

Minutes of a meeting of the Interim Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 27th July 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.

**Present:** Cllr. H. Cadd – Town Mayor  
Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. Mrs P. Desorgher  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. D. Isham  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try  
Cllr. W. Whyte

**Also present:** Anne Wilson - Town Clerk

### **286/09 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive apologies from Cllr. Mrs G. Collins, Cllr. G. Loftus, Cllr. Ms R. Newell and Cllr. Mrs P. Stevens.

### **287/09 Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** to receive declarations of prejudicial interests from Cllr. H. Cadd and Cllr. D. Isham on agenda item 3. Proposal to develop land behind Market Hill both are members of the Aylesbury Vale District Council Planning Committee. Both members left the room for the presentation and subsequent discussion.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Order no. 29 be suspended.

### **288/09 Proposal to Develop Land Behind Market Hill, Buckingham**

Representatives of Village Homes made a presentation to the Town Council on the proposal to develop land behind Market Hill, Buckingham. Iain Taylor, Planning Director of Village Homes and his colleagues answered questions from members on the proposals.

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed concern about the number and size of the proposed retail unit in the development. Village Homes felt that his area of the site was too narrow for large units.

Cllr. Hirons expressed concern that there were unsold good quality developments and what the town needed was a modern retail development. Village Homes responded by saying it was led down the AVDC residential design guide which outlined specific dwellings. Cllr. Hirons felt this was old now as it was produced in 2007.

Cllr. Whyte felt that the proposals were very unambitious but an overdeveloped site with family size dwellings lacking open space. He felt the proposals did not fulfil the potential of a Town Centre site and that the Civic Trust proposals of 2002 were more ambitious. He said the drawings were grasping at too many village straws, he had concerns about water run off and waste disposal from the site and that there was not evidence of any energy sustainability guidance.

Cllr. Try expressed concern about the proposals for an un-adopted highway and the cost implications for a service charge to affordable dwellings. Village Homes responded by stating that it was usual for a Housing Association to pay such a charge. Iain Taylor continued by saying that an un-adopted highway allowed for less scrutiny by the Highways Authority and opened doors for parking and less wide highway which they felt would otherwise dominate the site.

Concern was expressed whether this meant that the road would be substandard. Councillor Stuchbury expressed concern as to whether this meant that the drainage under the road would not be adopted as had happened under the S18 agreements in other areas of the town. Iain Taylor could not answer the questions on the make up of the road or the drainage adoption issues and agreed to get back to the Council with answers.

Cllr. Hirons asked whether Village Homes had liaised with the service providers yet. Iain Taylor confirmed that they had not to date.

Cllr. Mordue asked if the landowners were on board. It was confirmed that this was the case. Iain Taylor explained that Village Homes was a small company with large aspirations who worked mainly on small housing private housing schemes but also more recently had done some housing association schemes. He confirmed that there would be 35% affordable housing in this scheme. This scheme was at the stage that only tweaking was needed on the scheme.

Cllr. Whyte asked whether Village Homes had yet got into the conversation about S106 monies associated with this scheme. Iain Taylor said it was too early. Cllr. Whyte asked that the Town Council be involved in the conversation about these monies which was agreed by Iain Taylor. **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write to AVDC stating that the Town Council would like to be involved in these S106 negotiations.

Paul Turkelsen, the landowner outlined the history of the site to date and his hopes in the late 1980's/early 1990's to build a retail development on the site. He also owns the Woolworths site and was keen on bringing back a vibrant town centre to Buckingham. He needed to create values and see something happen in this area but he has to follow the AVDC design brief.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Order no. 29 be re-instated.

### **289/09 RBS Sales Ledger**

**RESOLVED** that to assist with the provision of seamless accounting practices for the Town Council Members agreed to purchase the sales ledger, at a cost of £295, as an add on for the accounts software that the Town Council already uses.

### **290/00 Make up of the Premises sub-Committee**

Following lengthy discussion over member's ability to join the sub-committee it was **RESOLVED** to leave the make up of the Premises Committee remain as it was namely that Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Whyte, Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. P. Collins and Cllr. Mrs Stevens are on the Committee. Members were reminded that any member could attend the meeting but not vote if they were not officially part of the committee.

Membership of the Premises Committee would form part of the annual request for membership of Committees/Sub-Committees before the Annual Meeting in future years.

### **291/09 Toilets in Moreton Road**

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed that the shortening of the opening hours of the toilets in Moreton Road had reduced the amount of vandalism in the toilet in Moreton Road and they would like to see the amended opening hours remain. Their opening hours were changed to 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Market days and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the other five days of the week.

### **292/09 A New Deal for Buckinghamshire**

**RESOLVED** that members felt that the New Deal for Buckinghamshire showed that Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) had excluded certain areas that the Council felt they should be involved in, albeit that some on the list were already provided by AVDC but were not shown as being so. The Town Clerk would write to AVDC and Buckinghamshire County Council pointing this out.

The Town Clerk would also begin to look at a possible Charter between the Town council, AVDC and Buckingham County Council. It would need to be signed up to by all three Councils and re-enforce some of the areas that the Town Council were already involved in or should be involved in but currently weren't. This was an option provided by Quality Council status.

### **293/09 National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Conference**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk may attend the NALC Annual Conference entitled "Putting People First" to be held in London on the 4th and 5th September at a cost of £230.00 plus one night's accommodation.

### **294/09 Letter from Mr Weil**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would respond Mr Weil with regard to the issues he raised with several Members earlier in the year. Members asked that it was explained that the Council tax is a collective decision. It was agreed that this would be the final letter sent in connection with this matter and that all Members would receive a copy.

### **295/09 Chairman's Announcements**

**296/09 Date of next Meeting:** Full Council - Monday 17th August 2009  
Interim Council - Monday 14th September 2009