

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 30th January 2012** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. H. Cadd	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. P. Hiron	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. R. Lehmann	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	- Chair
Cllr. M. Smith	- Mayor
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	
Cllr. W. Whyte	

In attendance: Mr. L Phillips - Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. K. McElligott

730/11 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue.

731/11 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Whyte declared an interest in the Action list 64/11 War Memorial..

732/11 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on 12th December 2011 and approved at Full Council on 9th January 2012.

733/11 Action Reports

In addition to the list attached to the agenda. Mr. Phillips reported as follows:

338/11 Chandos Park path. On Wednesday 1st February the drain into the river would be cleared of silt to see if there was any repair work for Anglian Water to carry out

211/11 Circular Walk. An investigation into a cheaper repair was being made. The Mayor pointed out that the path had been installed by Jacobs Babbie as BCC's contractor and they should be responsible for repairing faults after such a short time. Mr. Phillips would look into this.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

608/11 East Chapel/Cemetery. Monitoring by inserting rods in test pits would be carried out, as well as the monthly tell-tale readings. These had showed the crack closing a little since the rain, so may be due to heave.

734/11 Committee Budget

734.1 To receive the current budget figures.

734.2 To note any budget adjustments made at the Precept meeting

Noted

Cllr. Whyte reported that the Fishers Field salt bin had not been filled; Mr. Phillips would pass the report on. The new salt bins had a place for a "For Road Use Only" label; the older ones did not but the notice could be stuck to board and attached.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked if the Repairs and Maintenance budgets were totally committed: Mr. Phillips said that some of the park's had been reserved for the tree works, to be discussed later in the meeting. Any balance could be committed for remaining work at the March meeting.

735/11 Parks Policy Group Minutes

To receive the Minutes of the Parks Policy Group meeting held on 17th January 2012 and agree any recommendations therein.

The Minutes were agreed and signed.

701/11 had been done.

702/11 Recommendation agreed.

Cllr. Lehmann arrived.

703/11 Members discussed the wooden benches proposed, noting that these had suffered damage from portable barbecues in previous summers. Cllr. Whyte informed the Committee that recycled plastic benches which looked very like wood were available, Mr. Phillips would look into their flammability.

Members felt that the picnic facilities should be advertised; the new signage would take care of this.

The double litter bins would be replacing existing as required, when it was confirmed that AVDC's contractor was able to cope with the recycling clearance.

The bad state of the big otter sculpture would be added to the next Park policy agenda, and also the small riverside sculptures (the remaining two of the four are an owl and a kingfisher).

The Recommendation was agreed.

736/11 Tree work

To receive sealed quotations for tree work and select appropriate contractors for each section.

Quotations had been sought for tree works according to the survey in Railway Walk, the Cemetery, Chandos Park and Bourton Park, and future works to the willows in Bourton Park. These willows would be pollarded to 1m in a sequenced programme, probably by hand due to access difficulties.

Some timber might be retained for the beacon and the bonfire, otherwise the arisings would be removed.

Members **AGREED** on the smallest quote for each section resulting in

Railway Walk	- Acreman's Arboriculture	£1300 excl VAT
Cemetery	- Acreman's Arboriculture	£995 excl VAT
Chandos Park	- Salcey Group	£2725 excl VAT
Bourton Park	- Complete Ground Management	£6600 excl VAT
Bourton Park willows (next and following year)	- Salcey Group 2 x	£675 excl VAT

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737/11 Brackley Road Cemetery

737.1 To receive a report on the provision of ashes plots at the Cemetery
Members discussed the options offered and decided on Option 1 – Garden of Rest. This would allow hard surface paths for access, and a less impersonal atmosphere than a lawn style. Mr. Phillips would calculate the number of plots available in the triangular area.

737.2 Report from Buckingham & Winslow Access for All.

Members welcomed the work done by the Access Group; Mr. Phillips to advise on achievability and potential costs of the suggested works.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

738/11 Dog bins – Moreton Road Estate

The developer had been contacted about the provision of dog bins on the new estate following complaints from residents but had not yet responded.

Members suggested that such provision should be part of the s106 agreement for all new estate; and possibly litter bins as well. AVDC would be contacted.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

739/11 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

The Chair reported on the meeting which had taken place immediately before the Committee meeting.

Both the Railway Walk and Maids Moreton Avenue groups were working well, and had a programme of monthly events. The pond was improving, following rain, and a Bat Evening and Newt Evening were planned. The fruit trees on Berties' Walk had borne fruit until into December, and this had been sold at the Community Fair.

Mr. Matt Dodds had reported on the Water Stratford Water Vole project – the voles had now spread almost to Buckingham.

There would be an event in Bourton Park looking for voles and otters; the Chair would advise the office of the dates.

Asked what the long term aim was for Railway Walk, Cllr. Newell said that opening up areas had allowed an increase in diversity of plant species.

Cllr. Hirons felt that there were too many wood piles; they were unsightly and a fire hazard. However, Members agreed with the excellent conservation management of this wildlife area being carried out on their behalf by the Railway Walk Group; their programme of work is agreed beforehand with the Green Spaces Manager.

A project of recording the fungi and lichens was suggested.

ACTION CHAIR/GREENSPACES MANAGER

740/11 Green Buckingham Group

The Chair appealed for volunteers from the Council to help, as two of the Green Buckingham Group were involved in the University Graduation the same day. They should contact her if they could help at the Green Fair on 17th March 2012.

A display was suggested showing the Council's policy for the parks; the Chair to liaise with Mr. Phillips on possibilities.

ACTION CHAIR/GREENSPACES MANAGER

741/11 Correspondence

Members discussed the letter received from the Buckingham Society re the replanting of lime trees in Chandos Park.

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The tree that had had to be felled was the end one by Chandos Court, so there was no obvious gap; however the avenue would have to be replaced at some point and succession planting should be considered. On the same side of the limes would need careful choice of species, due to shade from the existing trees, and possible poisoning of the soil against certain types; siting further back would be too close to the tennis courts. Planting on the other side would have to take account of the lamp posts and underground services and drainage. Members suggested replacing the street lights when the path works were done.

Members agreed that in principle the avenue should be maintained and awaited further reports from Mr. Phillips.

742/11 Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's Announcements.

743/11 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th March 2012

Meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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