

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
MONDAY 15th DECEMBER 2008 at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors T. Bloomfield
H. Cadd
P. Collins
Mrs. P. Desorgher
P. Hiron
D. Isham
R. Lehmann
G. Loftus
A. Mahi
H. Mordue (Mayor)
Ms. R. Newell
Mrs. P. Stevens
R. Stuchbury
M. Try
W. Whyte

Town Clerk Ms. P. J. Heath MILCM
Deputy Town Clerk Mr. C. Wayman
Clerical Assistant Mrs. K. McElligott

3212 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors M. Smith and G. Collins.

Cllr P. Collins noted that he might have to leave before the end of the meeting.

Cllr. Lehmann raised a point of order asking when information he had sought from the Chairman would be available as he saw no item on the agenda to cover this.

The Mayor explained that the information would be made available for the next meeting.

3213 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr P. Collins declared a prejudicial interest in item 24 (To receive and discuss a letter from Bucks. Fire Brigades Union regarding proposed cuts in service).

Cllr. Newell arrived.

3214 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2008 and of the interim meeting held on 24th November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Item 14 be taken next for the convenience of Rev^d. Claire Wood.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Rev^d. Claire Wood to address the meeting.*

3215 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON HOME START HOUSING PROJECT - REV^D. CLAIRE WOOD

Rev^d. Claire Wood gave a presentation on the Home Start housing project and answered Member's questions on the presentation.

It was **AGREED** to write a letter showing support for the project and asking for the criteria for being eligible for the project.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Item 23 be taken next.*

3216 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A LETTER FROM A RESIDENT OF ADDINGTON ROAD REGARDING TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Members discussed the ongoing traffic problems in Addington Road and the points raised in the letter. Members also discussed the current situation regarding Police enforcement and County Council progress on measures promised under the Buckingham Community Plan.

It was **AGREED** to write to County Council for their plans on traffic measures in Addington Road.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Agenda order was resumed.

3217 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Members were informed of the following items

3217.1 NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

OPTIONS NEWSLETTER; NOVEMBER 08

COUNTRYSIDE VOICE; AUTUMN 2008

LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW; NOVEMBER 2008

CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT; NOVEMBER 2008

GIRLGUIDING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ANNUAL REVIEW 2008

VALE OF AYLESBURY HOUSING TRUST "OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE"

" " " " " RESIDENTS NEWS OCTOBER 2008

" " " " " ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 2008

SEEDA "VIBRANT TOWNS, VITAL PROJECTS

THAMES VALLEY POLICE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WATCH NEWS SEPTEMBER 2008

BUCKS. NHS TRUST REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007/08

BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION "IN FOCUS"

BUCKINGHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION; AUTUMN 2008

3217.2 DIARY DATES – DETAILS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

27TH MARCH 2009 – NALC GREEN MATTERS SEMINAR

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that the Council would support the four Members who wished to attend at a cost of £60 per person.

3217.3 DIS ISSUES 695,696, 697 AND 698

3218 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES.

3218.1 PLANNING – 3.11.08 & 24.11.08

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

3218.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 1.12.08

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed subject to the word “would” being changed to “should” in Minute number 462/2008.

*(462) Members discussed the draft Grants Policy which had been circulated with the agenda and agreed the following changes to be **RECOMMENDED** to Council:*

To add Section 2.4 Funding will be up available for up to three years and any subsequent years will be at the discretion of the Council.

6.1 Changed to read: An advert will be displayed on the website and the details will be published in two of the Council's newsletters.

6.2 Removed.

6.8 Changed to read: Recipients of £1,000 or more are invited to present a report to Council on their activities and use of the grant money at the Annual Town Meeting following the financial year end in which the grant has been allocated.

To add Section 6.9 Recipients of £1,000 or more are encouraged to use the Town Council's logo and the wording 'supported by Buckingham Town Council' on their correspondence and in their publicity.

To add section 6.10 Recipients of £1,000 or more will be invited to receive a cheque from the Mayor at a suitable occasion.

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

*(472) Members agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Council to adopt the new Freedom of Information Act New Model Publication Scheme.*

AGREED

3218.3 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 10.11.08

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

*Proposed by Cllr P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED**, by 14 votes to 0, that the unspent capital budget money identified in the parks policy be ring-fenced during the precept cycle.*

Cllr. Collins agreed to amend the recommendation to include “against items of expenditure” after the words “the precept cycle”.

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

It was **AGREED** to send a copy of the Buckingham Plan to the Chairman of the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

3220 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

3221 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

3222 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL EXTENSION

The Mayor updated Members that planning permission had been agreed, the solicitor is currently clarifying the rights of ways issues and that the Council is about ready to go out to tender.

Members discussed the finances of the project in great detail, although aware that the meeting was in public session.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 2 with 1 abstention to go out to tender for the Town Council Office extension.

Proposed by Cllr P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **REJECTED** by 11 votes to 2 to amend the proposition to include "after the rights of way have been resolved".

It was **AGREED** to allow the six companies proposed by the Architects to tender.

3223 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE STORING OF THE CHAMBER TABLE AND CHAIRS INTO SUITABLE STORAGE; TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE RENTAL OF MEETING ROOMS FOR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AS PER FINANCE AND ADMIN. MINUTES 460 & 461

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **REJECTED** by 10 votes to 2 to lease out the Council Chamber Table to other organisations in the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief overview of the storage methods from the companies quoted for storage. The table will be stored in a fully heated warehouse and fully insured up to £100,000.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 0 to accept the quote from Abbeywood Removals and Storage.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

*Cllr. Loftus declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of the University.
Cllr. Newell declared a prejudicial interest as a governor of the Royal Latin School.
Neither Councillor took part in the vote.*

Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of holding the meetings in the three venues suggested.

Following the discussion Members voted by 6 votes to 5 in favour of holding the Council and Committee meetings at the University.

Proposed by Cllr Isham, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 0 with Cllr. Loftus abstaining that an honorarium of £30 per night be offered to the University.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3224 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER TO WRITE TO AVDC TO REQUEST THEM TO OPT INTO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Cllr. Whyte gave some background information on the Sustainable Communities Act.

After the discussion it was **AGREED** to write to AVDC to consider signing up to the Sustainable Communities Act as it will benefit the people of Buckingham.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

3225 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ATTENDANCE AT NALC – STEPPING STONES CONFERENCE COVENTRY

It was decided that as there were no costs attached to the information supplied that the costs would be presented to the next Council meeting for an agreement.

3226 TO RECEIVE THE CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE AYLESBURY AREA AND APPOINT A WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A RESPONSE (RESPONSE DATE 6TH FEBRUARY 2009)

Members **AGREED** to write to Bucks. County Council asking why the consultation document was entitled Aylesbury Area, when the document deals with the whole of Aylesbury Vale.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** to ask Mr. Tusting to attend a Council meeting to explain the consultation document to Members.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

It was **AGREED** that Cllrs. Mordue and Stuchbury look at the document and prepare a response.

ACTION CLLRS. MORDUE AND STUCHBURY

3227 TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION AN UPDATE ON THE BCC ENERGY FROM WASTE INITIATIVE

It was **AGREED** to write to Bucks. County Council asking them to explain what the waste transfer station in Buckingham would consist of and do and ask for a copy of the tender documents.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

3228 TO AGREE A TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE BUCKINGHAM AND RIVER OUZEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Cllr. Stevens and Cllr. Hirons volunteered to represent the Town Council. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Stevens would represent the Town Council and Cllr. Hirons would be the substitute representative.

3229 TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE SITE MEETING AT MORETON ROAD TOILETS HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2008

Members discussed the current opening times for the Moreton Road Toilets. It was **AGREED** that the opening time will be changed so that the toilets will close at 8pm for a 6 month trial to see if this affects the problems of the smell and vandalism.

Cllr. P. Collins left the meeting.

3230 TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE LOCAL AREA FORUM DELEGATED BUDGET 2009/10

3230.1 To receive Councillor Hirons recommendations:

- a) Footpath between London Road and Tesco's
- b) Repairs to Bourtonville footpath

Members discussed the recommendations and other areas that could be improved.

It was **AGREED** to write to the Local Area Forum and propose:

- Creating a surfaced path between Tesco and London Road roundabout
- Repairs to Bourtonville footpath
- Traffic measures in Addington Road
- Speed Indicator Devices for Western Avenue (as per E&P Minute number 563)

ACTION TOWN CLERK

3230.2 To receive letter from Winslow Town Council and decide whether to support

Members discussed the letter from Winslow Town Council and **AGREED** to support its application to the Local Area Forum Delegated Budget.

Members discussed the areas close by that would also benefit from improved footpath links.

Members **AGREED** to write to the Local Area Forum and propose:

- Extending the width of the footpath between Buckingham and Padbury
- ACTION TOWN CLERK**

3231 TO AGREE WHETHER TO INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM 3RD BUCKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP TO DISCUSS ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SCOUTS AND OTHER YOUTH SERVICES.

Members **AGREED** to invite a member of the 3rd Buckingham Scout Group to the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

3232 TO DISCUSS COUNCILLORS' CONDUCT AT MEETINGS AND IN PARTICULAR CROSS-TABLE TALKING AND UNACCEPTABLE REMARKS – CLLR STUCHBURY

Members discussed conduct at recent meeting and **AGREED** that Councillors should remember to act appropriately at Council meetings.

3233 TO RECEIVE A MOTION “ ‘THIS COUNCIL RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF ITS CUSTOMERS AND STAFF AND WILL NOT TOLERATE ABUSIVE, AGGRESSIVE, OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR IN ANY OF ITS OFFICES OR COUNCIL CHAMBER’. A NOTICE WITH THIS WORDING WILL BE DISPLAYED IN RECEPTION.” - CLLR NEWELL

Members discussed the motion and felt that the word “customer” was not the best description for the users of the Town Council services. Cllr. Newell to decide a replacement word.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 0 to amend the motion replacing “in any of its offices or Council Chamber” with “to any of its staff”.

At 10pm Members and the presiding Clerk agreed to extend the meeting to 10.15pm as per Standing Order 1.3

3234 TO RECEIVE A MOTION “THIS COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF ELECTING BOTH A MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, SO THAT IF IT SO WISHES IT MAY ELECT TWO DIFFERENT COUNCILLORS TO THE ROLES.” - CLLR NEWELL

Members discussed the motion and considered electing a separate Mayor and leader of the Council.

Due to time constraints the following items were deferred to the next meeting.

To receive and discuss a letter from Bucks. Fire Brigades Union regarding proposed cuts in service.

To receive reports from Buckingham Town Council's representatives on outside bodies.

To receive, if required, comments from District and County Councillors.

Mayor's Items for Information.

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

3235 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

3235.1 To receive for approval the Confidential minutes of the Buckingham Town Council meeting held on the 27th October 2008 and adopt any recommendation contained therein.

3235.2 To receive for approval and the Confidential minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on the 17th November 2008 and adopt any recommendation contained therein.

3235.3 To receive for approval and the Confidential minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on the 1st December 2008 and adopt any recommendation contained therein.

3236 TO DISCUSS THE AWARDING OF FRIEND OF BUCKINGHAM - MAYOR

Meeting Closed at 10.15pm

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