

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.  
on **Monday 7th February 2011** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of  
Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. H. Cadd  
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. D. Isham  
Cllr. R. Lehmann  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. Mrs R. Newell  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. M. Smith (Mayor)  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try  
Cllr. W. Whyte

Also attending Mr. J. Barnett  
Mr. P. Fealey  
Mr. R. Dixon  
Mr. J. Mayer } for Buckingham Youth Centre

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott

#### 742/10 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bloomfield and Mrs. P. Stevens.

#### 743/10 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. O'Donoghue declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of the Youth Centre.

Cllr. Whyte declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Old Gaol.

*Cllr. Try arrived.*

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended in order that the visitors might address the meeting.

Mr. Barnett outlined the current situation of the Youth Centre; BCC were withdrawing funding for the building and staff from the new financial year. Staff would be redundant by July, except for Mr. Whatmore who would be leaving at the end of March, leaving the remaining staff without a line manager.

The Club meets on three nights a week with some 20-30 young people attending each night. The building is in good condition, and if funding for staff and running costs can be found BCC would agree to a peppercorn rent. The Club management was looking for partners to keep the centre open and The Buckingham School had already produced a Statement of Intent to join the Strategic Partnership with an offer to meet the premises costs providing the school was able to use the building (as long as this did not jeopardise the Club's activities). Therefore a source of

monies to cover staff costs was needed. The University and Royal Latin School had been approached as well as the Town Council.

Mr. Dixon and Mr. Mayer spoke of the benefits of having the Youth Centre, including camping trips and other activities; the drop-in advice centre was much appreciated; they also earned money distributing newsletters for the Council and had used this to throw a Senior Citizens' Christmas Party for which entertainment had been provided by members of the Friday Music Club. They also pointed out that the building was used by other organisations such as Clearly Speaking and Young Carers.

The Mayor was presented with a petition which had 750 names on already and more were expected.

Councillors asked questions about membership costs, how many users came from outside Buckingham and whether PSL was a suitable alternative.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.

#### **744/10 Motion from Cllr Lehmann – Buckingham Youth Centre.**

Cllr. Lehmann introduced his motion, pointing out that for several years the Town Council had made regular provision in its budgets for money to support the Youth Centre; sometimes this had been required, sometimes not. No provision had been made for the next fiscal year. He felt that the Youth Centre was a safe, secure environment for the young people and as such an integral part of the community.

Cllr. Stuchbury, seconding the motion, spoke about the timing of the announcement about cutting services and the support that the Council had given over the years. He added that the Council had unused monies to support the Youth Service in the current financial year, but the Council had been unable to allocate monies in 2011/12 with the knowledge that County were withdrawing the service. The Centre was asking for a guarantee of funding to keep the staff.

Members discussed the motion.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that the motion be amended to read

In order that the Management Committee of the centre can plan, with confidence, to provide a service for the youth of the town, Buckingham Town Council agrees to make a provision in its budget for next fiscal of £15000 for the Youth Centre. These funds to come from reserves.

The amendment being carried, this became the substantive motion which was carried.

*Cllr. Mrs. Collins left the meeting.*

#### **745/10 (FC676/10 & PL689/10) AVA Parking & Access Survey**

The updated and expanded report had been received late that afternoon and had been circulated to Members by email.

Cllr. Whyte introduced the report, explaining that the content and recommendations would be discussed when the final version was presented; what was required immediately was factual errors to be identified and notified to AVA/Arup (by 3pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February). The Clerk reported that she had only been able to check that the errors notified at the earlier meeting had, in the main, been incorporated. There had not been time to check the new sections. The Buckingham Society had provided comments and some corrections to the earlier version.

Members were asked to submit any errors of fact to the Clerk by midday Thursday; these would be passed to AVA/Arup.

**ACTION ALL MEMBERS/THE CLERK**

**746/10 Planning Recommendation**

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** unanimously to Interim Council on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 that this Council's replies to the questionnaire should be:

Q1 B (We want to explore with AVDC the issues around development before coming to a conclusion)

Q2 The Council has already worked on the Buckingham Plan with stakeholders and kept it up to date via an Action Plan; it made comprehensive response to the Core Strategy on matters affecting the town; it has commissioned an evidence-based survey on parking and access via AVA. However a considerable amount of work will have to be carried out at the Council's expense by a very small staff and exploratory talks will be required before commitment.

Q3 final box (We are considering reviewing an existing plan)

**AGREED** unanimously following a short discussion.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

Cllr. Whyte suggested that such matters in the future be delegated to the Planning Committee for decision, otherwise the process of recommendation to Full Council for ratification would become cumbersome and protracted. Interested Members were invited to join the Committee.

**747/10 Buckinghamshire County Council's Budget Consultations**

To receive and agree a response to the budget consultations issued by BCC:

- i) Adult Social Care (closes 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011)
- ii) Revenue & Capital Budget (closes 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011)
- iii) Transport for Buckinghamshire (closes 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011)
- iv) Youth Service (closes 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011)

It was proposed that no response should be made to these consultations as to do so would condone County's choices; balancing their budget was their responsibility. The questions were weighted towards a predetermined course of action. No radical solutions, such as combining of back-office services with those of other authorities, were offered and 4% of the budget went on the offices of Leader and Deputy Leader. The documents dwelt on cuts to services particularly those for the vulnerable. The very short time for consultation was noted (consultations opened 10<sup>th</sup> January; the covering letter was dated 14<sup>th</sup> January and the documents were received in the office on 19<sup>th</sup> January).

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, and **AGREED** unanimously that this Council could not agree to the proposals, that the process was not fair and not administered in a proper manner.

**748/10 Letters to the Press**

The Mayor asked Members to note that, when writing letters for publication, the paper may add "Councillor" to the sender's name for the information of readers. He had been advised by the local newspaper that if Members wished to write in a private capacity they should make this clear in the body of the text.

**749/10 Chairman's Announcements**

- 749.1 Members had been circulated with news of the success of the MK Dons Big Buckingham Day.
- 749.2 Plans for a fortnightly visit to Buckingham of a mobile Job Centre were being considered. The vehicle would park outside the office.

**750/10 Date of next Meetings:**

Full Council	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Interim Council	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2011

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....