

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012** 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. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. R. Lehmann  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue Deputy Mayor  
 Cllr. M. Smith  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk  
 Mrs. K. McElligott

The Chair was taken by Cllr. Mrs. O'Donoghue in the absence of the Mayor.

The meeting was preceded by one minute's silence in respect for the Rev. Aubrey Newell, the Mayor's father, and Mr. Ben Ogden, a casualty of the recent air crash in Kathmandu. Mr. A. Ogden, who was present, thanked the Councillors for their sympathy and also noted the support of the people of the town.

*Cllr. Mordue left the meeting briefly.*

### **393/12 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllrs. Ms. R. Newell (Town Mayor), P. Hirons and W. Whyte.

### **394/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

*Cllr. Try arrived, and Cllr Mordue returned early in the following item.*

### **395/12 Co-option of Councillor for Buckingham North**

To receive applications and a short presentation from:

a) Ms. Jenny Bates. *Mrs. Bates had withdrawn from the selection procedure.*

The following candidates each gave a short presentation:

- b) Mr. Roy Cole
- c) Mr. Roger Parkinson
- d) Mrs. Christine Strain-Clark
- e) Mr. Stephen Wyatt

Members voted by show of hands, the majority vote being for Mrs. Strain-Clark. The other candidates were thanked for submitting their applications; Members hoped they would stand as candidates at the next elections.

*The unsuccessful candidates left the meeting; Mrs. Strain-Clark signed the Declaration and took a seat at the table.*

**396/12 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (BTC/04/12)

**397/12 Interim Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (IM/02/12).

**398/12 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (PL/05/12) and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (PL/06/12).

398.1 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (PL/05/12).

*Members are asked to note that the Recommendations for Min. 288.1 have been ratified by the Interim Council and put to the FAP Committee respectively.*

*290/12 application 12/01624/APP: Shopmobility Office, renewal of permission*

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council open discussions with AVDC on the provision of a permanent building combining the office with public toilet provision.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** to ratify the Recommendation.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**399/12 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (TCE/03/12)

Cllr. Stuchbury added his thanks to Cllrs. Bloomfield and Mahi, and staff members Mrs. Brubaker and Mrs. McElligott for helping with the previous day's Harvest Fair.

He also noted that the Flood Action Group event on the Saturday had been a success and had suggested that another be held in the Town Centre, possibly involving a Road Closure to enable the vehicles and boat to attend.

Cllr. Lehmann asked about the banner policy; Cllr. Stuchbury explained and noted that some signage had been licensed by the County Council and the Town Council had no power to remove this.

**400/12 Environment and Property Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 (EP/03/12).

*Cllr. Isham declared an interest in the following item as a member of Gawcott-with-Lenborough Parish Council.*

**336/12 Gawcott Village Green**

Proposed by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that the transfer documents be signed, providing there is no cost to this Council.

**AGREED**

*Cllr. Isham and Cllrs. P. & G. Collins declared an interest in the following as members of the management committee.*

**339/12** Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, and **RECOMMENDED** by all present that this Council proceed with the installation of solar panels subject to the additional information being supplied and the Committee agreeing the terms of the tender.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Smith, that the Recommendation be amended to read "photo-voltaic cells" instead of "solar panels": **AGREED**

The amended Recommendation was then ratified.

The Town Clerk reassured Members that drilling the asbestos tiles could be carried out without harmful dust being released.

**401/12 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (FAP/03/12).

Cllr. Harvey apologised for not sending apologies for absence for this meeting.

**402/12 Motion to Council – Cllr. Lehmann**

*This Council believes in openness, accountability and transparency in its decision making. It affirms that only matters concerning council personnel will be considered with the public and press excluded, In respect of matters that could be regarded as commercially sensitive to the Council's operations details/quotes will be considered in public session with the identity of the tendering companies with-held.*

Members discussed the motion in light of the Council's Confidentiality Policy, agreeing that as far as possible Council business should be open to public view.

Cllr. Bloomfield seconded Cllr. Lehmann's motion and a recorded vote was called for.

**FOR** the motion: Cllrs. Bloomfield, Cadd, Mrs. Collins, P. Collins, Harvey, Isham, Lehmann, Mahi, O'Donoghue, Smith and Stuchbury

**AGAINST** the motion : Cllrs. Mordue & Try

The motion was therefore carried.

**403/12 Neighbourhood Plan**

Report from the Town Plan Officer on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Noted.

**404/12 Request for Clarification – Planning Committee Terms of Reference**

(367/12) It was decided to ask the Full Council for clarification of clause 3 ("The Committee will consider all aspects of Planning which impact on Buckingham and recommendations must be made to the Council for housing applications for more than 20 units and any new multi-unit retail and industrial developments.") which was considered ambiguous, the Chairman pointing out that a shop with flats over could be construed as 'multi-unit' but hardly worth Full Council attention.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** unanimously that the following wording was clearer:

"The Committee will consider all aspects of Planning which impact on Buckingham and recommendations must be made to the Council for housing applications for more than 20 units and any new multi-unit retail and **multi-unit** industrial developments."

**405/12 Quality Parish Council status - consultation**

The Town Clerk felt it prudent to advise the Council of the changes to the Quality Council process related to the new Code of Conduct. The consultation was due in January.

Noted.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested, and Members agreed, to take item 15 next.

**406/12 (224/12 & 273/12) Parking tariffs**

Members discussed the two letters from Cllr. Roberts. It was felt that the alternative charging structure suggested by Cllrs. Harvey and Smith, which could be cost-

neutral, had been ignored. The proposed 30p for the first hour's parking was contrary to the position of the Portas Report which advocated free parking to improve viability of town centres. It was also suggested that Waitrose could be approached for a contribution to the management costs of Cornwalls Meadow.

Members agreed unanimously that a response be made reiterating the points made by Cllrs. Harvey and Smith, that Western Avenue and Stratford Fields be free for longterm parking, and that Waitrose be asked to subsidise the first two hours free at Cornwalls Meadow.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Agenda order was resumed.

#### **407/12 Skateboard park – bollards**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that no action had been taken on the installation of these bollards, despite a serious accident having occurred, and the County Council had blamed Town Council opposition (Planning 28/11/11) quoting Minute 559.6 in correspondence. Members had felt that the displacement parking resulting from the introduction of charges was better there than on residential streets. However the single row of cars had now become two and the situation had changed. Councillors noted that it was unusual for BCC to take a Town Council response as binding, especially as it was BCC land. The type of bollard to be installed would not prevent access for emergency vehicles. The problem had been caused by the introduction of charges and the loss of free spaces elsewhere in the town; there had been few cars parked there before this.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. P. Collins, that the Council decision be amended in light of the changed situation and the accident to accept the installation of bollards if the other issues could be resolved. 6 Members voted for the proposal and 6 against, with one abstention; the Deputy Mayor's casting vote was against so the proposal fell.

#### **408/12 Publicly funded housebuilding**

Cllr. Stuchbury described the recent report to the Government and the possible effect on Buckingham; if enacted it might over-rule the Neighbourhood Plan, allowing Councils and other Public Bodies (such as the MoD) to build housing on land they own regardless of the local Plan site allocation and without providing infrastructure or affordable housing. He felt the current Minister should be approached for clarification.

Members thanked Cllr. Stuchbury for bringing this conflict to their attention and **AGREED** unanimously that the Town Clerk should send a strongly worded letter to the Department concerned.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **409/12 (26.6/12) Street-lighting Switch-off Trial - Decision**

The report to the BCC Cabinet and priority works matrix had been circulated with the agenda.

Concern was expressed at the lack of lighting at the junctions with estate roads, and along the Gawcott Road where children walked to school, both points raised with BCC as the result of complaints from residents, but not acknowledged in the document. Members also asked why the Radclive road roundabout was lit when the bypass, which would soon have housing both sides on the section between the Bletchley and London roads, did not.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

*Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting.*

**410/12 Youth Council**

To receive for information the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Noted.

Cllr. Try asked for clarification of Minute 122; the Deputy Mayor explained that this related to a provision of cameras by AddAction for the film project.

**411/12 Correspondence**

411.1 Buckingham Playing Fields Association – invitation to AGM & Annual Report

411.2 Notification of Eco-Refurbishment events 6 & 8/9/12

411.3 Notification of Gas Fracking talk 19/9/12

Members asked why this event had a £5 entrance fee when it was being held in a District Council facility, and what the fee was used for. Charging may have dissuaded some people from attending.

411.4 Speed limit review, area 14; legal order (for information)

411.5 Local Council Review Autumn 2012 (Banking Special)

Members noted the correspondence

**412/12 To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr. Stuchbury was hoping the District Council to accept the principle of the Communities Act 2005. He described its content and Members were concerned that they had not heard of it. Cllr. Stuchbury undertook to provide details for circulation.

**ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY**

The LAF were also proposing a Saturday bus service to link 36 parishes with Buckingham, allowing a three hour stay. The LAF were funding the first year, but if the service proved successful the LAF was looking to Buckingham and the parishes to provide the funding. Mr. Grindall was to be thanked for his hard work in arranging this, which would benefit the town’s shops and market.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**413/12 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

No Members had any report to make.

**414/12 Mayoral Engagements**

List of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

*Held over to next meeting due to the Mayor’s bereavement.*

**415/12 News Releases**

The preparation of a release dealing with car parking (Min. 406) and the skate-park bollards (407) was agreed, but this was not to be issued unless an amenable reply was not received from Cllr. Roberts.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**416/12 Chair’s Announcements**

None.

**417/12 Date of the next meetings:**

Interim Council – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Full Council – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed ..... Date .....  
Town Mayor