

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 21st November 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham, at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. T. Chan
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue (from minute 533)
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. M. Smith Town Mayor
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

Guests: Members of the public: Ms Liz Docker, Ms. Marion Vanhoecke, Mr. Nick Robinson, Mr. Tim Baker
 Representatives of Buckingham University: Mr. Alastair Alcock, Ms. Lucy Hodges, Mr. Clive Martin, Mr. Giles Wollenmann
 Members of the Press: Ms. Hannah Richardson

In attendance: Mr. C. Wayman, Town Clerk
 Liz Campbell Committee Clerk

524/11 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that Cllr. Mordue had sent his apologies for late arrival.

525/11 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Smith declared a personal interest in item 533/11 as a Friend of Buckingham University.

526/11 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd October 2011 (**BTC/07/11**).

527/11 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 31st October 2011 (**IM/04/11**).

528/11 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10th October 2011 and 31st October 2011 (**PL/07/11** and **PL/08/11**). These minutes were **AGREED**.

529/11 Environment and Property Committee
RESOLVED to receive the minutes and agree the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 24th October 2011 (**EP/04/11**).

530/11 Town Centre and Events Committee
RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 17th October 2011 (**TCE/04/11**).
(313.1) Cllr. Stuchbury proposed, seconded by Cllr. Isham, the recommendation that:
This Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that this Council purchases a portrait of the Queen to be displayed in the Council Chamber.
This was **AGREED** unanimously. **Action Town Clerk**

531/11 Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee
RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 7th November 2011. (**FAP/04/11**).
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins moved the following recommendation, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, which had been proposed by the Communications Strategy Group, and ratified by the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee. This Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Town Centre and Events Committee that a method of labelling the hanging baskets with the names of sponsors is looked into and costs and implications submitted with a view to implementing this for the sponsorships of hanging baskets for 2012.
This was **AGREED** unanimously that it should be dealt with by the Town Centre and Events Committee.

532/11 Motion from Cllr. Hiron – River Dredging
The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Hiron, and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue:
That BTC writes to the Environment Agency and the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board to request that they add to their dredging schedule the River Ouse through Buckingham. Buckingham is classified as a High Risk Area; the river was last dredged some 5 years ago and it is thought that this has led to improved river flow through the town. The low rainfall this year has led to silt build-ups that need to be removed to keep that good flow rate.
The motion was **AGREED** unanimously. **Action Town Clerk**

Cllr. Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that Standing Orders be suspended to allow guests to address the committee.

533/11 Problems in the Old Town area caused by student behaviour.
The meeting heard from local residents about the problems that they were experiencing with late night noise and nuisance from students at Buckingham University. Residents expressed concern about the following:

- Noise in the street from students returning home following a night out. This occurred between midnight and 4am.
- Noise from student houses – loud music, parties, and people leaving parties late at night.

- Concerns about the licensing arrangements for the Students Union Bar.

Residents spoke about particular problems in Nelson Street and Fishers Field. Some residents said that they were being woken several times a night. Residents were concerned that these problems would increase with the planned expansion of the University.

Representatives of the University referred to a meeting that had taken place earlier that day between residents and the university, which all present agreed had been constructive. The University confirmed that whilst the Students Union Bar is licensed until 2am, 6 days a week, it usually closed at 11pm. Buckingham University outlined the following measures that had been taken in response to concerns about noise and rowdy behaviour:

- An increase in security staff from 4 personnel to 8. These staff would be mobile in the town.
- Changes to the Code of Conduct to make rowdy behaviour a specific disciplinary offence.
- Air conditioning had been installed in the Refectory to ensure that windows were not opened during discos, and the building had been double-glazed.
- Appointing a permanent resident liaison officer to improve relationships between residents and students
- The production and distribution of regular newsletters to local residents listing events, receptions, concerts, courses, and lectures that they would be welcome to attend at the University.

Cllr. Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Cllr Mordue entered the Chamber.

Members discussed further initiatives which the University could implement. Cllr. Stuchbury proposed, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, the following motion: That the Town Council writes to Buckingham University seeking assurances about the action that the University is taking to deal with rowdy students, and suggesting that it considers purchasing mobile CCTV to monitor behaviour in the town. The Town Council will also suggest that the University holds an open day for local residents.

The motion was **AGREED** unanimously.

Action Town Clerk

Cllr. Cadd declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a member of the Fire Authority.

534/11 Bucks. Fire and Rescue Service

Members considered a recent press release from the Fire Authority, which announced the Fire Service's control room would be moving to Cambridge. Members expressed concern that this move had not been consulted on as part of the recent Fire Safety Plan consultation. Members expressed concern that there might be potential delays in response times due to personnel in Cambridge being unfamiliar with Buckinghamshire geography.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed, seconded by Cllr. P. Collins, the following motion: That the Town Council writes to the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Cllr. Rowlands, expressing concerns about both the lack of consultation with local

residents and the risks and local job losses involved in moving the call centre to Cambridge.

The motion was **AGREED** unanimously.

Action Town Clerk

535/11

HS2

The response from AVDC regarding the Town Council's request for a breakdown of the costs that had been incurred in opposing the HS2 proposals was noted.

536/11

Swan Pool Car Park survey

Members discussed the results of the survey conducted by the Town Council, which showed that the car park was not over-occupied, and that there was also an under-provision of disabled spaces. This appeared to contradict AVDC's justification for its proposal to impose parking charges on the grounds that users were struggling to find parking spaces.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed, seconded by Cllr. Smith, the following motion:

That the Town Council publicises the results of its survey, and sends a copy of the survey to Mr. Matthew Partridge at AVDC; Mr. Miles Buckinghamshire at the Swan Leisure Trust; and AVDC Cabinet Member Cllr. Cartwright, with a request this information be put to the Cabinet.

This was **AGREED** unanimously.

Action Town Clerk

537/11

BCC: Speed Limits

Members noted the proposed changes to speed limits.

Cllr. Harvey informed the Council that he had telephoned BCC regarding their failure to turn on the Belisha beacons on the Moreton Road crossing, but had received no response. The issue had been raised previously by the Town Clerk and it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would chase an update from BCC. Cllr. Whyte proposed, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, that the Town Clerk write to BCC to ask for their rationale for reducing the speed limit on the bypass, and any implications for road maintenance standards of a reduced speed limit. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

Action Town Clerk

538/11

BCC: Switching off Street Lights

Members considered the results of the three year trial by BCC. Following a detailed discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to BCC, requesting that the junctions on the unlit bypass at Badgers and Burleigh Piece were lit. He would also request that monitoring continued, and that comparative data was provided for collisions on roads with and without street lighting.

Action Town Clerk

539/11

Correspondence

16.1 NHS: transfer of Buckingham Hospital to the Bucks. Healthcare NHS Trust – noted.

16.2 NHS: Community Health – noted.

Members noted the volume of correspondence relating to the NHS and the proposed changes relating to GP commissioning. Concerns were expressed by a number of Members that these significant issues did not currently fall within the remit of any Town Council committee, and it was **AGREED** that

the Town Clerk would investigate how they could best be scrutinised in future.
Action Town Clerk

- 16.3 AVDC: lapse of Deposit of Plans – noted.
- 16.4 AVDC: (348/11) review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - noted.
- 16.5 Buck.& Winslow Access For All Minutes and Notes 14/11/4 – noted.
- 16.6 NAG: Minutes of 19th October meeting – noted.
- 16.7 Buckingham Twinning Association Autumn 2011 Newsletter – noted.
- 16.8 Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes 2/11/11 – noted.
- 16.9 BALC: Matters Arising Autumn 2011 issue - noted.
- 16.10 To receive the confidential minutes, and the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st July 2011 of Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust – noted.

540/11 Reports from Representatives on Outside bodies
Members noted the report from the Mayor on his attendance at the Better Healthcare in Bucks event.

541/11 Mayoral Engagements
Members noted the information.

542/11 Chairman's Announcements
The Mayor apologised for the usual opportunities for County and District Councillors to the Town Council being omitted from the Agenda, but invited them to state any relevant matters. Only Cllr. Stuchbury (AVDC) responded, saying that his amendment to a motion on affordable housing, requesting that Buckingham residents be given priority for allocation of social housing in the town, was lost following a recorded vote. He was now awaiting a review of AVDC's Home Choice allocation scheme. He would be conducting a 'ward walk' on housing with Mr Applegate of AVDC. He also reminded Members that AVDC's budget proposals were currently being scrutinised by two committees, and asked Members to email him with any questions regarding these proposals.
The Mayor reported that he had attended a meeting with day centre providers, and that the proposed new day centre was likely to be based at Well Street, with some facility at Verney Close. The Red Cross Centre was earmarked for sale.

543/10 Dates of next meetings
Interim Council – date to be confirmed
Full Council – Monday 9th January 2012

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor