

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2010** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

**Present:**

- Cllr. P. Collins
- Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
- Cllr. D. Isham
- Cllr. A. Mahi
- Cllr. H. Mordue
- Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
- Cllr. Ms. R. Newell - Chairman
- Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk

**319/10 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Councillors Bloomfield, Hirons, Smith, Stuchbury and Try.

**320/10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**321/10 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010, which had been approved at Full Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

**322/10 Action Reports**

Members noted that since the list was produced a letter had been sent in respect of minute 213/10 regarding swimming pool prices.

Further information had been received from AVDC regarding the Heartlands transfer and it was hoped that a report would be brought to the next meeting.

983.1/09 Members enquired into the work of the gravedigger and how the work had improved; Members were informed that the new gravedigger was punctual and flexible with the work and that grave preparation standards had risen. Photographs of recent and past work would be sent to Members to show the improvement in service.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**323/10 BCWP**

The Chairman gave a report on the work of the 'Friends of' groups noting that the Railway Walk Group has been nominated for both a Green Pennant and as Green Heroes. AVDC had informed the group that a new biodiversity birthday officer (to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the conservation work) was in place who would be aiming to see improvements associated with Bees, Black Poplar, Barn Owls and Urban Biodiversity. There are initial plans to plant a Black Poplar wood in the Heartlands.

### **324/10 Green Buckingham Group**

The Chairman reported that the group meets bi-monthly and are currently looking at green awards. A second Green Fair is planned for March 26<sup>th</sup> 2011.

### **325/10 Chandos Park**

#### **325.1/10 Chandos Park Play Area**

Reports of problems with balls from the MUGA going into Buckingham Town Football Club's ground and the river had been received. Further problems with the new basket swing being used during the night, being noisy and swaying had also been received. Record RSS would be coming out to look at the situation and remedy the problems before payment was authorised. Members also discussed the problems with litter in the park during weekends; the bins are completely full and there is further litter distributed around the park.

The office is awaiting a response from the Desorgher family before confirming a date for the opening of the new play areas. The signs were being designed and the draft design would be circulated to Members. The approximate price for both would be £550.

#### **325.2/10 Toilets**

AVDC had contacted the Town Clerk to ask whether the toilets should be included in their tender documents. They needed a response that day and the Town Council would be responsible for any extra costs associated with subsequent removal. The Town Clerk informed Members that the toilets had been added to the tender documents and that decision was taken to ensure a continuation of service. Members thanked the Town Clerk for dealing with the situation.

### **326/10 Cemetery**

Members discussed the problem with the burial spaces remaining. A number of suggestions were made including burying in land owned by the Council to the west of the cemetery and possible purchase of land to the east of the existing cemetery. Members discussed whether the purchase of a new cemetery could be included in a s106 agreement.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. P. Collins, and **AGREED** by 8 votes to 0 that the Council designate existing grass areas where fit to be used as grave spaces. If an extra cost is needed to supply these spaces that cost should be passed on to the purchaser and that further information on possible options should be brought to the next meeting, including possible s106 funding.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **327/10 Cemetery Lodge**

Members noted that the current tenant is wishing to leave the property and that they are still liable for the rent outstanding on the contract until a new tenant is found or the contract expires. The Lodge is currently back on the rental market.

### **328/10 Dog Waste Bins**

Members noted the response.

**329/10 Closed Churchyards**  
Members noted the information.

**330/10 Rotary Crocuses**  
Members discussed the request and **AGREED** that the Rotary Club be allowed to plant crocuses in Bourton Park.

**331/10 Public Art**  
Members discussed the offered work of art and felt that this was a piece more suited to an urban setting or a lake, rather than the river Great Ouse which can flood quite substantially. Members **AGREED** to write to AVDC to convey the committee's views and request that we are considered for other pieces of public art.  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**332/10 Climate Week**  
Members **AGREED** that this is an event for the Green Buckingham Group to consider organising.

**333/10 Radcliffe Centre**  
Members **AGREED** to defer this item until more information is available.

**334/10 Uniform**  
Members **AGREED** to purchase the uniforms at a cost of £295.50 (exc. VAT) from budget 102/4043, Protective clothing.  
**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**335/10 Bourton Road Allotment**  
Members **AGREED** that Councillors Isham and Mordue together with the Town Clerk should negotiate an extension to the existing agreement.  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK & CLLRS. ISHAM & MORDUE**

**336/10 Chandos Park Bowls Club**  
Members **AGREED** that Councillors Isham and Mordue together with the Town Clerk should negotiate an extension to the existing agreement.  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK & CLLRS ISHAM & MORDUE**

**337/10 Budgets**  
Members noted the budgets: it was explained that Chandos Park Maintenance 251/4601 budget was showing a negative amount due to the grant payment being received but the payment for the equipment not going out.  
Members enquired about the amount of income in relation to the Cemetery Lodge 258/1061, and were informed that the new statement had just been received in the office showing that there is an extra £1,280 approximately to go into the account.

**338/10 Chairman's Announcements**  
There were no announcements.

**339/10**      **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The meeting finished at 8.15pm.

**Chairman**.....      **Date**.....