

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 5th September 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. H. Cadd
Cllr. T. Chan (until minute 332/11)
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. H. Mordue (until minute 334/11)
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell - Chair
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. W. Whyte

In attendance: Lee Phillips (Green Spaces Manager),
Liz Campbell (Committee Clerk)

330/11 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr. P. Collins, Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins, Cllr. P. Hiron, Cllr. M. Smith.

331/11 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

Following a short discussion, Cllr. Chan offered his resignation from the committee on the grounds that he believed the committee was too large, but asked to become a member of the Parks Policy Group. Cllr. Chan then left the meeting.

332/11 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011, which had been ratified at Full Council on the 15th August 2011.

333/11 Action Report

The report was noted, subject to the following:

85/1 The Green Spaces Manager reported that insurance claims for vandalism were ongoing with the Town Council's insurers, although there was a £250 excess charged per claim.

208/11 The Green Spaces Manager reported that the Town Council's van was using more mileage than was allowed for in the current lease, which had led to an additional charge of £17 per month.

211/11 The Green Spaces Manager reported that he was endeavouring to discover the ownership of the Circular Walk, as BCC had not been able to locate an official record. Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the Town Council contacts Mark Gadd as the school had donated the section of land in exchange for the security fence.

66/10 Cllr. Isham asked for clarification about the land that was to be registered at Gawcott, as it was for Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council to register it.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

334/11 Discussion paper from Cllr. Harvey

Cllr. Harvey outlined his proposals for harnessing local resources to reduce the town's carbon footprint and tackle fuel poverty. Cllr. Mordue suggested that the Town Clerk contacts Buckingham University, as he understood that they had previously researched the issue of power generation using the river.

Cllr. Mordue left the Chamber.

Cllr. Whyte proposed the following amendment:

"That this Council supports proposals 1, 2 and 3 for the timetable that is proposed, but agrees to roll over proposals 4 and 5 until a later date".

This amendment was not seconded. Cllr Harvey proposed, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that the Town Council supports to all five proposals on his paper. This was **AGREED** with 7 votes in favour, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

335/11 Mobile CCTV

Members considered a report from the Green Spaces Manager on whether or not to purchase the CCTV camera at the end of the trial period. Cllr. Stuchbury expressed concerns that there was no provision in the budget for the CCTV, and that the £285 cost of moving the camera seemed excessive. He was of the opinion that the money would be better spent contributing towards the cost of additional PCSOs.

It was unanimously **AGREED** not to RECOMMEND purchase of the redeployable CCTV camera from the contingency budget, and if Council subsequently wishes to purchase a CCTV camera it should be precepted for.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

336/11 Otters Brook Play Area

Members discussed the referral back from Full Council, regarding the future of Otters Brook play area. It was proposed that the Town council investigate the possibility of AVDC continuing the current lease agreement with the Town Council (lease to AVDC for the life of the play equipment) and to contact the relevant officer and cabinet member for Leisure Services, Cllr. David Thompson. Cllr. Harvey proposed, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, that the final decision be made when further information had been received. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

337/11 Cemetery

377.1 Members **AGREED** the Cemeteries Action Plan, and asked for their appreciation of the Green Spaces Manager's hard work to be minuted.

377.2 Members considered a report from the Green Spaces Manager regarding memorial testing. Members raised concerns about a previous testing (conducted by AVDC), where relatives were not consulted prior to the toppling of memorials, and which had caused significant distress. The Green Spaces Manager assured Members that there would be publicity before and after the testing, and that attempts would be made to contact relatives before memorials were laid flat. Cllr. Stuchbury proposed the following motion, seconded by Cllr. Whyte:

"That the Green Spaces Manager be authorised to conduct emergency repairs to memorials that are dangerous, but that a decision on widespread memorial testing is postponed pending further information on the Town Council's legal duties in relation to memorial testing." This was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

377.3 Members **AGREED** a report from the Green Spaces Manager regarding the future provision of burial space, that the triangle of land be used for burials, allocating £500 from cemetery repairs and maintenance fund (253/4601).

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

338/11 Chandos Park path

Members considered a paper from the Green Spaces Manager regarding repairs to Chandos Park path. Anglian Water had agreed to repair the drain beneath the path, but Cllr. Whyte suggested that they should also pay for repairs to the path if it could be shown that its condition could be attributed to the leaking drain. It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would progress this with Anglian Water.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

339/11 Dog Control Orders

339.1 The correspondence was noted.

339.2 Members considered a proposal from a dog training school to hold classes in Bourton Park. Cllr. Harvey proposed, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, that the Town Council grants this request subject to due diligence. This was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

339.3 Members considered the information on Dog Control Orders and **AGREED** that the Town Council would research the current byelaws covering the town's parks to determine whether they included regulations on dog fouling and keeping dogs on leashes, so that appropriate signs could be ordered and displayed in the parks.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

340/11 Environment and Property Committee Budgets

The current budget position was noted.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for a breakdown of the budgets. Cllr. Whyte asked for more information about the current overspend on the Chandos Park water budget.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

341/11 Parks Policy Group

Cllr. Stuchbury requested that the terms of reference be checked and that if it was required to make recommendations rather than resolutions, the Minutes would be amended accordingly. This was unanimously **AGREED**. Members further **AGREED** all the resolutions/ recommendations.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

342/11 Chair's Announcements

There were none.

343/11 Date of Next Meeting.

Next meeting to be held Monday 4th October 2011.

Meeting finished at 21:10pm.

Chair.....

Date.....