

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 1st February 2010** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd Mayor
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. M. Smith Chairman
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

In attendance: Christopher Wayman Town Clerk
 Lee Phillips Appointed Green Spaces Manager
 Jane Craven BTCV
 Matt Dodds BCWP

Before the meeting the Chairman introduced Mr. Lee Phillips who will be taking up the post of Green Spaces Manager from the 22nd February.

835/09 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Councillors Mrs. G. Collins, Loftus and Stevens.

836/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

837/09 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 7th December 2009 which were approved at Full Council on the 11th January 2010.

Mr. Dodds arrived at the meeting during the next item

838/09 Action Reports

701/09 Page Hill MUGA – Cllr. Newell declared a personnel interest as her house backs onto the proposed area. A quotation had arrived for the MUGA of £50,620. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, and **AGREED** to write to AVDC to seek their permission for the MUGA to be installed on their land.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

691.2/09 Penstock – Members noted that work will be started once permission from the Environment Agency has been received.

692.4/09 Cemetery Lodge – Members noted that repair work had started.

688/09 BCWP – Cllr. Newell presented the breakdown of figures requested. £700 would cover insurance and membership fees for the group; and £1,800 would enable BTCV to carry out projects on the areas in Town Council ownership.

Members **AGREED** to write to AVDC to inform them that Buckingham Town Council has funded half of the project and inviting them to fund the other half to enable activities on AVDC land.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** to discuss 519/09 BTCV-interpretation boards under Agenda Item 5.

839/09 BCWP

839.1 Talk by Mr. Matt Dodds

Mr. Matt Dodds give a brief interactive talk about the possibilities for Bourton Park. Members discussed turning the paddock areas into wildflower meadows. He advised that the soil was currently too fertile for a wildflower meadow and action would need to be taken to reduce the nutrient level of the soil by repeated close-mowing of the grass - a process that could take between 3-5 years. Members noted that if the river flooded, it would deposit fertile silt onto the area. Councillors discussed the possibility of carrying out a soil survey on the area and having the area as a spring flower meadow. Members **AGREED** that once the new Green Spaces Manager is in place he would bring a report back to Committee.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

839.2 Suggestions from BCWP

Cllr. Newell outlined a number of suggestions for improving the green spaces in the town, including keeping nettles down along the length of the river. Members **AGREED** that this would be something for the Green Spaces Manager to look at.

839.3 Funding for projects in the town

This was dealt with under Action Reports above.

839.4 BCWP Newsletter

Members received and noted the newsletter from BCWP.

839.5 Interpretation boards

Members commented on the design and detail of the proposed interpretation boards. Several corrections were passed to Jane Craven. Members also asked that St. Rumbold's Well be included on the Railway Walk interpretation board; and that the ridge and furrow field be included in that for the Heartlands, due to its rarity of the landscape.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the general style and layout of the boards was acceptable.

Matt Dodds and Jane Craven left the meeting

Cllr. Try arrived at the meeting

840/09 Chandos Park

840.1 Chandos Park Play Area

Members were informed that the consultation letter had been issued to local houses, schools and play groups; and comments were being received.

840.2 Toilets

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **AGREED** that a letter be sent to AVDC inviting them to waive the cost increase for buying into their contract during the current financial year as they had not advised the significant increase in advance.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

It was further **AGREED** that, pnce he was in post, the Green Spaces Manager investigate possible alternatives to buying into AVDC's contracts.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

840.3 Tennis Pavilion

Member felt that as the Tennis Club were good tenants, the labour cost associated with the leak in the roof should not be charged, but that the club be written to highlighting their responsibilities under the lease.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

841/09 Cemetery

841.1 Cemetery Lodge

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that B&S Curtains be used for fitting out the Lodge with blinds, and for an external post box to be purchased and fitted. It was further **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Town Clerk and the Chairman meet with estate agents and select one to be the Council's agent for arranging the Lodge to be rented for not less than £700 per month.

ACTION TOWN CLERK AND CHAIRMAN

841.2 Burials

Members **AGREED** that gravediggers on the list provided be contacted and be asked to carry out 3 grave diggings to the current specifications, to judge their suitability for longer-term work.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

841.3 Cemetery Handbook

In light of a recent application for a child's memorial, and because of the small range of such memorials, Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk and the Chairman revise the Cemetery Handbook.

ACTION TOWN CLERK AND CHAIRMAN

842/09 War Memorial

Members discussed the quotations received and the three options for the memorial in respect of:

1. Cleaning
2. Cleaning and a new base
3. Cleaning and moving the memorial on to the grass

Members discussed the third option and whether the memorial should be removed. Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **AGREED** by 11 votes to 0 that the memorial should remain at its present location.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 0 to contact the provider of the lowest quote, plus a local qualified architect, and invite them to quote for consulting on options 1 and 2. The consultant offering the lowest quote would be asked to start work as soon as possible. Cllr. Whyte agreed to provide the outline drawings he had created for a re-modelling of the memorial base.

Members also discussed whether to arrange a meeting with the Royal British Legion to inform them of developments, but **AGREED** to defer this until the consultant reports had been considered.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

843/09 St. Rumbold's Well

Members discussed the history of the Well (a listed Ancient Monument), the project in the early 2000's to restore the Well, and its current poor state due to vandalism. Members were made aware that an interpretation board for the site is currently in the Old Gaol Museum.

Members **AGREED** that Mr. Rodney Shirley should be contacted for advice on the Well, that the County Archaeologist be contacted requesting that they carry out a survey on the site and surrounding area, and that the Council look into replacing the interpretation board.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

844/09 Salt Bins

Cllrs. Collins, Whyte and Newell declared personal interests due to the closeness of the sites requested to their homes.

Members discussed the procedure for agreeing where salt bins might be installed and felt that more information should be provided with each request. The state of the existing grit bins in the town and throughout the Vale was also discussed, with the feeling that many were in a state of disrepair.

Members **AGREED** to write to Buckinghamshire County Council to request that they repair broken grit bins. It was further **AGREED** to invite the local paper to ask residents to write in with appropriate reasons for a salt bin to be provided.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

845/09 Gritting

The Town Clerk had circulated a map with a suggested town centre gritting regime for the Council to undertake, providing that BCC agreed a formal arrangement for grit/salt to be made available and for the cost to be met under devolved services. Members **AGREED** to add School Lane and Well Street to the map circulated, and to prioritise the gritting order for the streets listed. Further **AGREED** to purchase a hand-pushed grit spreader for such work.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

846/09 Flag Pole

Members **AGREED** to contact the insurance company and to arrange the replacement with their agreement.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

847/09 Environment and Property Committee Budgets

Members noted the figures which were circulated with the Agenda.

848/09 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman wished the Members who were representing the Town Council at the Core Strategy hearing the best of luck. Members were also reminded about the site visit to Stowe's New Inn visitor centre, due to take place on Wednesday 3rd February.

849/09 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 22nd March 2010.

The meeting finished at 9:20pm.

Chairman..... Date.....