

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.
on **Monday 14th September 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of
Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. H. Cadd (Mayor)
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. Mrs P. Desorgher
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. G. Loftus
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. Mrs R. Newell
Cllr. Mrs P. Stevens
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. W. Whyte

Guests Mr. Richard Mills (Director of Strategy & Planning, Bucks.PCT)
Ms. Anna Selby (Community Health – provider arm of PCT)

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott

426/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Councillor H. Mordue.

427/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended so that the guests could address the meeting.*

428/09 BUCKINGHAM HOSPITAL

Mr. Mills handed out copies of the presentation slides made for the recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

He emphasised that there were no plans to close the Hospital: on the contrary the PCT was looking to move towards community-based care. It was better to look after patients who did not need acute care in their own community or home than in Stoke Mandeville, Wycombe or Milton Keynes. Some departments – A&E, major surgery, maternity – needed a large catchment to function efficiently, which is why the Minor Injuries Unit had been closed; there were not enough patients per week to keep the staff well practised. Though there had been good reasons for the decisions PCT would be reviewing both the MIU and GP cover issues to report to the Board at the end of October and Overview & Scrutiny in November.

Ms. Selby explained about the range of services available: there were 4 Community Hospitals with a total of 52 beds available, subject to staffing. Buckingham currently had 8. Some patients were taking up hospital beds for longer than necessary and would be better with respite, rehabilitation or terminal care in a community hospital or at home and this is what the PCT was looking to develop. With an aging population the need was becoming greater for local facilities and this is what patients preferred.

Members then asked questions of the PCT representatives, particularly noting the lack of local consultation which was required under the 2006 Health Act, and advocating the circulation of an easy to understand jargon-free leaflet about the PCT's plans and aims. No costings had been offered for the plans – it was stated that Buckinghamshire has one of the lowest capitation rates in the country for Government funds, due the general good health of its residents (as compared with those of large cities, for example) – and people should be told how good quality health care can be afforded on the available budget. The plans should also be “rural-proofed” and the Strategic Partnership and LAF could be involved in this. As an LDF Tier 2 town Buckingham should be in receipt of enhanced services – these would be increased as the population increased and additional services (day care, therapy, diagnostics) could be added but the town would never get a large hospital with A&E, maternity, or the like.

The point was also made that nurse recruiting should consider part-time working – only full-time posts had been advertised.

No timetable for change was yet mapped out and considerable work would be involved meeting local groups including the League of Friends. Ms. Selby agreed to come back any time to update the Council.

The guests were thanked for coming and left the meeting.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **AGREED** to reinstate Standing Orders.*

429/09 S106 MONIES

Members discussed the list of s106 monies attached to the agenda, feeling that it was not complete; there was, for example, no mention of the Mt. Pleasant money intended for traffic calming in Chandos Road, nor of that generated by the Moreton Road development. Concern was expressed that the destinations for s106 contributions were being decided by the Planning Authority without reference to local wishes or needs and that non-Sport & Leisure areas such as the Cemetery or allotments could be considered if the Town Council was involved early in discussions.

Cllr. Stevens asked what happened to the interest accrued on monies held – was it added to the sum available or did AVDC take it.

Members also asked what the Open Space monies due from the Mt. Pleasant developers had been used for, and why wasn't it used to bring the playing field on Embleton Way into usable condition.

It was agreed to ask for a complete set of accounts, both money received and spending, and the following were endorsed as aims:

- getting involved at an earlier stage in the planning process
- giving consideration to the Buckingham Plan and the Parks Policy in relation to bidding for s106 monies through the planning process
- long term vision for the town

430/09 RADIOS

Members queried why this item was being considered at Interim Council, and not at the following week’s Finance, Admin. & Personnel Committee meeting. It was pointed out that the loan of radios had ceased and use of prisoners for outside work was not as convenient without radio communication.

There was no indication of how long the radios would be required for, and this affected whether to buy or rent the equipment needed. The sum involved indicated that more than one quote was needed under the Financial Regulations, useful though it was to have a local supplier. Cllr. Try explained some of the technical requirements and why an Area Defined Licence was necessary, though he estimated the cost of the licence to be possibly double that listed in the agenda. The radios would also be useful for events. He would be able to provide the office with alternative suppliers’ details.

No budget source had been suggested for the expenditure, and no budget sheets were before the meeting for discussion of such a large expenditure.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Loftus, that the office take up Cllr. Try’s offer of contact details so that other quotations can be obtained, if possible in time to be put before Full Council on 5th October 2009.

Cllr. Hirons proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that a budget head be identified for the expenditure.

Members then **AGREED** the proposal.

431/09 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members about the Bowls Match to be held on Friday evening, at Chandos Park at 6pm.

432/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Full Council – Monday 5th October 2009
Interim Council - Monday 2nd November 2009

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed **Date**

Cllr. H. Cadd
Town Mayor