

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 17<sup>nd</sup> May 2010** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7:05pm.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. G. Collins  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. G. Loftus  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk  
 Mr. L. Phillips Green Spaces Manager

#### **53/10 Election of Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Loftus, and **AGREED** unanimously that Cllr. Newell be Chairman of the Environment and Property Committee.

*Cllr. Newell took the chair for the remainder of the meeting, except as indicated below.*

#### **54/10 Election of Vice Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** unanimously that Cllr. Isham be Vice Chairman of the Environment and Property Committee.

#### **55/10 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Councillors Smith (Town Mayor) and Try.

#### **56/10 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Newell declared a personal interest in item 17 (Page Hill MUGA).

#### **57/10 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which had been approved at Full Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

*Cllr. Mordue arrived during the next item.*

#### **58/10 Action Reports**

62/09 & 390/09 Transfer of land: the office was recently informed that a business plan was required for the transfer of Heartlands and Chris Nicholls Walk into Town

Council ownership. Members raised concerns that these two areas of land were being joined up together and must be kept separate.

691.2/09 Penstock: the Green Spaces Manager informed the Members that work would commence as soon as the Environment Agency gave a start date.

## **59/10 BCWP**

Cllr. Newell gave an update on the situation with the name of the group being able to continue to be used. It is hoped that more activities will be done with the Maids Moreton Avenue Group in the future and volunteers from the Railway Walk Group are hoping to help them. Jenny Manning from the Railway Walk group had offered to assist the Maids Moreton Avenue group with risk assessments.

## **60/10 Chandos Park**

### **60.1 Chandos Park Play Area**

Members **AGREED** that as a result of comments made in the public session before the meeting that Cllr. Isham, the Town Clerk and the Green Spaces Manager would visit the site the next day to consider the residents' views.

**ACTION CLLR. ISHAM, TOWN CLERK & GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

Members were given an update with regards to the funding for further equipment and the installation. Obtaining the funding for the disabled equipment has resulted in a delay with the expected completion date of 6-8 weeks.

Members **AGREED** that the new plans and the layout be circulated to Members.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members **AGREED** to issue a press release over obtaining the extra funding and the installation of the play area.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

### **60.2 Toilets**

Members were made aware of a problem with the electrics of the locking mechanism of the toilets which it is hoped to fix soon. A quotation from an outside contractor for £13,250 was received for cleaning the toilets. Members discussed the situation and the possibility of employing a cleaner to clean the toilets.

Members **AGREED** that other options should be explored including talking to the university and obtaining fuller costs for employing a cleaner.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

### **60.3 Anti Social Behaviour**

Members noted that the Clerk had been in contact with the Police and that more signage for the area was being investigated. Members raised issues over the proliferation of signage in the area and that note of the by-laws should be made.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **61/10 Cemetery**

Members discussed the issues related to obtaining a survey of the area. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that a survey should be obtained within a cost of £3,000 and that a budget should be identified and reported to the next meeting.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANGER**

#### **62/10 Parks and Open Spaces Survey**

Members **AGREED** that a press release highlighting the figures should be released.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

#### **63/10 Castle Hill**

Members noted the information.

#### **64/10 War Memorial**

Members discussed the report in great detail, focusing on the requirements for the base of the War Memorial. Suggestions were put forward for increasing the height of the bollards, lighting up the bollards, placing iron railings around the memorial and kerbing as in a scheme previously considered. Members were very clear that whatever final design that it would have to fit in with the Remembrance Day Commemorations.

Members **AGREED** to carry out the re-pointing works highlighted in the survey and to that the Chairman, Cllr. G. Collins and the Green Spaces Manager look at possible proposals and the design brief.

**ACTION CHAIRMAN, CLLR. G. COLLINS  
AND THE GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

#### **65/10 Storage**

Members noted the report on storage facilities currently being used by the Town Council. Councillors felt that it was important that all the storage needs for the Council be concentrated in one place instead of spread around the town. Members disagreed on whether a place should be purchased or rented initially until matters regarding the extension to the office were resolved.

It was noted that as VAHT wish to increase the rent by 100% it may be possible to challenge it at a tribunal.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **AGREED** by 11 votes to 0 that due to the deficiencies highlighted in the report a way be sought to consolidate the maintenance facilities including renting or purchasing and look at a way forward. A report could then be taken to the Premises Committee.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

#### **66/10 Land Registry**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and **AGREED** that the three parcels of land should be registered.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**67/10 Salt Bins**

Members **AGREED** that a further letter should be written explaining BCC's obligations under their Winter Maintenance Service Plan.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**68/10 Planning Committee Recommendation**

Members **AGREED** that a list be drawn up

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

*Cllr. Isham took over the role of Chairman for the next item*

**69/10 Page Hill MUGA**

Members were informed that a meeting was being arranged by AVDC to talk with Maids Moreton Parish Council, The Rugby Club and the Town Council to discuss the S106 arrangements for Moreton Road and that part of this may be the creation of a MUGA in Maids Moreton. Members were concerned that other organisations were being consulted on a development which is taking place wholly in Buckingham.

Members highlighted that it was AVDC who oversaw most of the development on the estate and gave permission for houses to be built on any suitable green space. The possibility of situating a MUGA on land at Stratford Fields was mentioned; however it was felt that it may be too far for young people to go unsupervised, including as it does the crossing of the Stratford Road.

*Cllr. Newell re-took the role of Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.*

**70/10 Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme**

Members **AGREED** that details should be sought for next year and an application put in then.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**71/10 Delegated Budget 2011/12**

Members discussed possible schemes including widening the road around the church and introducing changes near Bourton Meadow School.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, and **AGREED** that two schemes should be placed for consideration by the LAF, to widen the highway around the Church and to introduce changes around Bourton Meadow School.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**72/10 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**73/10 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

**Chairman**.....

**Date**.....