

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 11th March 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. R. Lehmann
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell Town Mayor
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

Also Present: Miss. S. Covill Youth Councillor
 Miss. S. Wheeler Youth Councillor

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
 Mr C. Bolton Committee Clerk

The Mayor invited Councillors to join her in fairtrade cake and bubbly in a toast for Cllr Hedley Cadd who would be celebrating his 80th birthday the following week.

785/12 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Bloomfield, G and P Collins.

786/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

787/12 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 21st January 2013 (**BTC/07/12**).

Councillors Agreed to move to Agenda item 15 for the benefit of the Youth Councillors

788/12 Youth Council

Youth Councillors reported to Members that the year had been successful; trying out different events such as youth nights at 13 High St in order to work out what may or may not appeal to the youth of the town. A transport petition had been circulated to local schools in an effort to decrease transport costs; Youth Councillors are to hold a skate board competition on 22nd June and are organising an open mic night. Both Youth Councillors requested assistance from Members for organisation of these events.

Members thanked the Youth Councillors for their attendance; the Youth Councillors left the meeting.

Agenda order was resumed

789/12 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Precept Meeting held on Monday 21st January 2013 (**BTC/08/12**).

790/12 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 18th February 2013 (**IM/04/12**).

791/12 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 14th January 2013 (**PL/11/12**), Monday 28th January 2013 (**PL/12/12**) and Monday 18th February 2013 (**PL/13/12**).

792/12 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 11th February 2013 (**EPH/06/12**).

793/12 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 4th February 2013 (**TCE/06/12**).

794/12 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 25th February 2013 (**FAP/06/12**).

795/12 Motion from Cllr Stuchbury

That Buckingham Town Council should organise a consultation meeting on the use of the 20% New Homes Bonus in order to identify key projects which could be supported by local parishes. To then seek a Meeting with AVDC to look into joint working on high priority projects to benefit the people of Buckingham for which a future application could be made, and establish the criteria which will be expected in the application; to submit the name of a Town Council member to join the New Home Bonus Board to represent Buckingham, and obtain the criteria that parish board members will have to meet in order to apply to for a seat on the Board; furthermore to make an application to seek funding from the New Home Bonus for public toilets in Buckingham, which is the agreed policy by Buckingham Town Council.

Members discussed nominating a Councillor from the Town Council to join the New Home Bonus Board when set up by AVDC. Cllr Harvey informed Members that the item had been discussed at the recent interim meeting of AVDC and it was understood that AVDC had been asked to nominate 3 representatives. It was not yet clear how the New Homes Bonus Board would be elected or run. Members discussed that grants may not be awarded directly in the locality of where new developments are built, but felt it important that any representation to apply for a grant would need to show benefits to the wider community and not just the town of Buckingham.

An amendment proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue that the motion be changed to - to make an application to seek funding from the New Home Bonus for public toilets in Buckingham as the or one of several projects to be bid for, was carried.

796/12 Motion from Cllr Harvey

This Council notes the trialling of new parking tariffs for Western Avenue, Stratford Fields and Cornwall Place car parks proposed by AVDC based upon discussions with the Town Council, the local traders and local District Councillors, set to begin later this year. The 'outer' car parks will be free and the central shoppers car park will be charging 50p for the first three hours. The Council remains committed to free car parking for all so that the economic and social life of our town is enhanced. Nonetheless we support this trial arrangement but with two provisos:

- 1) *The new scheme is properly and transparently evaluated by AVDC not just for income generated by the new tariffs but also for its economic and social impact on the town.*
- 2) *The Town Council will lead discussions with the Town's traders and AVDC to examine the viability of introducing a complementary scheme whereby (for example) local retailers might offer to refund the new 50p costs in return for a shopper spending more than (say) £10. The tickets would need to be printed to allow for this (tear off strip etc) and retailers would be able to opt in or out of the scheme once agreed (if agreed).*

Cllr Harvey explained the reasoning behind the motion and suggested that a trial be properly evaluated by AVDC, carried out transparently and show how a new scheme would impact the town other than by revenue.

Members held a long discussion on the history free parking in the town, particularly in Cornwall's Meadow, and how the current charging policy had come about. Members felt that introduction of charging from the first hour would act as a deterrent to stop those shoppers who came into the town centre for short visits, such as the library, banks, doctors, and not just for shopping. Members also discussed various options, including encouraging traders to reimburse shoppers' tickets if they spent over a certain amount; those car parks which are already available without charge and on street parking in various parts of the town that are free.

The Mayor commented that many people had spoken with her on the subject, and that it attracted more public attention than many other motions.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey and **AGREED** by majority vote the motion above was carried.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue that an amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr Lehmann be heard as an alternative, separate motion. The motion was carried by majority vote.

Proposed by Cllr Lehmann, seconded by Cllr Newell that This Council notes the trialling of new parking tariffs for Western Avenue, Stratford Fields and Cornwall Place car parks proposed by AVDC. The Council remains committed to free car parking for all so that the economic and social life of our town is enhanced. The

Council remains opposed to the introduction of a charge and consider it would be a significant deterrent to casual shoppers visiting the town centre.

A Recorded vote was requested:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Cllr Newell	Cllr Harvey	Cllr Whyte
Cllr Lehmann	Cllr Mordue	Cllr Try
Cllr Strain-Clark	Cllr Isham	Cllr Smith
Cllr Mahi		Cllr Hirons
Cllr O'Donoghue		Cllr Stuchbury
Cllr Cadd		

The motion was carried by majority vote.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

797/12 Motion from Cllr Stuchbury

That this Council requests that there should be representation from the County and/or District Councils on any body charged with the granting of fracking licences in Buckinghamshire, and that consultation with local communities to be affected is mandatory; furthermore that Bucks County Council undertakes a study of the safety and environmental effects of fracking with respect to the particular geology (including springs and borehole water supplies) of the county.

Councillors discussed in brief policies undertaken by other Countries involved in fracking; and that the information included with the Agenda was not detailed enough for an in-depth discussion. Councillors also commented that it was too early to discuss at Town Council and that representation be made through AVALC.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Newell, and **AGREED** that Bucks County Council undertakes a study per the motion above.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

798/12 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Clerk reported that the meetings in the Town Centre on 22nd February and particularly at the University on 6th March were well attended; more feedback would be given at the next Planning meeting. Also for consideration would be the extension of the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Clerk also informed Councillors of a meeting with CPRE on 12th March.

Nationally the Town Clerk reported that Upper Eden had achieved a 90% yes vote at referendum and that Thame had been approved by the examiner, going through to referendum in May.

The Town Clerk would be attending a meeting at the Department of Communities for Local Government on 25th March to discuss how far on Buckingham is with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and to gain advice from other parishes going through the process.

Cllr Harvey requested an update on the position of Town Plan Officer. The Town Clerk informed Councillors that despite being widely advertised through the internet, Oxford Brooks University, sent to stakeholders and to The Buckingham Society there had been little interest in the vacancy. The Town Clerk advised that the temporary administrator in the office was assisting with all the background work and that if no further applicants were received by the end of the month then it would be impracticable to train a new officer in the time set aside for the Neighbourhood Plan, whilst her was taking the lead.

799/12 Planning Application

09/02155/APP

Land to the rear of Market Hill

Phased development to include Development of 23 apartments and 26 dwellings, 94 parking spaces, improved vehicular access to Moreton Road and creation of footpath links and refurbishment and change of use of summerhouse to cycle store (phase 1 units 1-49). Development of 9 apartments, 7 dwellings and 1 commercial unit, creation of footpath links and 24 parking spaces (phase 2 units 50-65 plus 1 commercial unit)

Members had opposed earlier applications and opposed the Amended Plans submitted, maintaining that commercial/retail development was more suited to a town centre site; the 2007 Design Guide, following policy BU8, advocated a mixed use for the site and 1 commercial unit was only a gesture toward mixed use.

A new viability report on the whole site should be prepared if the District Council was minded to approve the amended plans. The developer was reported to have claimed there was no demand for shop units in the town centre, but very few units remained vacant for long in the town and did not feature in a recent survey of long-term vacant shop units. Members also noted neither the amended plans nor the site as a whole included the appropriate number of affordable dwellings.

800/12 Town Council Strategy

Councillors discussed the paper presented, and **AGREED** that it provided a good basis to move forward and discuss a number of priorities that the Town Council wished to achieve.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

801/12 Friends of Buckingham

Councillors discussed various possible nominees and **AGREED** to put forward names for the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: MAY FULL COUNCIL AGENDA

802/12 Local Government Boundary Commission

Received. Councillors **AGREED** that a response should be sent commenting that the Town Council considered it of great importance that the identity of Buckingham be kept.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

803/12 Correspondence

803.1 Noted.

803.2 Noted.

803.3 Noted.

804/12 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports.

805/12 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information.

Clerk's note – The Deputy Mayor attended the opening of the Food Fair, not the Pancake Race.

806/12 News Releases

Restate of view regarding free parking in the town, urging AVDC to rethink their new proposal.
Issue robust rebuttal of Planning Application.

807/12 Chair’s Announcements

None.

808/12 Dates of next meetings

Annual Town Meeting – Friday 22nd March 7.30pm - at the Community Centre
Interim Council – Monday 8th April 2013
Full Council - Tuesday 7th May 2013
Annual Statutory Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2013

Signed **Date**

Town Mayor

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 11th March 2013** in the Council Chamber Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

809/12 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

Outstanding Overtime and Time in lieu owing to staff – from FA&P meeting 25/2/13
To receive and discuss a report from the Town Clerk **FC/46/12**

Councillors discussed the recommendation put forward and how the TOIL hours had come about due to various additional events, staff changes and impact of hours owing not taken previously.

Members discussed that this item should not have been presented during the last quarter of the financial year and that it should be the responsibility of each Committee Chair to monitor staff hours.

Recommendation

That Members offer all members of staff the option that the outstanding TOIL is paid up to the 24th Feb 2013. This would be a maximum cost of £1,612.21 and would be taken from 101/4000 Admin wages which will have a current estimated under spend of £4,000.

The recommendation was carried by majority vote.

Meeting closed at: 9.30pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor