

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

**Present:**

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. H. Cadd	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hiron	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	Chairman
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

**In attendance:**

Mr. C. Wayman	Town Clerk
Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. K. McElligott	

**468/12 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs. D. Isham, H. Mordue and W. Whyte.

**469/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**470/12 Minutes**

The minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 and approved at Full Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 were received and accepted. There were no matters arising.

**471/12 Action List**

737.2, 738: on-going

The following should be added to the Action list:

CCTV: (order placed; response awaited from Highways on permission to use lamp-post mounting)

Toilet provision (update reported below)

215/11, 334/11: Cllr. Harvey reported on progress. Companies approached had not responded with special deals for Buckingham; letters would be sent out asking for a statement of c.100 words of what they could offer those in fuel poverty. Progress had been disappointing, but a feature in the Newsletter might help. Cllr. Stuchbury noted that the District Council were discussing getting together a bid for reduced tariffs; the Town Council should support this if the scheme was taken forward. Cllr. Harvey would write to Mr. Partridge.

**ACTION CLLR. HARVEY/COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY GROUP**

206.2 (Boat landing stage) Cllr. Strain-Clark asked for background to this proposal, noting that the river was "not navigable" according to the Canoe Society, and thus there might be insurance problems. The Chairman said that an appropriate structure built into the bank was proposed to aid extraction of

boats, not a projecting pier. The GSM should get in touch with appropriate authorities for information on this point.

**ACTION GSM**

64/10 (War Memorial) Cllr. Stuchbury pointed out that money had been set aside for years for this, money which could have been put to other uses. The GSM reported that the Church were happy with the location and bollards would have to be installed, as the raised kerb proposed could easily be overridden by larger vehicles leading to the memorial itself being damaged. A report was requested for the next meeting.

**ACTION GSM/DECEMBER AGENDA**

**472/12 (331/12) Committee Name & Terms of Reference (postponed from 3/9/12)**

It was felt that the name of the Committee should reflect its remit. 'Wellbeing' was discarded in favour of 'Health' though it was noted that this did not cover Police and other safety matters.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **AGREED** unanimously that the name of the Committee be Environment, Property and Health.

Members noted that the Terms of Reference had been agreed at Full Council and only the Committee name needed changing in the document.

*Cllr. Collins declared an interest in this item, but provided information on request.*

**473/12 (339/12) P-V Panels**

The Town Clerk had circulated a proposed tender document for the installation of photo-voltaic panels on Buckingham Community Centre roof. Members asked whether the consent of the building's owners (AVE) and Management Committee/Trustees had been sought, and planning issues considered. The Town Clerk explained that AVE had given permission in principle, subject to seeing actual plans, which was why the tender was needed. Also a letter had been sent to the Chairman but no reply had been received as yet; he was happy to attend a meeting and explain the proposal. The work could be scheduled so as not to clash with bookings.

The lease document was temporarily mislaid; it was agreed to try and trace its whereabouts by investigating when it had last been needed. Cllr. Bloomfield said that the Community Centre had had a copy when the kitchen was refitted. The Council's solicitor would be contacted.

The cost and extent of the works would be defined by the response to the tender document, and feed-in tariffs kept changing. The Town Council would pay for the installation as it underwrote the Community Centre costs anyway. The feed-in tariff would probably be paid quarterly and BTC would get 20%, the same proportion as the bill payment. The sum was likely to be £500-£800 p.a. Councillors felt that a financial analysis would be of use, dealing with installation and maintenance and related costs such as insurance, revenue generated, and who benefitted. A warranty independent of the installer company would also be wise.

The costs would need to be known in order to calculate the precept requirement; if an earlier installation was agreed there was sufficient in Earmarked Reserves. Members asked the Town Clerk to proceed as the scheme was of benefit to the town.

The following course of action was agreed:

1. Find a copy of the lease
2. Obtain the agreement of the Trustees/Management
3. Calculate the economics of the installation
4. Work out who pays for what and who benefits
5. The contractor should offer an independent warranty

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **474/12 Public Toilets**

The Town Clerk reported as follows:

474.1 That the Recommendation from Planning 20/8/12 ratified at Full Council on 1/10/12 resulting from the Shopmobility renewal application to add toilet provision into the building had been turned down; AVDC had not felt the use made of Shopmobility was worth the extra.

474.2 That the Library Manager was discussing allocating space by the car park bay with County Hall staff, with a view to using some of the Lace Hill s106 money allocated to Library Improvements; a feasibility study had been proposed. BCC are also considering space in Verney Close woodland but this might involve the loss of some trees.

Members discussed the possible use of compost toilets, which were cheap to install, and stand-alone autocleaned facilities. Suggested sites were the bus station, car park and the verge between High Street and the Grand Junction's car park entrance, all AVDC land.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, that the Town Clerk explore costs and discuss permission with the District Council for one universal unit in the bus station to encourage green travel by bus.

Cllr. Strain-Clark pointed out that the parking for the disabled was in the car park, and bus passengers were presumably reasonably mobile, so a site closer to the car park would be preferable; Members agreed to add the words 'or the car park' after 'bus station'.

The proposal was **AGREED**.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury added that there were companies who did this commercially on a leasing arrangement.

#### **475/12 Budgets**

The current budget figures were noted

#### **476/12 (338/12) Precept**

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that any unspent monies in the parks budgets be ringfenced for development projects in the parks; any other unspent monies at year-end be ringfenced for toilet provision; precept requests for all budget headings to remain as this year.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **477/12 (335/12) Bridge Street Play Area**

AVDC are applying for WREN funding to renew the equipment and had requested a letter of support from the Town Council. Members agreed, and would like to see details of the equipment proposed.

**ACTION GSM**

**478/12 Chandos Park Path**

The GSM apologised for the omission of two plans from his report.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** unanimously to take Option A. The GSM to get the work priced. **ACTION GSM**

**479/12 Cemetery Chapel - Insurance Claim**

Cunningham Lindsey had agreed that remedial work could be carried out under the insurance and asked for surveyor's fees for agreement then a repair schedule to be drawn up with a view to rendering.

The porch damage was not covered as it pre-dated the Town Council's ownership. **ACTION GSM**

**480/12 Trees**

480.1 AVDC has donated an oak tree to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee; Bourton Park was most in need of new trees, (a) by the basketball court where the poplars were taken out, and (b) near the otters. The exact location could be specified later. It was agreed that Cllr. Isham, as Chairman of the District Council, and the Mayor be invited to do the planting.

480.2 Two of the cherry trees at the Church may have to be felled, due to disease.

**481/12 BMX Track**

A young resident. had written asking for a BMX track. Cllr. O'Donoghue had sent word that the Youth Council supported the idea in principle. Various places had been used informally by BMX riders, but the hollow in Maids Moreton Avenue had been filled in as a prevention measure, and Holloway Spinney was not entirely suitable; Members suggested the Heartland was an appropriate, accessible and central space. AVDC would be contacted to see if Leisure had any plans already, and the young man would be sent a letter to say the Council had discussed it and were looking into possibilities, but that it may be a little time before anything could be done.

Members suggested this would be good use for s106 money .

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **AGREED** unanimously that the proposal be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**ACTION GSM/TOWN PLAN OFFICER**

**482/12 Buckingham Community Wildlife Projects - notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Members asked about the land transfer under Matters Arising. The GSM would investigate. **ACTION GSM**

**483/12 Green Buckingham Group - notes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

Cllr. Stuchbury noted that during the River Rinse it had been noticed that the Tanlaw Mill leat had become very silted up, and this had been minuted at TC&E for a letter to the University to clear it to improve water capacity. However he had since become aware that a child could get stuck in deep soft mud with fatal results and he asked that this be added to the letter agreed the previous week.

**AGREED.**

**ACTION EVENTS ASSISTANT**

**484/12 News Releases**

Toilets: when definite plans were available an announcement would be made.

**485/12 Chair's Announcements**

A request had been made for a larger bus shelter in the High Street and this was being looked into. The bus shelter belonged to AVDC. The Chairman asked that this be added to the action list for the next meeting.

**486/12 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

Meeting closed at: 8.15pm

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