

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY  
COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

Councillor P. Collins (Mayor)  
Mrs. P. Desorgher  
D. Isham  
H. Mordue (Chairman)  
Ms. R. Newell  
Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
R. Stuchbury

Town Clerk Ms P. J. Heath

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. H. Saul.

**193/2005 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

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

**194/2005 THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received and noted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005 which had been ratified on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

**195/2005 ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

195.1 (186) Update on the Council's Risk Assessments

This is still ongoing; it was agreed that the Clerk would draw up a basic list for the inspection team of Cllr. Desorgher, Cllr. Collins and Cllr. Lehmann.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

195.2 (188) To receive details on the purchase of the Quad Bike

Members were informed that the Quad Bike had been delivered and the Caretaker was starting to use it. There are training courses which it is advisable for the users of the bike to undertake. One is a day course for those with some experience at £75, and one is a 2 day course for complete beginners at a cost of £150.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that the Caretaker should be offered the two basic training courses and be sent on which he feels is more appropriate, up to a budget cost of £200.

195.3 (191.1) To receive information on the placing of planters on the White Hart island

Members were informed that County Highways had no objection to planters being placed on the island providing they did not overhang the kerb and there were sufficient gaps to allow pedestrians to cross. It was **AGREED** this item would be passed to the Events Committee and brought into the Beautiful Buckingham projects.

**ACTION EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**196/2005 REPORT, IF REQUIRED, ON CEMETERY LODGE REFURBISHMENT**

Members were informed that the building work was on schedule and that subject to weather the builders would be on site in January.

**197/2005 REPORTS ON THE OPERATION OF BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY**

197.1 Council's policy on Loose Burials

Members were reminded of the decision taken under minute no 180.2 and the need to set a formal policy in respect of loose burials. It was **AGREED** that the Council's policy should be the allowance of loose burials within a designated grave or ashes plot. The ashes would be unrecoverable. The fee would be contractors' cost plus 10%.

197.2 Burial fees and charges for 2006/2007

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** to accept the fee structure for 2006/2007 as per the Town Clerk's report.

197.3 To receive quotations to repair and repaint the cemetery gates.

The Clerk requested that this be deferred as not all the quotations had been received; this was agreed.

197.4 To consider the establishment of a woodland cemetery – Cllr. Newell

This item was deferred to later in the meeting - see minute no. 204.

197.5 To discuss the replacement of the Kissing Gate in Bourton Park

This item was moved to 8.3 on the agenda - see minute no.204.

**198/2005 REPORTS ON CHANDOS PARK**

198.1 To discuss the reported problems associated with the Kick Wall and the fence

*As part of the following discussion relates to Brooks Court Cllr. C. Strain-Clark declared a personal interest, but retained the right to speak.*

Members were informed that there had still been no response from Buckingham Town Football Club in respect of negotiations to put a catch fence on their property to try and alleviate the problem of balls ending up on the football pitch and the fence being broken by the youths retrieving them. Members also heard about the perceived problem by some of the residents in Well Street whose property backs on to the river opposite Chandos Park, who claim that youths damage their property and trespass whilst retrieving balls that have gone across the river. Members discussed what measures could be taken to reduce any perceived problems with the kick wall. It was agreed that as part of the risk assessment to be carried out on the facility, the Council would talk to the users and see if there is a problem with the design that is causing a rebound or if the problem is created by mis-kicking of the ball.

**ACTION RISK ASSESSMENT GROUP**

Members were informed that the trees along Chris Nichols Walk were getting extremely high and causing concern for those residents who live opposite. A local action group were working to try and get the tree height reduced.

198.2 To discuss the work required on Chandos Park bowling green

Members discussed the comments made by the Chandos Park Bowls Club during the public session and the quotation from Pure Turf to supply a spreader and chemicals and to carry out the work.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the Committee should purchase the spreader and chemicals required for treatment of the moss, worm cast and fungus, but only if the correct certification is held by Bowls Club Members. If the correct certification is not held then the Committee will accept and order the elements of the quotation (chemicals and labour) for Pure Turf to carry out the work.

**199/2005 REPORTS ON BOURTON PARK**

199.1 Maintenance programme for the stream running through the park

Members discussed how the maintenance of the stream within Bourton Park should be carried out. Members appreciated that the stream management had to allow for some areas to remain silted, some to have fast flow of water, some slow flow, and differential density and type of growth. It was **AGREED** to request professional advice from the Environment Agency and AVDC Countryside and Biodiversity officer as to the management of the area. The Clerk was meeting with the probation service on Thursday to discuss the use of "community service" labour and would contact Grendon Prison in relation of using prison services to assist in labour intense projects.

### 199.2 Purchase of Rock 'n Cross for the junior play area

Members discussed the quotation and video of the Rock 'n Cross play equipment. As there are none as yet in the country nor do any of the play equipment brochures have similar pieces of equipment direct comparison quotes are not available. The Chairman and the Clerk identified a static climber which is similar which would cost approximately £8000.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** by 5 votes to 0 to purchase the Rock 'n Cross play equipment from Monster, purchased from s106 money allocated to Bourton Park. Cllr. C. Strain-Clark wished her abstention to be recorded.

### **200/2005 BUCKINGHAM TOWN AUDIT AND ANY ACTION REQUIRED**

Members noted that the Town Audit did not appear on the last meeting agenda of the Buckingham Partnership. As none of the Town Council's representatives had attended the meeting the Clerk has ascertained that the Town Audit inclusion had been requested. A copy of the Town Council's items had been circulated with the agenda and it was noted that all items were in hand. A copy of AVDC items would be given to the District Councillors. The Members asked that the thanks of the Committee to the office staff for their work on the audit be recorded.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **201/2005 PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE RIVER BANK WITHIN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Members discussed the maintenance of the river bank and felt that the Council should have a policy to work with adjacent land owners to promote and enhance the river banks, both in day to day maintenance and future enhancements. As with the stream Members accepted that different management policies would be needed on different stretches of the river. Although some weed growth would need to be removed it was desirable for an environmental point of view to retain some beds. It was agreed to consult various interested parties as to the most environmentally viable management scheme to adopt.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **202/2005 CO-OPTION OF MR. MARK GADD, COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT MANAGER**

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** by 5 votes to 0 to co-opt Mr. Mark Gadd on to the Environment and Property Committee.

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to move item 22 to be heard next.*

*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.*

### **203/2005 THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE COUNCIL OFFICES**

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to resume the meeting in public as per the agenda.*

*Cllr. Newell arrived during the previous item.*

*Cllr. Strain-Clark left the meeting at the end of the previous item.*

### **204/2005 ITEMS ORIGINALLY LISTED UNDER MINUTE NO 197**

204/197.4 To consider the establishment of a woodland cemetery – Cllr. Newell

Cllr. Newell asked that the Committee consider the introduction of a woodland cemetery at Brackley Road. Members supported the concept in principle but felt that a lot more information was needed on the provision and implementation of the scheme before any decisions could be made. Cllr. Newell was asked to investigate on behalf of the committee.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

204/197.5 Replacement of the Kissing Gate in Bourton Park

Members were informed that the Kissing Gate which had been on the path adjacent to the Bourton Road Car Park had been stolen. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk obtain costs to replace with a normal wood gate as the kissing gate was not suitable for wheeled equipment such as a wheelchair or pushchair.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **205/2005 INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT POSITION IN RESPECT OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH AVDC & BCC FOLLOWING THE GRANTING OF QUALITY PARISH STATUS**

The Clerk read the email from Bucks. County Council which explained that the charters were still being pursued as was the transfer of services and that this all now came under the heading of "Government Closer to Communities" ("GC2C"). The District Council still had not responded and it was noted that the County Council were having difficulties in contacting the District Council on this subject.

## **206/2005 RECOMMENDATION ON THE ACTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FOLLOWING THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM AVDC**

Members noted the letter received from Mr. Glithero which stated that the District Council would not enter negotiations about the transfer of open space land until the outstanding invoice of June 2005 was paid. The June 2005 invoice included items relating to work done in the parks and cemetery in Dec/January 2004, which the Council is disputing both on the grounds that the work wasn't carried out and that the settlement made and agreed by full Council under minute number 2625.1 was in full and final payment of all 2004 works outstanding. The Chairman had spoken to Mr. Glithero who confirmed there may be a duplication of charging. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman and Clerk try to resolve the issues and report back to the Committee or Council as appropriate.

**ACTION THE CHAIRMAN and CLERK**

## **207/2005 STSTAMENT OF SUPPORT FOR BTCV RE THE CONSITIONS OF GRANT FROM THE HERITAGE MEMORIAL FUND.**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that a letter of support and acceptance of the contract's terms and conditions be sent to the Heritage Memorial Fund. The conditions ask that work done under the project is supported after the end of the funding period.

## **208/2005 MOWING ARRANGEMENTS AND TREE MAINTENANCE IN THE TOWN**

Member were informed by Cllr. Newell that she had received a request to have different mowing schedules in the town to promote wild flower growth particularly on the bypass and at entrances to the estates; this would mean not cutting the verges to allow flower seeds to drop. Members appreciated what was being suggested but felt that it would create unsightly grass verges around the town giving an unkempt appearance.

Cllr. Newell explained she had been asked to raise the issue of trees dying because they are planted incorrectly or do not have suitable maintenance schedules, in particular on the Heartlands (see E & P minutes no 178.3/2005 & 146/2005). Members felt that trees should be planted in sympathy with the surrounding areas and within the species' requirements. It was **AGREED** that the Tree Wardens would draw up a list of all trees in Buckingham they feel should have a TPO along with the reasons why.

**ACTION THE TREE WARDENS**

## **209/2005 REQUEST FROM BTCV TO PUT STORAGE CAGE IN MORETON ROAD STORAGE AREA.**

Members noted the request from BTCV to put a secure cage to house their tools in Moreton Road Toilet storage area.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the Committee allows BTCV to store their tools in Moreton Road toilets subject to agreement that only designated persons have the keys and that the office is notified when access is required; any damage to be paid by the group responsible at that time.

### **210/2005 BUDGET 2005/2006 AND AGREED DRAFT BUDGET 2006/2007 FIGURES**

Members studied the figures circulated prior to the meeting; they accepted the out-turn budget noting that forward projection to the year end had not been included. Members agreed to aim for a budget of about £215,000 for 2006/2007 subject to the amended out-turn figures and the quotations requested for proposed projects.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **211/2005 DETAILS OF s106 MONIES AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ITS ALLOCATION**

Members noted the list of s106 money either received to schedule to be received by the Council, part of the money would be used to fund current projects such as the new play area. Members would like to use the balance to begin funding for a link bridge between the Heartlands and Bourton Park by the Cricket Club boundary.

### **212/2005 FUTURE OF DOB BIN COLLECTIONS AND PURCHASE OF NEW BINS**

Members noted the new cost of provision of dog bins and collection service. It was **AGREED** to continue with AVDC contract which was cheaper than other options viewed. It was agreed to order 2 new dog bins, the locations to be agreed after usage figures had been received from AVDC.

### **213/2005 TREE SURVEY AND MAINTENANCE WORK TO THE RAILWAY WALK AND IN PARTICULAR ANY DUTY OF CARE FOR TREES OVERHANGING LENBOROUGH CLOSE**

Members were informed that residents of Lenborough Close had expressed concern that several of the trees were encroaching over their gardens. The Clerk informed Members that for health and safety reasons the Council had a duty of care to undertake a survey to establish what work if any needed to be done to the trees on Railway Walk. The AVDC Tree Officer was unable to undertake the survey but agreed the Council's contractors could use their database. The Clerk is to obtain quotations to carry out a full tree survey on Railway Walk.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **214/2005 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

214.1 Bus Shelter

Members agreed to chase Bucks County Council re the placing of the bus shelter on Stratford Road.

214.2 Chris Nichols Walk

Concern was expressed over the trailing branches in the river; Members were reminded that this was a riparian owner's responsibility and that there was no problem within the Town Council's property.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

CHAIRMAN ...H. Mordue..... DATE 3rd January 2006.....