

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 12th December 2011** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi (from Min. 607)
 Cllr. H. Mordue (from Min.615)
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell Chair
 Cllr. M. Smith Mayor
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury

In attendance: Cllr. J. Harvey (to Min. 615)
 Lee Phillips Green Spaces Manager

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott

603/11 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue, Cllr. M. Try and Cllr. W. Whyte, and from Cllr. Mordue for late arrival.

604/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

605/11 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 24th October 2011 and approved at Full Council on the 21st November 2011.

606/11 Action Report

Noted.

607/11 Environment and Property Committee Budgets

607.1 Current Budget

Noted.

607.2 Precept 2012/13 Report

(202/4108: roundabouts) Members expressed concern at the erratic receipts for roundabout sponsorship, but **AGREED** that sponsorship should be raised in line with the 3% increase in the maintenance contract.

Cllr. Mahi arrived.

(203/4063: purchase of vehicle) Members would like a breakdown of the recommended £14,000 for the Precept meeting so that purchase price, maintenance and running costs were separated.

(251/4106: Chandos Play Area maintenance) Members recalled that it had been agreed that a sum should be set aside annually towards the eventual

replacement of equipment in all the play areas. It was **AGREED** to ask the Town Clerk to form such an accrual fund and make recommendation at Precept on the amount to be paid in.

Income v Expenditure: Members asked that budget lines for income be differentiated (a –sign is used conventionally) from those for expenditure.

(252/4605: Horticultural Contract, Bourton Park) Members asked when the contract was up for renewal (April 2013) and discussed whether it should be based on frequency or performance.

(254/4709: Chandos Toilets' Maintenance) Members asked for costs of employing cleaners (who could also do Moreton Road Toilets) for the next meeting, as AVDC's contract charge appeared high.

(255: 'Friends of' Groups). Members asked that Maids Moreton Avenue be taken out of the title of this budget line, as BTC did not own the land.

(CCTV) It was pointed out that cheaper systems were available, but .

*Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** that agenda item 9 be taken next.*

Members discussed the use and movement of the CCTV camera; its removal from Chandos Park after the trial period had given rise to protest from residents. A dummy replacement was suggested for when the camera was moved to another location. Relocation was a decision for the Town Council, although the Police could make a suggestion. A proliferation of cameras about the town was to be avoided. Members would have liked more accurate crime figures on which to base their discussion, and stipulated that Members' views would be given equal weight to those of the Police.

All but 2 Members who abstained voted for the officer recommendation to precept for the purchase of a camera.

Members resumed consideration of the Precept request.

Discussion reverted to the playground equipment accrual funding, and funding for other future replacement costs of capital equipment such as the vehicles.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that any residual budget at the end of the financial year be placed in Earmarked Reserves for the purpose of saving towards eventual replacement costs of play equipment.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Agenda order was resumed.

608/11 Insurance claim on the East Chapel at the Cemetery.

The correspondence from the loss adjusters employed by the insurance company regarding the possible subsidence claim was noted. A copy of the insurance policy was being checked for the exact terms. The Green Spaces Manager gave a verbal report, indicating that checking the tell-tales had revealed considerable movement of the leadwork around the window tracery, necessitating safety measures. However, the old tell-tales installed some time ago in the porch appeared not to have moved at all.

Members hoped that the removal of the tree might not be necessary.

609/11 Future Management of Otters Brook Play Area

Members agreed the officer's recommendation that the maintenance of Otters Brook be taken over by the Town Council and that this be precepted for.

610/11 Changes in AVDC's Grounds Maintenance contract

The letter from AVDC outlining changes to horticultural and street cleansing contracts was noted. As BCC and VAHT had decided not to be party to the new contract (starting January 2012), the extent of AVDC's work would be restricted to AVDC land.

Members asked that exploratory discussions be arranged with AVDC with a view to incorporating the work into the Town Council's park maintenance contract, and if interest was expressed in the proposal the matter should be brought back to the Committee together with the maps referenced in the letter so that Members could discuss the matter with the details before them.

ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER

611/11 Re-deployable CCTV camera

In the earlier discussion no quotation from the three listed for the provision of a camera had been selected.

Members opted to wait until the Precept meeting to see if funds were agreed, and a selection would then be made.

612/11 Parks Policy Group Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Parks Policy Group (PPG/03/11) held on Tuesday 14th November 2011, and to consider any recommendations therein. As not all Members had their PPG Minutes to hand, and the detailed list was not in the agenda, the priorities referred to in the Recommendations were read out.

1. Members agreed to move items M3 and H2 on the Prioritisation List above item M6 (Review of Contracts) as they need to be done first. Members then agreed to Recommend that the Prioritisation List be adopted as a working Action List (see Appendix A).

Members postponed this Recommendation to the next meeting.

2. M11 – Bring along a copy of the incident log to future meetings.
Tackling ASB – Investigate the possibility of having trained volunteer Park wardens to monitor their local Park to include in the evenings.

AGREED

3. F3/F1/F9 – Get information and prices for 2 styles of street furniture i.e. litter bins and benches. 1 Town centre style for example in Chandos Park and 1 rural style for Bourton Park and Railway Walk.

AGREED

613/11 Buckingham Triathlon 17th June 2012

To consider a request from On Your Marks Events to route the Buckingham Triathlon along the Railway Walk.

Mr. Phillips undertook to take photos of the gate before and after the event in case of any complaints about the reinstatement. Members approved the request provided sufficient warning was given to users of Railway Walk, and the notices and publicity included the phrase "with the permission of the Town Council".

614/11 Renewable Energy

The Government had announced the tariff would be halved, although the consultation would not end until the 23rd December.

Members decided to wait until the results of the consultation were announced and asked Cllr. Harvey to liaise with the Green Buckingham Group and the Community Centre over obtaining additional information which could be brought to a future meeting.

The cost of the money and the payback term should also be taken into consideration.

ACTION CLLR. HARVEY

Cllr. Harvey left the meeting.

Cllrs. Bloomfield and Newell declared personal interests in the following item.

615/11 Re-instatement of 3 areas of footpath in Bourton Park.

The Officer's recommendation was **AGREED** and the lowest quote selected.

Members debated whether companies quoting for work should be named or listed as A, B, C... Some indication of whether a company was local was felt to be useful, and Members needed to know whether to declare an interest if they had a connection with one.

Cllr. Mordue joined the meeting.

An officer recommendation would be useful, as the lowest quote would not always be the best choice. The Town Clerk would be asked about the best way to proceed in future.

616/11 Proposed wildlife events in parks

616.1 The Green Spaces Manager gave a verbal outline of environmental events proposed for the parks: planting trees in the small paddock and filling in the gaps in the hedge near the weir in Bourton Park, which the Youth Council and BTCV would help with; funding to come from the Youth Budget subject to discussion between Cllr. Stuchbury and the Green Spaces Manager. BTCV were also proposing various events for families: Cllr Newell would liaise.

ACTION CLLRS. NEWELL & STUCHBURY/GREEN SPACES MANAGER

616.2 To consider whether to support an application for funding for a series of events in 2013 in conjunction with the British Ecological Society Centenary Fund and BTCV.

Members agreed in principle to support the application, amending the 'Friends' budget accordingly in the 2013 Precept request.

617/11 Chandos Park signage

Cllr. Mordue had illustrations of AVDC-approved signage designs for Chandos Park. These would have a synthetic covering on an aluminium core and had space for the BTC logo. Single-sided signs would cost £50 + £10 carriage,

double-sided £65 + £10 carriage. Members suggested a sign for the Ford Street entrance to the Park could be purchased if the first was acceptable. Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that the sign be ordered and paid for from 251/4601 Chandos Park Repairs & Maintenance.

Cllr. Stuchbury declared an interest as Chairman of the Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust, which had awarded a grant to the project.

618/11 Planning Application from Gawcott-with-Lenborough Parish Council.

The planning application was for a library in Red Telephone Box.
Noted.

619/11 Play Area in Bourton Park.

Members agreed the officer's recommendation to proceed with consultations and grant sourcing regarding the replacement of the Senior Play Area in Bourton Park.

620/11 Green Buckingham Group

The records of meetings of the Green Buckingham Group dated 27th September, 1st November and 22nd November 2011 were noted.
The Chair reminded Members about the Green Fair to be held on 17th March 2011.

621/11 Chair's Announcements

There were none.
The Chair was congratulated on becoming a 'Master Composter'.

622/11 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 30th January 2012.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman..... Date.....