



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, CORNWALLS MEADOW,
BUCKINGHAM. MK18 1RP

Telephone/Fax: (01280) 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Anne L. Wilson BA (Hons) FILCM AIH



Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 29th June 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. H. Cadd – Town Mayor

Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. Mrs P. Desorgher
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. R. Lehmann
Cllr. G. Loftus
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs P. Stevens
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. W. Whyte

Also Present: Anne Wilson – Town Clerk

159/09 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive apologies from Cllr. T. Bloomfield, Cllr. Mrs G. Collins, Cllr. A. Mahi and Cllr. M. Try.

160/09 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest.

161/09 Presentation by Richard Harrington

Standing Order no.29 was suspended to enable Richard Harrington to speak to the meeting.

Richard Harrington, Managing Director of Aylesbury Vale Advantage addressed members with regard to partnership working and the funding that is available for Buckingham over the next few years. He explained that Aylesbury Vale Advantage was a non-profit limited company helping local authorities with regard to employment, housing and growth. Richard explained the priorities for the Aylesbury Vale District and how these would fit into Buckingham.

There was £100k of revenue funding to be spent in Buckingham by the end of March 2010. Ideally this money should be spent by this date but there may be some degree of flexibility if projects are up and running but not yet completed. Local circumstances and priorities need to be agreed by the Council. Richard explained that this was year two of a three year funding cycle with £41m to be spent over a three year period. There was a further £1m of funding available for Buckingham.

Cllr. Whyte suggested that the Buckingham Plan had outlined some areas and this may be a good starting point for the Town Council. Such areas as the economy and tourism, parking, infrastructure, a Town Manager, Market Hill and a Design and Vision statement were raised. Cllr. Stuchbury said part of the future should be looking at retaining the young people who had grown up here in the in the future. The other discussion centred on extending the bypass.

Mike Foster, Chairman of the Traders Association, in the audience, said that the traders felt that regeneration of the town centre and car parking was their major issues. He was concerned about the future of Market Hill. He stated that the traders would like to be involved in this project. Cllr. Smith stated that this should be the case as the traders were the major landlords in the town centre.

Standing Order no. 29 was reinstated.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Mordue and **RESOLVED** that the matter be placed on the Interim Council agenda for discussion to discuss the five issues - pedestrian and cycle routes, car parking, flooding (capacity issue), sewage and electrical issues.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Loftus that other areas also be considered. Cllr. Mrs Steven suggested that a formal working group should be set up but Cllr. Mordue stated that the Town Council was not in a position to set one up.

A further amendment was proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Loftus and **RESOLVED** that as the remit probably fitted more into a planning framework that discussion on the way forward be deferred to the planning meeting on the 6th July 2009 where a small informal working party would be created to move the project forward to report back to Interim Council. **FURTHER RESOLVED** that at this meeting the five local priorities would also be agreed.

162/09 Annual Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009 **BTC/01/09**

163/09 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009 **BTC/02/09**

164/09 Extraordinary Council Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 18th May 2009 **BTC/03/09**

165/09 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 8th June 2009 **IM/01/09**

166/09 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 18th May 2009 **PL01/09** and Monday 8th June 2009 **PI/02/09**

167/09 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th June 2009 **EP/01/09**

168/09 Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 1st June 2009 **ETC/01/09**

Concern was expressed that seven cars/vehicles had been parked in the market during the market the previous week. Cllr. Mrs Stevens offered to go down to the market the next weekend to look at the situation with regard to vehicles remaining in the market area during the market.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the subject of car parking in the town was on the partnership agenda. It was agreed that District members should be aware of what the current situation was with regard to the future of car parking in the town.

169/09 Finance and Administration

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 15th June 2009 **FAP/01/09**

170/09 Appointment and makeup of Committees

RESOLVED that Members noted the Legal Topic Notes, provided by the Town Clerk, from the National Association of Local Councils called Parish, Town and Community Council Meetings and Councils' Powers to Discharge their Functions.

Councillor Lehmann thanked the Town Clerk for obtaining this information which answered the queries raised at the last meeting. Cllr. Smith stated that the paperwork said that the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor were ex-officio on all committees anyway so this may have solved the committee issue. Other members were not necessarily in agreement with this view. Cllr. Stuchbury said that he had rung NALC to ask them about the two topic notes and they would not speak to him.

The Town Clerk was asked to bring back item no. 17 from the Parish Town and Community Councils topic note "Terms of Reference" to the next Full Council meeting in conjunction with the Council's Standing Orders.

171/09 Standing Orders

Members discussed at length the recommendation of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee to amend the Town Council Standing Orders with the following "No Chairman of a Committee may hold the same office (i.e. over the same Committee) for more than five consecutive years (this rule does not apply to Vice-Chairman)".

Cllr. Mrs Steven said that she did not see the necessity to have a time limit on holding office for a Chairman as someone new would be elected if the current incumbent was not working well and as a senior member of the council she felt that things were already democratic. Cllr. Lehmann agreed. Cllr. Stuchbury felt that this proposal was personal against him and felt that things should carry on as they always had done with the Chairman being elected annually with no restriction on their length of service.

Cllr. Collins, as the proposer of this proposal, said that it was good governance to have restrictions on Chairmanship as was the case in many organisations and groups for the long term interest of the Council and encourage the spread of expertise. Cllr. Mordue said one of the ideas for this resolution was to encourage newer members to stand for Chairman.

Cllr. Loftus proposed an amendment to the original proposal to read "The Chairman of a Committee shall normally hold the office for a maximum of five years unless no other nomination is received". This amendment did not exclude anyone standing for longer and made it a more positive proposition. Cllr. Collins seconded the amendment.

Cllr. Lehmann felt that the "unless no other nominations are received" belonged to the role of Town Mayor. Cllr. Ms Newell said she would not speak against the proposal but felt that the democratic process already worked well and that she did not want to lose Cllr. Stuchbury as Chairman of the Town Centre and Events Committee.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that there was a chance of becoming anti-democratic because if a second nomination was received it meant that the holder of the Chairmanship automatically cannot stand. Cllr. Loftus withdrew the "unless any other nomination received" part of his proposal.

The amended resolution "The Chairman of a Committee shall normally hold the office for a maximum of five years" was put to the vote. 4 in favour and 7 against.

The original proposal "No Chairman of a Committee may hold the same office (i.e. over the same Committee) for more than five consecutive years (this rule does not apply to Vice-Chairman)" was put to the vote. 3 in favour, 9 against and 1 abstention. Therefore the vote was lost.

172/09 End of Year Accounts

RESOLVED that members agreed to accept and confirm the 2008/2009 End of Year Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement but recommended that all Councillors attend to receive the explanations from Stuart Wilbur of RBS Accounts on the amendments to the format of the accounts on the 1st July 2009.

Should this mean that there are any additional costs then the Council would accept these. Cllr. Stuchbury said that the report and advice from the Clerk on the changes to the format of the accounts and the reasons for them should be accepted and minuted.

Councillor Whyte was concerned that there were no notes to the accounts. The Town Clerk explained that the level of accounts Buckingham Town Council currently fell within did not require any notes with the accounts and that a simple Annual Return was all that was required to be filled in and returned to the auditors. The accounts were the subject of an Internal Audit too.

173/09 Internal Audit

RESOLVED that members agree with the Town Clerk in that Andrew Carver remain as the Town Councils Internal Auditor for the 2008/2009 Financial Year Accounts but recommendations from the Town Clerk be brought to a future meeting on Internal Auditors specific to the local council sector.

174/09 Members Allowances

RESOLVED that members noted and confirmed the list of Members that received their allowances for the 2008/2009 municipal year.

175/09 Attendance Record

RESOLVED that Members noted the Members Attendance at Meetings Register for the 2008/2009 municipal year.

176/09 09/01035/AOP Land to the South of the A421 and East of the A413 London Road, Buckingham

Councillor Cadd and Councillor Isham declared an interest on this item as they are both members of the AVDC Planning Committee.

Councillor Mordue chaired the meeting for this item, given that the Town Mayor declared an interest.

RESOLVED that Members agreed to note the report with regard to the amendments made to the outline planning application number 09/01035/AOP and note that the applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate on the grounds of non-determination on their original application for this site. They would consider any additional comments to their original response, which would be re-iterated to AVDC, and this would be referred to the Planning Committee meeting on the 6th July.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Cllr. Whyte, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, would draft the necessary response and objections to the plan.

177/09 Buckingham Youth Council

RESOLVED that Members noted the attached report from the Deputy Town Clerk with regard to the setting up of a Youth Council for Buckingham and noted that he had researched the setting up of a Youth Council through other Youth Council websites and amalgamated potential best practice for Buckingham.

Cllr. Lehmann asked who had instructed the Deputy Town Clerk to write this report as it was the first he had heard about the setting up of one for Buckingham. Cllr. Stuchbury said it had been agreed at a previous Town Centre and Events Committee meeting.

Cllr. Whyte said he felt that there was already a lot of pressure on officer time and that other projects had a higher priority so this project should be put on the back burner for six months. Cllr. Mordue said that the project currently had no budget but suggested he liaises with the Deputy Town Clerk to move the project forward. Both the schools had not yet been spoken to but the young people who went to Mouvaux had seemed interested.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed that the Council note with thanks the information provided and the Town Council officers and Members agree in principle to look at developing a Youth Council.

Cllr. Whyte proposed an amendment in that if a Councillor wants to take it on as a project "to have informal talks with the schools to look at developing a Youth Council". This was seconded by Cllr. Isham.

RESOLVED that proposal with the amendment was agreed by those present.

Cllr. Stuchbury said the first phase was for the office to write to the schools. Cllr. Mordue confirmed that the Town Mayor, Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk would only go forward on any proposal with the agreement of the Council.

178/09 Thames Valley Probation Service – Community Payback Scheme

RESOLVED that Members considered the report from the Town Clerk with regard to the Community Payback Scheme and agreed that the Town Council should participate in the scheme.

This would be subject to a review after six months given that the majority of work highlighted by the Town Clerk that the probationers could carry out was work that suited the better weather months.

Members accepted that there would be an approximate £100 cost per day and that a group would attend once a week, however this could increase if there was a substantial workload. The Town Clerk would review the possibility of someone in the office too at an appropriate time and report back to members if there was suitable work.

179/09 Toilets in Moreton Road

This item was not discussed.

180/09 Household Rubbish Collection in Buckingham

This item was not discussed.

181/09 Report from the Society of Local Council Clerks Regional Conferences

This item was not discussed.

182/09 Resident Board Member for the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust

This item was not discussed.

183/09 A New Deal for Buckinghamshire

This item was not discussed.

184/09 National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Conference

This item was not discussed.

185/09 Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Event

This item was not discussed.

186/09 Review of the Farm Welfare Council

This item was not discussed.

187/09 Letter from Mr Weil

This item was not discussed.

188/09 Functions attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor

This item was not discussed but Members had been made aware of the functions attended by the Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor since Mayor making.

189/09 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

This item was not discussed but members had been made aware of and received the reports listed below from representatives on outside bodies:

- Buckingham and Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Action Group – 27th May
- Buckingham Economic Partnership – 20th May
- Buckingham Local Area Forum – Action Notes - 26th March
- Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group – 21st April
- Buckingham Twinning Association - 6th May & 4th June
- Buckingham Partnership - 19th May
- Buckingham Community Centre – 23rd April (2 sets of minutes)
- Buckingham Traders Association – 2nd June

190/09 Chief Executive of NALC

This item was not discussed but Members had been made aware that John Findlay, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils had been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to local government and communities and for working with and getting the ear of government with regard to our sector.

191/00 Newsletters, Magazines and Items of Interest for Members

This item was not discussed but Members had been made aware that the following items were available in the Town Council office:

- DIS Extra – NALC Direct Information Service – Issue 710 and Issue 711
- Options – Well Street Centre Newsletter – May 2009 & June 2009
- SEEDA - Keeping the South East Working
- The Spire - magazine of St Peter and St Paul, Buckingham
- Volunteer Workout – working throughout Buckinghamshire – news sheet
- Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board – Annual Report

192/09. Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

193/09 Date of the next meeting: Interim Council - Monday 27th July 2009
Full Council - Monday 17th August 2009

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

194/09 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 29TH JUNE 2009

195/09 Minutes

RESOLVED To receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009 **TC/02/09**

196/09. Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 8th June 2009 **IM/01/09**

197/09 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th June 2009 **EP/01/09**

198/09 Finance and Administration

RESOLVED to receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 15th June 2009 **FAP/01/09**

199/09 Removal of Chandos Park Play Area Equipment

Members considered the report with regard to the removal of the play area equipment in Chandos Park. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council had a duty of care under Health and Safety to have the equipment removed as soon as possible as it was dangerous. This had been confirmed by this years ROSPA report that had been received in the office.

Cllr. Whyte said that the companies had names attached to them and he was used to seeing company A, B and C for consideration. Cllr. Smith explained the location of the companies that had tendered. Cllr. Mordue asked when the equipment was going to be replaced as he felt it was not acceptable that the equipment was taken out without something going in soon. Cllr. Stuchbury had concerns as it was the school summer holidays coming up and the children would have no equipment to play on in Chandos Park. Cllr. Mordue said that he thought the equipment should come out at the end of the school summer holidays. Cllr. Collins agreed.

Cllr. Isham said that is a dereliction of duty by the Town Council if it is not taken out and if there was an accident the Town Council would be liable and owe the public an explanation. He continued by saying that the Council could look very bad in the courts if there was an accident.

Cllr. Loftus proposed that the recommendation should be accepted. Cllr. Smith seconded this proposal. There were 7 in favour and none against.

200/00 Office Extension

This item was not discussed.