

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

**Present:**

- Cllr. T. Bloomfield
- Cllr. H. Cadd
- Cllr. J. Harvey (from minute 211)
- Cllr. D. Isham
- Cllr. A. Mahi
- Cllr. H. Mordue (from minute 212)
- Cllr. Ms. R. Newell - Chair
- Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
- Cllr. M. Smith
- Cllr. R. Stuchbury (from minute 214)
- Cllr. M. Try
- Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:**

- Lee Philips (Green Spaces Manager),
- Liz Campbell (Committee Clerk)
- Murray Bateman (Buckingham Rugby Club) for minute 203/11

#### 201/11      **Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr. P. Hiron, Cllr. P. Collins, Cllr. R. Lehmann, and from Cllr. R. Stuchbury, Cllr. H. Mordue, and Cllr. J. Harvey for late arrival.

#### 202/11      **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Isham declared a personal interest in minute 214/11 as president of the Buckingham Community Association.

#### 203/11      **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, which had been ratified at Full Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011, subject to the inclusion of the meeting date.

#### 204/11      **Support of S106 application**

The Chair moved this item forward due to the presence of Mr M. Bateman from Buckingham Rugby Club. Members noted that between 40-60% of the club's members lived in Buckingham, and that the new floodlighting would be used by a number of different local sporting groups and owned and maintained by Maids Moreton Parish Council. Cllr. Newell proposed, and Cllr. Whyte seconded, the following motion, which was **AGREED** unanimously:

That the Town Council supports the rugby club's S106 application and will write to Maids Moreton to request a contribution from any S106 unspent S106 funding for their parish.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**205/11 Action Reports**

The report was noted. The Green Spaces Manager reported that he was trying to negotiate devolving some maintenance services from AVDC to the Town Council, but that the specifications AVDC was imposing made the costs associated with this prohibitive. Councillors **AGREED** that the GSM should attempt to negotiate a lower specification with AVDC, as these were maintenance tasks that AVDC was currently not completing.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**206/11 Chandos Park**

## 205.1 Litter collections

Members **AGREED** to support the recommendation contained in the Green Spaces Manager's report to add an additional weekly collection visit to deal with the increased litter at weekends, but to build in some flexibility around the day on which the extra collection was made.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

## 205.2 CCTV

Members **AGREED** to undertake a free six week trial of a mobile CCTV unit, which would be monitored by Thames Valley Police. There was likely to be a small connection cost to the Town Council, and it was **AGREED** that this figure (up to £500) would come from Chandos Parks Maintenance budget.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**207/11 Remedial work and monitoring of cemetery chapels**

Cllr. Newell proposed, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, the following recommendation contained in the Green Spaces Manager's report:

That the Town Council undertakes remedial work from company B, with costs to be taken from the Cemetery Repairs and Maintenance budget (253/4601), and that monitoring continues. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**208/11 Budgets**

The current budget position was noted, subject to the deletion of Protective Clothing (251/4043) from the Chandos Park budget. Cllr. Smith requested that the current mileage on the Town Council's van be checked to ensure that it is within the limits set by the leasing company.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**209/11 Tree condition survey**

Members **AGREED** to the following recommendation contained in the Green Spaces Manager's report:

That the Town Council undertakes the tree condition survey using surveyor B, with the costs to be taken proportionally from the individual site maintenance budgets.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**210/11 Otters Brook play area**

Members **AGREED** to support option one on the Green Spaces Manager's paper, which was:

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the land be transferred to AVDC (which owns adjacent land) to give consistency to future management and maintenance of the

whole space, and to ensure that residents have a single point of contact when enquiring about the space.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**211/11 Circular Walk path**

Cllr. Bloomfield circulated photographs showing a 200 metre section of the path that was cracked and slanting. The path had been constructed in 2007. Members **AGREED** that the Green Spaces Manager would check Buckinghamshire County Council's contract with the original contractors to ascertain whether they were liable for any remedial works and would report back to the next meeting.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

*Cllr. Harvey entered the chamber.*

**212/11 Purchase of a new hedge trimmer**

Members were keen to see the trimmer purchased from a local company. Cllr. Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, the following motion:

That the Green Spaces Manager selects the lowest local quote from his paper and takes the funding from the Environment Equipment budget (201/4112). This was **AGREED** unanimously.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

*Cllr. Mordue entered the chamber.*

**213/11 Bus shelter on the bypass near Bourton School entrance**

Cllr. Newell requested that the shelter be removed because it is in a poor state of repair and she believed that buses no longer stopped there. Cllr. O'Donoghue said that she had observed buses stopping there. Members **AGREED** that the Town Council would contact the bus company for clarification and report back to the next meeting.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**214/11 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

Cllr. Newell gave a verbal update, which was noted, and said that she would circulate the minutes once they were available. She noted concerns about the low level of the pond on Railway Walk, and thanked two conservation groups who were doing excellent work on Maids Moreton Avenue and Railway Walk.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

**215/11 Discussion paper from Cllr. Harvey**

Cllr. Harvey outlined the proposals contained in his paper to members.

*Cllr Stuchbury entered the chamber.*

Members were broadly supportive of the need to create a 'greener' Town Council. Cllr. Harvey's proposal to investigate the installation of photo voltaic cells on the Community Centre roof received considerable support, with Cllr. Isham pointing out that these had been installed at Gawcott Village Hall. There was a lengthy debate between members about the costs and achievability of the wide-ranging proposals contained in Cllr. Harvey's discussion paper. Cllr. Whyte proposed, seconded by Cllr. Try, the following motion:

That a report is brought back to the next meeting which includes a more defined remit for the office to investigate. This was **AGREED** with 7 votes in favour and 5 votes against.  
**ACTION CLLR. HARVEY**

**216/11 Chairman's Announcements**

Buckingham has won the Michaelis Cup for the Best Kept Village.  
Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Mordue updated members on AVDC's decision to consult on a traffic order to implement parking charges at the Swan Pool car park.

**217/11 Date of Next Meeting.**

Next meeting to be held Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Meeting finished at 20:51pm.

Chair.....

Date.....