

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7.15pm, following the Public Session, on **Monday 12th September 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. T. Chan
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. R. Lehmann
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell (Deputy Mayor)
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott

The Chair was taken by the Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor.

345/11 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. G. Collins, P. Collins, P. Hirons, and M. Smith (Mayor).

346/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

347/11 Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils

Members noted the Information and Discussion Event to be held at Winslow Bowling Club on 22nd September. Cllrs. Isham and Newell would both be unable to attend; other Councillors to contact the office if they wished to car-share.

348/11 (287.1/11) AVDC Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Members discussed the response on polling stations received. The following points were made:

1. Buckingham South – “no access issues”; Cllr. Whyte pointed out that it took him 25 minutes to walk from home, and older or less able residents would probably not vote rather than make the trip. The introduction of parking charges at the Swan Pool with no free first hour would also discourage voting.
2. The University could surely provide an accessible room to serve the western half of the South ward.
3. People were more likely to vote if the polling station was nearby, or on the way to work, schools or shops. The Youth Centre was not this convenient for the western half of the ward, and up a steep hill.
4. The Scout Hut was difficult to find and had not been adequately signed at the last election. A sign was needed on Western Avenue. The long-term availability of the building was in question, and Members would like to know of suggestions for alternative venues.

5. The standards for polling stations were too high; accessibility and toilet facilities were necessary but kitchen facilities were not, and could lead to the exclusion of otherwise usable venues.

Members felt that it was up to AVDC to promote voting not discourage it and the current provision in the south ward, and the likely loss of the scout hut in the north ward, did not do this.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** unanimously that the Clerk send a letter to Electoral Services listing these comments.

Cllr. Harvey noted that the Boundary Commission’s proposals (available that day) were to move Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and Eaton Manor from Milton Keynes to Buckingham constituency. Doubtless this would be fully discussed at a future meeting.

349/11 Chairman’s Announcements

Cllr. Newell reported that the presentation of the Michaelis Cup had been made on the previous Saturday by the Lord Lieutenant; Cllrs. Isham, Stuchbury and Try also attended together with the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

The Events and Green Spaces teams were thanked for their hard work; many positive comments had been made, and Buckingham’s score had been 4th highest in the county.

350/11 Dates of next meetings

Full Council	Monday 3 rd October 2011
Interim Council	Monday 31st October 2011

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed **Date**