

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2008 at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors T. Bloomfield
H. Cadd
Mrs. G. Collins
P. Collins
Mrs P. Desorgher
P. Hirons
D.R. Isham
H. Lewis
G.P. Loftus
A. Mahi
H. Mordue (Mayor)
Ms. R.D. Newell
M. Smith
Mrs. P. Stevens
R. Stuchbury
M. Try
for the Town Clerk Mrs. K. McElligott

The Mayor gave a brief description of the presentation on the previous Saturday by the Lord Lieutenant of the Michaelis Cup for the Best Kept Village (population > 3000) in Bucks. and the Sword of Excellence for gaining the most points in the 2008 competition (95/100). Both trophies can be kept by the town for a year. Mr. Roy and Mr. Craig Calder were thanked for their care of the floral displays and other work, and Mrs. McElligott for preparing the documents to accompany the entry.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor W. Whyte and the Town Clerk.
Cllr. Desorgher noted that she might have to leave before the end of the meeting.

3167 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Smith declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 (Request from Buckingham Heritage Trust) as a trustee.

Cllr. Lehmann arrived during the following item.

3168 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2008, and the interim meeting held on 18th August 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
3154 (Car Parking Charges) A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 24th September 2008, at 5pm. in the Council Chamber.

3169 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Members were informed of the following items

3169.1 NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

THE FOLLOWING BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS ARE IN THE OFFICE

OPTIONS – AUGUST 2008

NALC – LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW JULY 2008

BCC – BUCKINGHAM AREA NEWSLETTER

BALC – MATTERS ARISING AUGUST 2008

CCG – COMMUNITY CARE GUIDE

ANGLIAN WATER – DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2008

It was noted that there had been recent publicity about contaminated water supply in the Daventry area, but no subsequent indication that the problem had been solved.

Cllr. P. & Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins arrived.

BUCKS NHS FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Concern was expressed that members of the new Trust might not be aware of the difficulties with accessing High Wycombe by public transport. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should write expressing these concerns.

ACTION THE CLERK

BCC – A NEW DEAL FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

3169.2 DIS ISSUES NUMBER 689, 690

3169.3 DIARY DATES – DETAILS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

23RD AUGUST 2008 – CPRE AGM COPIED TO ALL 01.08.08

9TH SEPTEMBER 2008 – AV TRANSPORT USERS GROUP – WELL STREET CENTRE

3170 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES.

Each set of minutes was presented to the appropriate Committee for agreement before being put to the Council for ratification.

3170.1 PLANNING – 28.07.08 & 18.08.08

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

5219 The Clerk was asked if there had been progress on Dark Alley: none since the last report.

3170.2 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 4.08.08

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

*(594 It was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Council the following terms of reference for the Environment & Property Committee –*

DRAFT REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Title

The Standing Committee shall be known as the **Environment and Property Committee** or the **E&P Committee**, and hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

2 Responsibilities

The Committee is authorised by Buckingham Town Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") to take responsibility for all matters described at items 3 and 4 below.

The Committee is authorised to progress all items within its delegated budget but any other proposed expenditure that has not already been authorised shall first be referred to the Council for approval.

3 Environment

Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the protection and improvement of Buckingham Town environment;

Ensuring the proper maintenance of all street furniture owned by or supplied by the Council, and to recommend the purchase of additional or replacement street furniture where appropriate. In this context, "street furniture" includes waste bins, dog bins, seating and planters;

Managing all aspects of upkeep and maintenance of Brackley Road Cemetery, Chandos Park, Bourton Park, the Ken Tagg play area, Railway Walk, the Circular Walk, Church Hill, the green at Gawcott, the Town Council offices and any other land or property acquired by the Council;

Liaising with County and District Councils and other relevant agencies on the maintenance of items falling within their remit, including footpaths, pavements, cycle-ways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboriculture works, play areas, play equipment and areas of open public space.

4 Property

Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the purchase, sale or disposal of land or property;

Obtaining such professional advice as deemed necessary to ensure the protection of the Council in respect of 4.1. above;

Analysing any compulsory purchase proposals and advise the Council accordingly;

Ensuring that any works carried out on the Council's behalf are completed as specified, or otherwise completed to a satisfactory standard;

Taking forward any other matters concerning land or property as required by the Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED**.

*(597 Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that the payment under 4601/403 for the repair to the Cemetery Wall should be paid from contingencies.)*

AGREED

3170.3 EVENTS 11.08.08

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

Members were reminded about the River Rinse to be held on Sunday 14th September, and invited to celebrate the first anniversary of Buckingham becoming a FairTrade Town at the Old Gaol between 10am and midday on Saturday 20th September; there would be musical performances from primary schoolchildren in the courtyard.

3170.4 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 26.08.08

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

431: The following correction was made:

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. ~~Stuchbury~~ Stevens, and **AGREED** that the initiating Councillor should be identified on the agenda where appropriate.

After discussion and a vote the following insertions were made:

Following a discussion on the merits of who should sign the cheques and the procedure involved Members **AGREED to recommend** that the cheque signatories should be named Councillors based on the 4 Standing Committee Chairmen, the Mayor and another Councillor.

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It was **AGREED to recommend** that the Financial Standing orders should be amended to reflect the above decisions and also to show that where possible the Chairman of the initiating Committee should be one of the Councillors who sign the cheque.

These and the following recommendations were then **AGREED**.

*Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **RECOMMENDED** by 10 votes to 0 that Cllr. Smith should replace Cllr. Loftus.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stevens and **RECOMMENDED** by 9 votes to 0 that Cllr. Whyte should be added to the cheque signatories list.*

435: Members asked that the Youth Centre funding, included in 132 Contingencies at Precept, be listed separately in the accounts for clarity.

3170.5 PREMISES COMMITTEE 22.08.08

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

Members of the Committee answered questions put by non-members about the alternative premises considered and the Right of Way issue.

3171 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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|--------|----------------------------------|--|
| 3171.1 | AVDC | News for the Parishes 5/2008 |
| 3171.2 | Thames Valley Police | Crime Details (Confidential) June/July 08 |
| 3171.3 | BCC | Energy from waste imitative |
| 3171.4 | AV North Sports Council – Awards | |
| 3171.5 | BCC | Mobile library stopping places review |
| 3171.6 | Cllr. Whyte | Representation on the AV Local Strategic Partnership |

Members hoped that Cllr. Whyte's impartiality as Chairman would not impair his promotion of the Town Council's views.

3172 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

3173 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Item 13 be taken next for the convenience of Cllr. Desorgher.*

3174 TO DISCUSS THE COMPILING OF A DRESS CODE FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS AT MEETINGS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Cllr Desorgher outlined why she felt a formality of dress showed respect for the Chairman at meetings of the Council and was appropriate when representing the Council at functions and meetings of other entities.

Members discussed the matter at length and decided against a prescriptive code, relying on individual Members to judge whether formal or casual style was suitable to the occasion.

Agenda order was resumed.

3175 (3142) AVDC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Whyte's report had been circulated with the agenda. Members **AGREED** that the report be submitted as this Council's response.

ACTION THE CLERK

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Cllr. Smith to address the meeting and respond to questions in his capacity as Trustee as per section 12.2 of the Code of Conduct.*

3176 FUNDING SUPPORT FOR FROM THE BUCKINGHAM HERITAGE TRUST FOR THE EXERCISE YARD PROJECT

Members had been circulated with the details of the BHT's request for funding. It was explained that Council funding was not requested but s106 monies. Fitting blinds to the Courtyard would shield from the sun and hold heat in the winter. Some other funding had been sourced for specific items; s106 money was intended for public facilities and the old Gaol was used for meetings of many bodies, exhibitions and the like.

Cllr. Smith left the meeting for the remainder of this item.

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Cadd and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.*

Members noted that s106 monies are time-limited legally agreed developer contributions for specific works, not a common pot of money for disbursement on request.

Two Members had attended a meeting with AVDC re s106 monies but had not yet reported to Councillors [*Clerk's note: this will be at the next E&P meeting*] and it was felt that this report should be received and discussed before a decision made. If there were as yet unallocated s106 funds then the BHT's request could be considered, but otherwise they should be directed to the annual grant application.

Cllr. Smith returned to the meeting.

3177 REQUEST FOR THE TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that he had agreed with the Town Clerk that she would be available to see the Fair in on the Friday morning and would then close the office and leave for the Conference which was in Reading.

Members were unclear whether the Town Clerk received a subsidy as an official of the Society and agreed to allow Ms. Heath to take the Friday afternoon, and agreed to pay up to £320 fees if necessary, to be authorised by Cllrs. Mordue, P. Collins and Stuchbury.

3178 PROPOSED NEW TOWN AT GREAT HORWOOD

A brochure for 'Winslow Green' had been received from the developers with a request for the Town Council's comments; the brochure had been copied to Members.

It was noted that this proposal had been rejected as one of the government's 'eco-towns'; Members declined to comment on the brochure and would consider the plans and respond when an application was submitted through the normal planning process.

ACTION THE CLERK

3179 MOTION FROM CLLR. R. STUCHBURY

Following the comments made at the Buckingham Partnership Meetings this Council calls on Aylesbury Vale District Council to actively obtain the owners permission to sell the land and to formulating the plans for the development on the area to the rear of Market Hill between Moreton Road and West Street. Presenting the motion, Cllr. Stuchbury reported that the Chief Executive of AVDC had said at a Partnership meeting that there had been no progress in the development of the land behind Market Hill. Despite the issue of Planning and Design Guidelines in February 2007 outlining a development of shops, parking and housing, there seemed to be no impetus to move the matter on. This Council had agreed to the aspirations expressed in the document but awaited definite plans before committing to approval.

Members discussed the motion, offering various amendments to the wording and finally voting on

This Council calls on AVDC to formulate plans for the development of the area to the rear of Market Hill between Moreton Road and West Street, and then actively obtain the land, by compulsory purchase if necessary, to bring these plans to fruition.

Cllr. Stuchbury accepted this rewording of his motion and it was proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED.**

ACTION THE CLERK

Cllr. Desorgher left the meeting.

3180 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

Members received the reports which had been circulated with the agenda.

3180.1 A V Association of Local Councils 14.08.08

Cllr. Smith had attended the actual launch at the Bucks. County Show and collected information; he would check if the office had received copies of these.

ACTION CLLR. SMITH

3180.2 AV Local Committees letter 18.08.08

Town and Parish Councils had been invited to nominate one representative; the next meeting for Buckingham was at 7pm on 25th September 2008 at the Community Centre. Members felt that larger parishes should be allowed more than one representative, but this could be revised by the meeting. Cllr. Isham

indicated that he would be attending as a District Councillor; the Mayor would attend the September meeting if possible, or find a deputy.

3180.3 AV North Sports Council

3180.4 Buckingham Arts Steering Group

3180.5 Buckingham Community Centre 26.06.08

3180.6 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

3180.7 Buckingham General Charities

3180.8 Buckingham Partnership 08.07.08

3180.9 Buckingham Youth Centre

3180.10 Bucks Association of Local Councils

3180.11 Citizens Advice Bureau

3180.12 Buckingham Licensing Forum

Cllr. Smith noted that there had been no meeting this year and had not been advised of a forthcoming meeting date.

3180.13 Neighbourhood Action Group 30.07.08

The next meeting would be on 24th September.

3180.14 Buckingham Economic Group

The meeting of 13th July had been cancelled; the next meeting was set for later that week.

3180.15 Public Transport Consultative

Cllr. Stuchbury indicated that he would be represented at the meeting on 9th September and a report would be made back to him.

3180.16 Twinning Association

Cllr. Mordue and Cllr. Hirons would be attending a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mouvoux' twinning with Halle.

3180.17 Local Area Agreement Forum

A suggestion that the LAF replace the Partnership had been resisted by Cllrs. Stuchbury and Hirons at the last Partnership meeting.

3180.18 Bucks Strategic Partnership

3180.19 N Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium

Cllr. Hirons would attend the meeting scheduled for next month.

3180.20 Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust

3181 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no comments made.

3182 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

The Mayor made no announcements.

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

3183 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES/NOTES AND ADOPT ANY RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN

- 3183.1 Town Council Meeting 21.07.08
- 3183.2 Interim Council Meeting 18.08.08

3184 TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF THE CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE COSTING AND PERSON SPECIFICATION – CLLR. MORDUE, CLLR. WHYTE,

3185 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE EXIT INTERVIEW OF THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK.- CLLR STEVENS, CLLR DESORGER

3186 TO DESIGNATE AUTHORITY TO A MINIMUM OF 3 COUNCILLORS PLUS THE TOWN CLERK, TO SHORT LIST, INTERVIEW AND APPOINT A DEPUTY TOWN CLERK.

Meeting closed at 10.08pm.

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