

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 30th September 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. H. Cadd	
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. R. Lehmann	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Town Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. C. P. Wayman	Town Clerk
Mr. C. Robson	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Bolton	Committee Clerk

397/13 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Harvey, Mordue and Whyte.

398/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Isham, G&P Collins and Mahi declared an interest in item 8.

399/13 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2013 (**BTC/04/13**).

AGREED

400/13 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 9th September 2013 (**IM/02/13**).

AGREED

401/13 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 19th August 2013 (**PL/05/13**) and Monday 9th September 2013 (**PL/06/13**).

AGREED

402/13 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2013 (**EPH/03/13**).

AGREED

403/13 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 8th July 2013 (TCE/02/13)

AGREED

Tuesday 27th August 2013 (TCE/03/13). A minor amendment proposed by Cllr Smith to minute 321/13 that the action to re-draft the document be allocated to Cllrs Stuchbury and Newell was **AGREED**.

404/13 Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 16th September 2013 (FAP/03/13).

390/13 Proposed by Cllr P Collins, seconded by Cllr Lehmann and **AGREED** unanimously that audio recordings be permitted if agreed in advance with the Chairperson of the meeting.

A minor amendment that the above minute should be changed to 'if notified in advance to the Chairperson' was **AGREED**.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Bloomfield and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that this Council move toward audio recordings of Council proceedings.

AGREED

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Lehmann and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that legal opinion be sought and a new under-lease drawn up removing the liability for individual members of the existing Buckingham Community Association (or another new organisation if the Community Association does not wish to undertake new under-lease).

AGREED

Cllrs deviated from agenda order to allow the Town Clerk to clarify whether the Motion in item 9 could be moved in the proposer's absence.

Cllr P Collins left the meeting during the following item

405/13 New Homes Bonus

Councillors considered whether the Town Council should put in an application on behalf of AVDC, for funding of the re-development of the Swan Pool.

Members discussed that the refurbishment of the Swan Pool complex was a matter of great interest in the community of Buckingham; and although the Town Council were keen to support such a project, it was not clear what proportion of the New Homes Bonus for the region had been allocated by AVDC to the project.

Members agreed it was wise to be mindful that although the town of Buckingham had seen significant new development, any New Homes Bonus paid by developers was allocated to the region as a whole to be considered for applications, and not necessarily to the town or area in which new homes had been built.

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had submitted expressions of interest to AVDC for projects in the town of new toilets, expansion of cemetery facilities, a Muga in Bourton Park and new Trim Trail. AVDC had advised that the toilets and cemetery provision had not been considered to be put forward for the 2nd stage of applications as they did not meet the required criteria.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Hirons and **AGREED** that the Town Council agrees in principle to the NHB funds for the Swan Pool, but seeks further information from AVDC regarding the global NHB funds available to the region and in particular those projects submitted by Buckingham Town Council.

The Town Clerk would write to AVDC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

406/13 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing well, with a pre-submission document scheduled to go to Full Council on 18th November. The Planning Committee had already seen drafts of the first few policies; feedback on the initial documents from the Planning Committee had been very positive.

The final plan would be divided into 6 themes, 12 objectives and up to 18 policies; the remaining policies would be prepared in the next two to three weeks.

Following submission and agreement from Full Council the Neighbourhood Plan would then enter a six week public consultation period, after which the final document would be submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and Town Plan Officer for their continued hard work.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/TOWN PLAN OFFICER

Cllr P Collins returned to the meeting

407/13 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Stuchbury reported that Buckinghamshire County Council would meet soon to discuss next year's budget; current proposals were for a 1.5% increase.

Cllr Stuchbury further stated that following publication of GCSE results that the Buckingham School had achieved excellent results and should be congratulated on their ongoing improvement.

Cllr Stuchbury was also continuing to investigate the negative and long term effects of the changes to Buckinghamshire County Council's transport policy; providing transport only to the nearest school which could therefore adversely affect those children attending local schools in and around Buckingham.

Cllr Stuchbury also informed Members of the recent changes to the Housing Allocation Policy which had successfully gone through the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee at AVDC.

Cllr Isham recorded congratulations to Cllr Howard Mordue who had recently taken on the post of Cabinet Member for Leisure at AVDC.

Cllr Isham also informed Members of a forthcoming special meeting of AVDC to discuss proposed electoral boundary changes.

408/13 Transport for Buckinghamshire

Members received a Bulletin for information.

409/13 Adoption of Public Space - Mount Pleasant

An email from AVDC regarding the adoption of Public Space was received.

Cllrs returned to item 9, following clarification that the item could be moved, after reference to Standing Order 6.3

410/13 Motion – Cllr Harvey

Following two evening meetings involving most councillors, the following draft summary strategy has been developed. Council is asked to note and approve this ‘work in progress’ before further discussions take place to refine and ‘flesh out’ the 8 core objectives below.

Town Council Strategy: Achievement objective for the 3 years.

By the end of this period we will have

1. Completed a successful Neighbourhood Plan and ensured it is being used appropriately to judge planning permissions in the future.
2. Improved community spirit
3. Established greater active engagement with local Partners and Public (including the University and other key stakeholders).
4. Promoted and improved economic activity in our town.
5. Maintained, improved and expanded our green and open spaces (including allotments and cemetery)
6. Maintained Quality Council Status
7. Developed an effective resources plan (to include an income generation plan, adequate staffing to achieve our ambitions and good value council processes)
8. Made Buckingham an even more attractive town/parish (including provision of toilets and good parking)

Councillors briefly discussed the motion.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Smith and **AGREED** that the draft summary strategy above was approved; Council noted the summary and approved the ‘work in progress’. Further discussions would take place to refine and ‘flesh out’ the 8 core objectives.

411/13 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Destination Buckingham Group Minutes 2/07 & 6/08/2013

Buckingham Economic Group Minutes 18/09/2013

Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association Annual Report 2012/13

Access for All Group Meeting Minutes

All noted.

412/13 Twinning Association

The Autumn Newsletter was noted.

413/13 Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information.

414/13 News Releases

New Homes Bonus

415/13 Chair’s Announcements

None

416/13 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 28th October 2013

Full Council – Monday 18th November 2013

Meeting closed at: 7.55pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor