

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 24th June 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:08pm following the public session.

Present: Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Collins
 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. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

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

The Mayor reminded Members that she had re-circulated the Code of Conduct for information; Members were expected to behave with dignity and to treat each other and the staff with respect, and that if a Member's conduct was unruly, that Member could be excluded from the meeting; general unruly conduct could lead to the meeting being adjourned.

150/13 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs. T. Bloomfield and M. Smith.

151/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Isham declared an interest in item 10, planning application.

152/13 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held Tuesday 7th May 2013 (**BTC/02/13**).

153/13 Annual Statutory Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Annual Statutory Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 (**BTC/01/13**).

154/13 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2013 (**IM/01/13**).

155/13 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 13th May 2013 (**PL/01/13**) after

amendment of the attendance list to show the elected rather than the previous Chairman and Vice Chairman; and Monday 3rd June 2013 (**PL/02/13**) after amendment of Minute 111.1 to read Lace Hill rather than Windsor Hill. Cllr. Lehmann commented that Minute 119.1 was not useful, but it was pointed out that the material of the complaint had been circulated with the agenda.

156/13 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2013 (**EP/01/13**).

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Newell and **AGREED** that the decision on whether the Town Council should continue as a burial authority be **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council for discussion.

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed his opinion that the Town Council should continue as a burial authority - not everyone wanted to be cremated, but they might wish to be buried in the town especially if they had relatives already in the Cemetery. The Mayor concurred. Cllr. P. Collins felt that the Council should cease to be a burial authority, while Cllr. Whyte would like further information; the costs involved if new land needed to be purchased. Cllr. Mordue described the continental system of reuse, and pointed out that the current cemetery was running out of burial space due to the ground-rock being so close to the surface. Perhaps reuse of the old part could be considered (Cllr. Isham said that this had been discussed in the meeting but not minuted).

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Hiron, that the recommendation be amended to allow the Green Spaces Manager and Town Clerk to investigate the costs and availability of land and return the matter to the Committee for discussion. This was carried by a majority of 12:1 with 2 abstentions.

ACTION TOWN CLERK/GREEN SPACES MANAGER

Cllr. Stuchbury then introduced the subject of parking at the church, and the proposal to block off the part of the land north of the building.

Cllr. P. Collins declared an interest in the matter, and pointed out that this was not on the agenda.

The Mayor noted that an EP&H walkabout at the church was proposed for 13th July, and it could be discussed then and taken to Committee thereafter. That part of the church surround was not currently being used due to the scaffolding for the roof works.

157/13 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 20th May 2013 (**TCE/01/13**).

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for his thanks to be recorded, both to the staff and to Councillors for their hard work and support of the Fringe events, very many of which had been youth oriented.

Members discussed the mounting of St. George flags in the town. It was pointed out that the current stock was grey and tatty (despite having been washed and mended) having been up all last summer and no asset to the appearance of the town. The Committee had no budget for flags, new or replacement. The original motion for display of flags on special occasions had been on a Full Council agenda, and the Council had not allocated funds at Precept for the purchase or renewal of the flags.

Cllr. Harvey obtained reassurance that the Fringe Committee would meet to plan the 2014 week of events; he hoped it would include a karaoke night.

158/13 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 10th June 2013 (**FAP/01/13**)

145/13: The Mayor had decided to put this to a future meeting due to the number of items on tonight's agenda.

159/13 Planning Application 13/01465/AOP

Land Off London Road [*Lace Hill*]

Demolition of existing restaurant and development of supermarket (class A1 use), Petrol filling station (sui generis use) with 394 Car Parking spaces and 36 cycle parking spaces together with a Health Care facility (Class D1 use) or building for Class B1(office use) with 77 Car parking spaces and 12 cycle parking and associated highways works (including realignment of existing spine road), access, landscaping and ancillary works.

Members were concerned about the linking of the store with the health centre in the application; there was no reason for this, as the health centre was part of the s106 agreement for the housing part of the site, and the store was on designated employment – not retail – land. Whether this was a suitable site for such a large store was queried, close to Tesco and contributing to tailbacks on an already congested junction. Traffic patterns for retail activity were radically different from office or industrial employment areas. There was no indication of what a s106 agreement might contain, and no indication of what would happen to the original s106 contribution for the health centre should it not be judged viable or necessary and offices substituted. It was advocated that the money plus the value of the land should be made available for offsite provision of health services, perhaps extending existing surgeries in the town.

Concern was expressed that no contact had been made with the Clinical Commissioning Group about the health facilities. Furthermore, without a better bus service, town centre health facilities were more accessible to village residents than this site's. Cllr. Strain-Clark pointed out that Masonic House had difficult access and little parking. All the town centre surgeries were on constricted sites.

Though the store building utilises the slope of the land to accommodate an underground car park. it was felt that the orientation of the building with the service yard on the bypass side did not present a positive aspect to passing traffic. Discrepancies between drawings were also noted, particularly in the matter of accessibility and connectivity. Though town centre architecture was referenced, there was no explanation of the choice of horizontal timber cladding panels for the building.

Even though a total of 200 jobs was declared, this was not split into full and part-time numbers. Members felt that competition could lead to Tesco laying off staff, and the Shell station closing, which would leave an unsightly corner plot.

Other comments :

- The statement about a commitment to 15 minute frequency of bus services was unsupported.
- Doubts were also expressed about the value of competition with other stores, as at the previous meeting (7th May) it had been confirmed that local, not national, pricing policy would be used.

Cllr. Isham left the meeting.

- If the store was approved, a footbridge over the bypass would be a suitable use of a s106 contribution, making a safe link for town residents to access the store (and school), and connecting Lace Hill residents with the town's facilities.

- More information on the economic impact and traffic impact should be provided.

Cllr. P. Collins left the meeting.

- Concentrating supermarket shopping south of the town did not relieve pressure on the town centre roundabouts; a site north of the town would.
- The traffic at the A413/bypass roundabout was already a nightmare – “a healthy reserve capacity” was considered a joke – and the additional traffic plus the cumulative effect of multiple pedestrian-controlled crossings would only worsen the situation. A second access, perhaps from the Bletchley Road roundabout, was suggested.
- No account seemed to have been paid to comments made at the presentation meeting on 7th May, nor of the emerging policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Liaison with the CCG over what facilities might be required at the health centre was strongly advocated.

Members discussed whether cautious support would be appropriate or opposition for the reasons outlined above.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that the Town Council cautiously supports this outline application subject to further robust discussions with it (and the CCG or appropriate part of the NHS) and resolution of our serious concerns about s106 arrangements, health care provision, public transport, traffic, economic & structural implications so that we get the best deal for Buckingham.

Members voted 6:7 with no abstentions; the proposal therefore fell.

ACTION: PLANNING CLERK

160/13 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

160.1 Verbal update from the Town Clerk, the Town Plan Officer being unable to attend.

Site assessments: the Town Clerk proposed to tour all sites on Wednesday 26th, taking photographs where possible. The Town Plan Officer was completing the draft Evidence Base, but it was unlikely this would be available in time for Planning on 1st July. The stand at the Civic Day event on 22nd June had seen a steady flow of visitors and had been well-supported by Councillors. The Tennis Club had been in contact re larger (and less prone to flooding) premises, as had Well Street Church; both had been asked to put their requirements in writing.

Cllr. P. Collins returned during the following discussion.

160.2 To receive and discuss an email from Winslow Town Council

Members felt that a meeting with Winslow TC would be of use as there were mutual concerns, such as the improvement of cycle links between the towns and access to the new station. Development linked to the rail reinstatement would strengthen the economic health of the north of the County. Care would need to be taken that discussions matched the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, and **AGREED** that Winslow TC representatives be invited to a Planning meeting.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

161/13 Annual Return year ended 31 March 2013

The Town Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor was happy with the accounts, but had commented that the mace case should be added to the Asset Register.

Members agreed the Accounting Statement for Buckingham Town Council and the Annual Governance Statement.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

162/13 Staff hours

Members noted the written report from the Town Clerk.

163/13 (15/13; 102/13) Christmas Parade

A written report from the Mayor was circulated with the agenda, containing a solution arising from the meeting held on 17th June.

Members debated whether the Mayor's recommended solution could be agreed at the meeting under Standing Orders.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, that due to the need for immediate action, the solution in the Mayor's report be accepted.

An amendment proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, that verbal support could be offered to enable progress to be made on this year's Parade, and a formal motion submitted to Interim Council on 22nd July to ratify the decision, was defeated 5:7.

The original motion was carried 11:3.

ACTION TC&E COMMITTEE

164/13 Youth Council

Cllr. O'Donoghue gave a verbal report on the Skateboard & Scooter competition held on the previous Saturday, organised by the Youth Council with Team Extreme. This had gone very well, and could be repeated next year; coaching had also been available. Unfortunately, the Deputy Town Clerk had been ill on the day, and her place was filled at the last minute by the Events Assistant; Cllr. O'Donoghue thanked Mrs. Simonds for her organisation, and Mrs. Brubaker for helping on the day. Some graffiti had been sprayed on one of the ramps early in the day but this had been cleaned off successfully by Town Council staff.

Cllr. Harvey challenged the Youth Council to organise an event which included girls – most of the competitors had seemed to be boys.

ACTION YOUTH COUNCIL

165/13 The Safer Future Communities Network – Police and Crime Commissioner

To discuss and agree a Town Council representative.

Cllr. Harvey would be the representative with Cllr. Smith as deputy if he agreed.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

166/13 (674/12; 30/13) AVDC Parking Charge – Swan Pool

A letter had been received from the AVDC Leisure Facilities Technical Manager saying that to relax the Parking Order would not be in the interest of the operator.

Members felt that the Cabinet Member should have responded, not an officer, and that the knock-on effect on adjacent streets had not been taken into consideration; only 9 complaints had been received about difficulties in finding a space during 2012.

Members asked that they be informed when the installation costs had been paid off.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

167/13 Committee Choices 2013/14

The revised spreadsheet had been circulated with the agenda.

Noted.

168/13 Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

169/13 Reports from District & County Members

Cllr. Whyte reported that LAF meetings had re-started, and he had been elected Chairman, with Cllr. Patrick Fealey as Vice-Chairman.

Verge-cutting was still a matter of concern, the transfer of contracts had not gone well, and there appeared to be confusion over BTC/AVDC/BCC land ownership.

More potholes were being repaired, but the question had been asked why adjacent holes were not done at the same time.

Parking: concerns about yellow lines on Market Hill and High Street (but none on Stratford Road by the BP station); impact on the area around the Leisure Centre of the introduction of pay parking

Buckingham Area Transport Strategy – progress update requested.

Addington Road to Bridge Street would be resurfaced in July, West Street probably next year.

Cllr. Mordue informed Members that he was a Board member of Healthwatch Bucks, to which complaints and comments can be made in the areas of the NHS, and other medical and social care services. Any comments can be made via the website of via himself. The organisation will become an important body, and has the support of the Shadow Minister of Health and the Community Support Minister.

Cllr. Stuchbury noted that there was no road maintenance currently scheduled in his ward, and he regretted this.

He had been appointed to the Education Select Committee, and both he and Cllr. Whyte to the Rights of Way Committee.

He was concerned that school transport would only be funded to the nearest school, which meant the new Free School for Winslow pupils, not The Buckingham School. He felt that the transport situation needed clarification, as parents might prefer an established school for their children but not be able to afford the bus fares.

He had also advocated that the District Council apply a levy to new supermarkets, as happened in Northern Ireland; that the District Council not employ any company who were party to the black-listing of workers; and that the agreed affordable housing % be adhered to. A reduced figure might be agreed now while the country was in recession, but this might not be the case by the time the houses were built and sold.

The review of electoral boundaries was proving challenging.

170/13 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Buckingham Economic Group Minutes 15/5/2013

Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes 01/5/2013

AVDC & AVALC Liaison Meeting Minutes 23/4/2013

Members noted the reports.

171/13 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information

172/13 News Releases

Members agreed a release to explain the Town Council's response to the Sainsbury's application.

173/13 Chair's Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members about forthcoming Ecology Festival events:

Tuesday 25th June 7.30 – 8.30 Come and see about a Busy Bee

Monday 1st July 7.00 – 9.00 Owls

Saturday 13th July 10.30-12.30 Bird and Bat Boxes

Wed. 17th July 7.00 – 9.00 Guided Tree Walk

Details have been circulated by email.

Cllr. P. Collins made a statement about the Community Centre lease arrangements; the subject would be brought to the appropriate Committee for discussion.

Cllr. Lehmann asked that the photo gallery of past Mayors be brought up to date:

Cllr. P. Collins (2005-2007) was the last one to have supplied a photograph.

174/13 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council - Monday 22nd July 2013

Full Council - Monday 12th August 2013

Meeting closed at: 9.25pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor