

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2008 at 7pm

<u>PRESENT</u>	Councillor	T. Bloomfield P. Collins Mrs. P. Desorgher D. Isham (Chairman) A. Mahi H. Mordue (Mayor) Ms. R. Newell M. Smith R. Stuchbury M. Try
	Co-opted	Mr. T. Webster
	Town Clerk	Mrs. P. Heath
	Guest	Ms. S. Le

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs G. Collins, P. Hiron, G. Loftus, Mrs. P. Stevens, W. Whyte

522/2008 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to enable Ms. Susan Le, Buckingham Wildlife Project Manager, to address the Committee.*

523/2008 TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM BTCV SUSAN LE, BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT MANAGER, ABOUT JOINT MANAGEMENT SCHEME.

Members received a verbal report from Ms. Susan Le on the work of BTCV in Buckingham and her role as Buckingham Wildlife Project Manager. Over the past few years 2 groups of volunteers had been set up to undertake work on wildlife areas under the supervision of BTCV - Friends of Railway Walk and Friends of Maids Moreton Avenue/Holloway Spinney. Both groups are working well and making a difference in those areas.

It is planned that in the next year 2 further groups of volunteers will be set up -Friends of Bourton Park and Friends of the Heartland; it was suggested they work closely with Buckingham Town Council's Parks Group in respect of Bourton Park. It was agreed to send Ms. Le a copy of the Parks Group findings once they had been agreed by the Committee.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

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

Ms. Le left the meeting.

524/2008 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members accepted the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th January 2008, which were ratified at the Council meeting held on 25th February 2008.

525/2008 RECEIVE ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES ON ITEMS NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA AS PER ATTACHED LIST

Members noted the action items on the list.

526/2008 REPORT ON CEMETERY LODGE AND THE OPERATION OF BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY.

The Town Clerk as the Burial Officer gave a verbal report on the operation of Brackley Road Cemetery; Members noted the report.

Members discussed the damage that had been done to the cemetery wall to the right of the main gate. The Clerk explained that wall had been hit sometime after Christmas by a lorry or large vehicle causing part of the wall to cave inwards. A specialist builder has been asked to give a price for repairing that section of the wall, replacing the coping stone and repairing the railings.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

Members were informed that the roof of the Non Conformist Chapel had lost a few slates; the Town Clerk is to organise its repair.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

526.1 To receive information of Picus Test, to decide if the test should be carried out – Cllr. Stevens

In the absence of Cllr. Stevens this item was deferred to the next meeting.

527/2008 REPORTS ON CHANDOS PARK

527.1 To receive update on the Chandos Park Bowls Club Lease

Members were informed that the Bowls Club was willing to sign the lease and a date for the signatures would be arranged with the Bowls Club.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

527.2 To decide if the Leylandii at the corner of the Green should be removed as per their request and notes circulated for 28.01.08 meeting.

It was agreed to obtain quotes for the removal of the leylandii in the corner with a view to agreeing its removal with the Bowls Club.

527.3 To discuss the locking of Chandos Park Toilets following staff review and staff comments

The Town Clerk explained the concerns expressed by the Grounds Maintenance Staff over the locking of Chandos Park Toilets on a daily basis from 1st April 2008. Members agreed that the hours spent would not be a good use of resources.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** by 10 votes to 0 that this council investigates and undertakes the purchase and installation of an automatic locking system for Chandos Park Toilets up to £4000 budget. If the purchase/installation price is over £4000 then the Town Clerk, Chairman of the Committee, Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Mayor to decide if they will proceed and report back to the Committee. The cost could include installing a warning system if the locks were not working.

An amendment to increase the budget to £5000 was defeated by 7 votes to 0.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

528/2008 REPORTS ON BOURTON PARK

528.1 To receive response, if any, from Buckingham Cricket Club ref Min No. 511

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no response from the Cricket Club to the letter sent recorded delivery at the beginning of February. Members wished that a copy of the letter be sent to each of the committee members.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

528.2 To receive copy of letter from resident with Town Clerk report

Members received the copy of the letter and the Clerk's report in response and agreed that the report should form the basis of the response to the resident.

528.3 To receive comments and suggestions re penstock in Bourton Park

The Members were given a brief history of the penstock and the repairs/renovations needed. It was agreed the work needed to be done to regulate the flow of the water through the pond system. The Groundsman would try to undertake temporary repairs until the gate can be repaired properly once the river level has gone down, hopefully in the summer.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

528.4 To receive update on river clearance.

The Town Clerk gave Members an update on the clearance work undertaken by the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board. Members asked that their thanks be sent to both bodies.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

528.5 To receive 2 quotations for Junior play area gates, agree the quotations or decide if a third was required

Members discussed the quotations received
Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** to accept the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure to supply and install 2 new gates at Bourton Park play area.

529/2008 TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY SAFETY REPORTS AND AGREE ACTION PROPOSED.

Members noted the copy of the reports which had been circulated with the agenda. Concern was expressed about the comments on the non-emptying of the dog bins on a regular basis. In response to a question it was confirmed that details of the law concerning reporting dog owners failing to pick up after their animal had been circulated previously. It was agreed to look at issuing a press release on the problems with dog fouling

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK/THE CHAIRMAN

Members discussed the provision of a chemical store and at the suggestion of a Councillor the Clerk would contact Cox and Robinson and ask if the Council's stock could be stored on site at Brackley Road.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

530/2008 TO DISCUSS THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN AUDIT AND ALLOCATE AREAS

Members discussed the Town Audit which had been circulated with the agenda; the original format had been used as the working group had not completed the project to realign the areas. Concern had been expressed by audit members that there was an overlapping of areas plus some were too large [these had evolved over the years as audit members had tweaked the areas to suit their concerns].

The Town Clerk explained how the audit was compiled by audit members, then the Clerical assistant collates the response and identifies who is responsible for each issue. The collated report is then sent to Cllr. Bloomfield who splits the report along the lines of responsibility; these are then circulated to each authority for action.

It was agreed that the reports would be done monthly and the latest report sent to the Partnership meeting for inclusion in their agenda.

ACTION CLERICAL ASSISTANT/CLLR. BLOOMFIELD

531/2008 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PARKS POLICY GROUP

There was no report from the Parks Policy Group.

532/2008 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON THE WORK UNDER DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

Members were given a verbal report on the work undertaken under devolved services; Members noted the report.

Members discussed the clearing of Buckingham ford of the weeds and mud. The Town Clerk explained the legal implication of clearing the road which is public highway and any possible law suit should a vehicle use the ford once it was cleared if damage was caused to that vehicle; Members noted the information.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that the Council should undertake the clearing of Buckingham ford as soon as practicable, the Town Clerk to obtain costs for the next meeting of the Committee

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

533/2008 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Members noted that the "No Through Road" sign had been reinstated by the County Council at the entrance to the Church. No further work had been undertaken on the war memorial project; it was understood the Royal British Legion were looking at possible refurbishment designs. In response to a question it was confirmed that the Council had decided not to undertake any work on the two large beech trees either side of the memorial.

534/2008 TO RECEIVE REQUEST FROM 3 COUNTIES RADIO RE SPRING WATCH ACTION TEAMS, DECIDE IF ANY AREA IS SUITABLE TO SUGGEST.

Members discussed the request which had been circulated with the agenda, it was agreed to propose Verney Close which is County Council land.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

535/2008 TO RECEIVE LETTERS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING RAILWAY WALK.

Members noted the letters and comments in praise of the work done by the groundsman on Railway Walk. Members asked these be forwarded on to Mr. Calder and requested the Clerk and Chairman to do a press release

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK/THE CHAIRMAN

536/2008 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WASTE BINS, TO DECIDE IF DIFFERENT STYLE TYPE TO BE ORDERED FOR THE TOWN, PARKS AND HOUSING ESTATES.

Members discussed the current style of bins used in the town and agreed to retain these. The bins at Mitre Street and Badgers shop were discussed and the Town Clerk

explained the current situation in respect of both bins. It was **AGREED** to undertake the installation of the bins as soon as possible.

537/2008 TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY PLAN FINANCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS PER MINUTE NO. 520.

The Town Clerk gave Members a detailed history of the Community Plan finances and communications in respect of finalising the figures. The Clerk explained the constraints and legal standing of the money as per the agreement of the SEEDA funding. Members felt the details should have been available at the precept meeting.

538/2008 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON THE CURRENT BUDGETS

The Chairman explained that he had not been through the figures with the Clerk therefore was not in a position to explain budget balances. The Clerk offered to explain in detail how the budgets are compiled and the way budgets work. It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a training session on a Saturday morning to explain the budget spreadsheets to Members.

ACTION THE TOWN CLERK

539/2008 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Gawcott Road

It was agreed to place on a future agenda the problems with HGVs using Gawcott Road and turning into Sandhurst Drive.

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm

CHAIRMAN ...D R Isham.....DATE14th April 2008.....