaged ones, and install new bins where needed.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**129/2005 REVIEW BUDGET 2005/2006**

Members accepted the current budget for 2005/2006.

**130/2005 PURCHASE OF NEW TOWN COUNCIL FLAGS**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council purchases two new Town Council flags at a cost of £379 from contingencies.

**131/2005 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

131.1/2005 BUS SHELTER STRATFORD ROAD

Cllr. Stuchbury requested that the 106 money identified as being due from the development of the salerooms at Moreton Road should be used to purchase a bus shelter for Stratford Road; this had formed one of the options raised by the Chairman's Strategy Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005. It was explained that any use had to be related to the development which generated the section 106 money.

131.2/2005 VE DAY

Cllr. Isham queried the length of the grass on Church Hill. It was explained that this is maintained by AVDC contractors and is not within the control of the Council.

131.3/2005 BOURTON ROAD ALLOTMENT

The Chairman informed members that the Bourton Road Allotment Society had asked for amendments to the 12 year agreement. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would meet with them to discuss their proposed amendments.

131.4/2005 SEMINARS

The Clerk informed Members that Komplan would be holding a free disability in play seminar on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2005 – no one wished to go. No member wishes to attend the LCAS Health and Safety seminar; it was agreed the Clerk could attend the Fareham seminar on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

CHAIRMAN .....H. Mordue..... DATE .....13th July 2005.....