

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 1st August 2005 at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Barnett
P. Collins (Mayor)
Mrs. P. Desorgher
D. Isham
H. Lewis
H. Mordue
Ms. R. Newell
Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
P. Strain-Clark
R. Stuchbury
Town Clerk Mrs P. J. Heath
In attendance Cllr. D. Polhill – County Councillor Buckingham North

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors H. Cadd, R. Lehmann, G. Loftus, Ms. H. Saul, and Mrs. P. Stevens. Members thanked Cllr. Cadd for the wine and wished him and Mrs. Cadd a happy 46th Wedding Anniversary.

2617 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Collins declared a prejudicial interest on item 12 “land at junction of Nelson Street and Castle Street”.

*Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to move items 10 ‘MHT update’ and 11 ‘Maids Moreton Hall’ to be heard next.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to enable members of the public to speak on both item 10 and item 11. Because of their interconnection it was agreed to consider the items together for the public session although the comments are separated in the minutes.*

2618 INFORMATION ON THE FUTURE PROPOSALS OF BCC RE NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOLLOWING COMMENTS MADE AT THE INTERIM COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke on the pending closure of Maids Moreton Hall which, he understands, will close in 2007/2008; the residents of the home are to be sent to Wing. He expressed concern that the newly refurbished ambulance centre at the Hall will be lost when the site is developed. He felt this would be another service lost to the residents of Buckingham. The Fremantle Trust runs the Home on behalf of Bucks County Council. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the Hall was the former British Heart Hospital and as such was a historical building.

Members appreciated that the new government regulations mean that considerable modification work would be needed on the Hall to make it comply, and that this could be

financially unviable, but felt that Buckingham Town Council should talk to and be involved in discussions concerning the Hall even though it is outside our parish.

It was felt that obtaining the demographics of the County, particularly for the north of the County, would be useful and also talking to the ambulance service concerning their possible relocation.

Mrs. Buckingham and Mrs. Robinson both spoke on the need to retain facilities locally and also on the need for the respite care provided by the Home. They asked what the capacity and occupation levels of MM Hall were; if it was to be rebuilt, where would residents go?; if, as is being suggested, the County Council are looking at more home care for the elderly, how would this be funded? Who would have primary control? What additional staff would be required? What visitor/assistance ratio would be available? Currently residents are formed into family groups; what will happen when they are moved?

Cllr. David Polhill as County Councillor for Buckingham North spoke giving information as he understood it at the time. The County Council had handed the 13 residential homes in Buckinghamshire over to a housing association whose evaluation felt that none of the 13 homes were a financial viable proposition in their current state. They intend condensing the 13 homes into 8 using existing sites; Maids Moreton Hall is not one of the sites to be reused. It is envisaged that residents in MM Hall will be sent to Wing. Cllr. Polhill was willing to set up a meeting between the Town Council and the Scrutiny Committee at the County Council.

ACTION CLLR. DAVID POLHILL

2619 UPDATE FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING.

Cllr Polhill spoke on the future of the Embleton Ward; this had not been discussed at the previous County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee because the Mental Health Trust had acted outside their criteria in not undertaking more extensive public consultation. Therefore there will be a further consultation round starting in August to November, with the MHT document being produced by 1st of September and going to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the end of September.

*Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to reinstate standing orders.*

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 that this Council contacts all the appropriate parties expressing the Council's concern at the closure of Maids Moreton Hall facility. The Council understands about the funding of the facility but requests that the former residents of the Hall should be kept within or adjacent to the parish and not moved to Wing. The Council asks that a review of the decision to condense 13 homes to 8 with the nearest to Buckingham being Wing be undertaken.

Members commented on the tone of the letter from the League of Friends; it was **AGREED** the Mayor would talk to them.

Cllr Polhill left.

2620 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2005, and the interim meeting held on 11th July 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2621 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were informed of the following items

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE

THAMES VALLEY POLICE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WATCH NEWS JUNE 2005

AVDC BUCKINGHAM CONSERVATION AREA

BCC AV AREA NEWSLETTER JULY 2005

NALC POINTERS TO GOOD PRACTICE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION IN FOCUS JUNE 05

ICCM TRADE JOURNAL SUMMER 05

NALC LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW

INVITATIONS AND NOTICES OF DIARY DATES (COPIES OF NOTICES ALREADY DISTRIBUTED)

13TH OR 28TH SEPTEMBER PARISH CLUSTER MEETING

Members discussed the Cluster Group Meeting called by Cllr. Cadd, pointing out that as Buckingham is split between two wards Councillors would be expected to attend 2 such meetings (the other being with Cllr Polhill). It was suggested that perhaps the two Councillors could hold a meeting at the same time.

14TH AUGUST ACT OF THANKSGIVING FOR VJ DAY

DIS

ISSUE NO 608, 609, 610, AND 611.

TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF ANY MEMBER WISHES TO RECEIVE THE DIRECT INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

ROAD CLOSURES

BRIDGE STREET 27TH JULY ONWARDS

NEW LICENCES/TRANSFER OF LICENCES

Per attached table

The Clerk explained the new process and procedure now required under the change of licensing laws; that applications are received by AVDC and unless objections are received from statutory consultees, local residents, or the Council, they will be agreed by the officers. Where there are objections it is then referred to the Licensing Committee. Members were reminded that the list of applications appear on the AVDC web site, although the actual link is not easy to find, but it does not contain all the details and sometimes misses an application. Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that Cllr. Mills, who is a member of the Licensing Committee, be asked to keep the Town Council informed of any applications. The Clerk explained that Cllr. Mills would not be informed until after the closing date and then only if objections had been raised.

Members **AGREED** that the Council should write to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee pointing out the problems we are experiencing with the web site and the new format and to ask that Parish and Town Councils continue to be sent as a matter of course all applications which are a 'variant on agreed'.

ACTION THE CLERK

2622 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2622.1 PLANNING - 20.06.05 & 11.07.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

Min 4786 Stratford House

Members expressed concern that comments made in the Public Session prior to the meeting had not been reflected in the minutes. It was pointed out that notes of the public session had been circulated and that the minutes must only reflect what was said within the meeting. Cllr. Lewis confirmed that the letter sent to AVDC did highlight these points.

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 that this Council draws attention to the impact of the development on the neighbouring property Fern Cottage, as per comments made at the Public Session on 11th July 2005.

2622.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION - 04.07.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

109/2005 This had been agreed at the Interim Council meeting on 11th July 2005.

*(110/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** by 7 votes to 1 that £60,000 difference between expected spend at precept and actual spend be allocated £20,000 to capital reserves and £40,000 to E & P Committee)*

AGREED

2622.3 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY - 27.06.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

*(148/2005. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council should install a bus shelter on Stratford Road, funded from the monies carried over from 2004/2005)*

AGREED

2622.4 EVENTS - 18.07.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

*(135/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **RECOMMENDED** that the balance in the Fireworks account be split 50:50 between PSL and the Buckingham Youth Carers Association, and that in 2005 the collection be for the Mayor's Charity.)*

Having agreed the minutes Cllr. Stuchbury asked that recommendation no 135 be changed as the wording is wrong "Ali's Dream" should read Project Street Life and "Future" should read 2005.

The amendment was proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** by 10 votes to 0.

2623 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

AVDC Grass cutting in rural area

Members noted the request by the District Council to monitor the grass cutting in the parish

BCC Traffic Orders for Area 3

BT Conversion of cash phone boxes to card only use

Members noted the request by BT to turn 3 telephone boxes from cash call boxes to card call boxes, agreed no other comments other than all other phone boxes must be kept as cash.

BCC Notice of Application to stop up the old A421

AVDC Transfer housing road show

2624 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

2624.1 Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group

Members were informed that the Mayor is the formal Town Council representative on the Steering Group but Cllr. Barnett would continue to give the reports. The Public Meeting on 29th June had been very successful and the steering group is now formally elected with Sue Moore as the Chairman and Cllr. Barnett as the Vice Chairman and Treasurer. A comment had been made at the Public Meeting that the Town Council was not always informed of the work of the Steering Group; Cllr. Barnett pointed out that this was in fact a standing item on the Town Council's agenda and Members are able to ask questions on any point if they seek clarification or further information. There is a web site for the Community Plan which includes a PR section; in future all District, County and Town Councillors will receive an email telling them when new information is available on the site. The Community Plan has engaged a PR company who are working with them to raise their profile.

2624.2 Buckingham Twinning Association

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham Twinning Association dated 6th July 2005 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested to speak on the "Buckingham Partnership meeting" for which he is one of the Town Council's representatives. Members agreed that as it was not on the agenda he could not speak. Following a heated discussion Members were reminded that all representatives must inform the Clerk prior to the agenda being sent if they wished to report at the next meeting.

2625 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the invoices per attached list be approved.

The RFO asked Members' permission to only pay part of AVDC invoice for £10793.40. This was for section 101 payments concerning Chandos Park, Bourton Park, and the Cemetery of which, in the Clerk's opinion, only £3372.36 actually relates to agreed expenditure.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** that the Council only pays £3372.36 plus VAT to AVDC for invoice total £10793.4, on the advice of the RFO.

2625.1 To discuss and agree payment for outstanding invoices for AVDC
Cllr. Mordue and the RFO reported on the meeting held with AVDC to discuss the outstanding s101 payments from 2004/2005 in respect of horticultural and maintenance contracts for Bourton Park and Chandos Park. Following lengthy discussions the District had increased its discount offer to £5000.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** on a vote of 10 to 0 that this council pays the outstanding invoices to AVDC in respect of Bourton Park and Chandos Park less the £5000 discount.

2626 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the payments made per the attached list be approved.

Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr. Collins vacated the Chair and left the building.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and RESOLVED that Cllr. Mordue chair the next item.

2627 UPDATE FROM THE LAND REGISTRY ON THE LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF NELSON STREET AND CASTLE STREET

The Clerk informed Members that the land in question was not registered at Land Registry. For registering under adverse possession the Council would need to provide evidence of maintenance, which we cannot do. The County Council is the only one that has documentary evidence.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **RESOLVED** that this Council should request the County Council to register the land, with a view to it being transferred to the Town Council at some future date.

Cllr Collins returned and resumed as Chair of the Meeting

2628 CONSULTATION OF AREA 12 SPEED REVIEW

Copies of the section relating to the Parish of Buckingham had been circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 to accept the recommendations for the A421 Buckingham By-Pass and A413 within the parish boundary.

2629 THE TOWN CLERK'S ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL SLCC CONFERENCE

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RESOLVED** that the Council pays for the Clerk to attend the Annual Society of Local Council Clerks Conference in October.

2630 PURCHASE OF AN AIR CONDITIONING UNIT FOR THE OFFICE AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Members discussed the prices and specifications of air conditioning units given by the Clerk.

Cllr Mordue declared an interest as he believed he knew at least one of the companies

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and AGREED by 9 votes to 0 to purchase an air conditioning unit from Chill Air/Ice Boys in Milton Keynes at a cost of £700 plus the extractor kit.

2631 CONSULTATION ON THE RIGHTS OF WAY PLAN FOR BUCKS.

Copies of the consultation had been circulated to all members with the agenda. It was agreed that each Member makes a personal submission to the consultation.

2632 THE LCAS ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR

The Clerk's report which had been circulated to all members with the Agenda was noted and accepted.

2633 REPORT ON THE TWO DAY TRAINING COURSE UNI. OF GLOUCESTER

The Clerk regretted that unfortunately the report was not ready for the meeting but would be circulated shortly.

2634 DESIGNATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALTERATION TO THE TOWN MAP.

The amendments to the Text and Map have to be back at the printers by 30th August 2005. It was agreed that the Mayor, Cllr. Mordue and Cllr. C. Strain-Clark would decide the photographs and amended text for the map and send it to the publishers.

2635 BREAK-IN AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND DISCUSS THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF ANY FUTURE PLACEMENT OF THE PLASMA NOTICE BOARD

Clerk gave members the details of the break-in and attempted break-in. The first was in the early hours of July 24th when the side window of the bay window was broken; the thieves took the computer screen breaking a presentation plate from the twinned town and the Georgian Egg timer. The seconded attempted break-in was in the early hours of Sunday 31st July when they broke a small window on the opposite side of the bay window. There would be an insurance claim for the stolen and broken items.

The Mayor reported that following the last Council Meeting the order for the replacement double glazed unit had been placed. Further discussions with the manufacturer showed that the casements on a 4 pane window would be too wide so the order had been amended to a

two pane front window; a further amendment had been made to included toughened laminated glass.

Members discussed the structure and type of window required but as the order had been placed any amendment would result in additional cost. Members agreed to look at improving the security of the building following the two attempts, suggestions being a CCTV camera and sensors on the windows.

A proposal by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Lewis, that the Council seeks prices to install a shop front style window instead of the one ordered, standing any cancellation charges was defeated by 5 votes to 2.

2636 COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Isham as District Councillor for Buckingham North spoke about the Town Audit which he has pursued with the Buckingham Partnership and can report that this is back on their agenda.

2637 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

2637.1 AV Volunteer of the Year

Members were read a letter from AVDC asking for comments on a Buckingham Resident who had been nominated for Volunteer of the Year. Members supported the Nomination. Members were asked to respect the confidentiality of the nomination until the results are announced.

2637.2 Councillors' Surgery

Members were informed that the next surgery would be on Saturday 6th August; Cllr. Isham has volunteered to attend with the Mayor.

The following item was heard under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 which excludes members of the Public due to the confidential and financial nature of the business to be discussed

2638 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES AND ADOPT ANY RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN

23.1 Finance & Administration Committee dated 04.07.05

CHAIRMAN..... DATE.....