

**MINUTES OF THE INTERIM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST 2005 at 7.10pm following the Public Session.**

PRESENT: Councillors H. Cadd
P. Collins (Mayor)
Mrs P. Desorgher
H. Lewis
H. Mordue
Ms. R. Newell
Ms. H. Saul
Mrs. P. Stevens
Mrs C. Strain-Clark
P. Strain-Clark
R. Stuchbury

For the Town Clerk Mrs K. McElligott

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J. Barnett, D. Isham and G. Loftus and the Town Clerk.

2639 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

2640 TRANSFER OR NEW LICENCES

2640.1 Ratification of urgent responses to Licence applications

Members discussed the responses made by the Town Clerk, circulated with the agenda, and agreed, for consistency, to recommend that all public houses close at 11pm during the week to prevent customers migrating to other premises with a later closing time; and restaurants at midnight.

1.1 Prego's restaurant, due by 23rd August 2005
Response agreed (no objection at this time).

1.2 Grand Junction PH, due 18th August 2005

Members pointed out that existing conditions relating to noise and keeping the fire doors closed were not being adhered to, and advocated an 11pm closing time Sunday-Thursday; midnight Friday and Saturday; 1am on Christmas Day and New Years Day; and the doors to be kept closed to minimise noise pollution and disruption to residents.

1.3 Buckingham University, due 24th August 2005

Members decided to separate comments on the music and alcohol sections of the application, having no view on the University's serving of alcohol as the premises

were effectively a private club. However concern was expressed on the playing of music, particularly outdoors, at late hours and its effect on the amenity of residents all over the town, due to the geographical situation of the University.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Desorgher, and **AGREED** (Cllr. Cadd abstaining) that this Council had no objection to the proposed hours for the serving of alcohol, but that music of whatever type should cease at 11pm.

1.4 BP, Stratford Road, due 29th August 2005

Members expressed concern that single-person operation of the filling station and shop at night was a Health and Safety risk for the employee; it was not possible to supervise the forecourt and deal with difficult or rowdy customers in the shop simultaneously. This led to the use of the night-hatch and consequent noise and disturbance to nearby residents with customers shouting orders and behaving inconsiderately while they were waiting for them to be filled. Members agreed that if planning conditions were being breached, then the AVDC Enforcement team should be asked to take action.

[Clerk's note: neither the original application for the re-organisation of the shop for AI purposes (97/00515/APP) nor the recent refurbishment (04/02042/APP) imposed conditions on the hours of opening or staffing].

Members considered that the premises should demonstrate that they could comply with their existing hours for 6 months without public complaints and then reapply for the extension.

2640.2 New licence applications

Members had been circulated with the full list of Buckingham applications; those with not already dealt with proposing variations to the existing hours were discussed.

2.1 Roosters (Extend alcohol sales to midnight and late night refreshment.) Members were unclear about the details and early date of this application and asked for further information.

ACTION THE CLERK

2.2 Tesco (Sell alcohol 24 hours a day.) Members felt that the store should be restricted to selling until 11pm Sunday-Friday and midnight on Saturdays.

2.3 Kebab van (Late night refreshment 6.30-11.30pm Sunday-Thursday, 6.00-12.30am Friday and Saturday.) Members had no objection.

2.4 Buckingham Golf Club (Extend hours of regulated entertainment) Members had no objection.

2640.3 Transfer of licence

White Hart: Faith Higgs & Richard Lewis from Tanya Davis & Gavin Hails
Members had no objection.

2641 DECISION-MAKING BETWEEN FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** by a majority vote (Cllrs. Cadd and Lewis abstaining) that AVDC Cllr. T. Mills be invited to attend the next Full Council meeting to give Members an overview of the

Licensing system and current situation, with especial reference to the inclusion of Parish and Town Councils in the process.

Cllr. Cadd pointed out that the AVDC Licensing Committee was scheduled to meet every week until the end of the year.

Members discussed the short time scale involved in the current process, leading to the Town Clerk being obliged to formulate any objections based on previous Council decisions, email these to AVDC before the cut-off date, and seek ratification for the objection at the next Council meeting.

It was pointed out that, under Standing Orders, the Mayor could call a Special Council Meeting at 3 days notice and the Clerk could email or telephone Members to advise them of this. Those who were unable to attend at short notice would be able to give their views in writing, although they would not be able to vote on any decisions. The Licensing situation was a temporary one.

Members agreed there was no need to change Standing Orders and that every Full and Interim Council agenda until the end of November 2005 would contain an item "To consider Licence Applications".

2642 BUCKINGHAM PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that the main points arising from the Partnership meeting held on July 14th 2005 were

1. The lack of urgency shown by the Enforcement Team in implementing planning conditions and remedying breaches of regulations.
2. The continuing concern over the state of the stonework on the historic London Road Bridge and the growth of shrubs and trees around it.
3. The uneven progress in rectifying items pointed out in the Town Audit, which Town Councillors put a lot of effort into compiling: BCC were very good, AVDC were still leaving many items unattended to after several reports.

Cllr. Stuchbury hoped that reports from the Partnership meetings would henceforth be a regular item on appropriate Full Council agendas.

2643 BUCKINGHAM LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Members noted the receipt of the Section 66 notice, served on the Council as owner of the land, re the application for planning permission for floodlights at the Lawn Tennis Club. Members agreed that a letter of support be sent for the Club to use in its request for funding.

ACTION THE CLERK

2644 MAYOR'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

2644.1 Representation at the hearing for the BP Connect Licence application

The Mayor volunteered to attend the hearing on Thursday 29th September 2005, at 11am in the Exchange Street offices; Cllrs. Mordue and Stevens were available in the event of his not being able to attend.

2644.2 Mental Health Consultation

The Public Consultation Document: *Developing Mental Health Services in Buckinghamshire* was available in the office for any Member wishing to read it. The consultation period ends on 30th November 2004.

2644.3 Tree, Castle Street/Nelson Street junction

An email had been received from the AVDC Arboriculturalist proposing that the dead cherry tree be replaced by a semi-mature elm (recalling the 'Cutterne Elme' on the Speed map of 1610) and the seating in the area be improved. In due course he hoped to offer a jointly funded scheme in conjunction with the Town Council, the Buckingham Society and a private donor.

Members asked that some estimate of the contribution expected be submitted by AVDC so that it could be considered at Precept time and that the budget include maintenance of the tree until established. Members would be unwilling to support the proposal if maintenance was not included.

2644.4 Maids Moreton Hall

The Mayor proposed to invite Cllr. Michael Colston, BCC Cabinet Member for Adult Services, to talk on the future of Maids Moreton Hall at the 19th September meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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