

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 12th August 2013** 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. 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

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

277/13 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Cllr Hirons

278/13 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Items 9 & 10 (Community Centre) Cllrs Isham, Mahi, Bloomfield and G Collins.

Cllrs P Collins informed Members that he would declare and interest in item 9 at the relevant point.

Cllr Newell declared an interest in item 17 (Royal Latin School) as a Governor.

Cllr Whyte declared an interest in the Planning recommendation regarding Public Right of Way – at the start of item 5.

279/13 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 24th June 2013 (**BTC/03/13**).

AGREED

Cllr Isham requested a minute's silence for the Cllr. Steve Patrick Mayor of Aylesbury who had passed away.

Cllr Newell informed Councillors of the funeral details on Friday 16th August and then a minutes silence was held.

Agenda item was then resumed.

280/13 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2013 (**IM/02/13**).

AGREED

281/13 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 1st July 2013 (**PL/03/13**) and Monday 22nd July 2013 (**PL/04/13**).

The Planning Committee **RECOMMENDS** that in light of the persistent lack of response to the question of positive maintenance of the integrity of the Conservation Area, this Council would like to petition the District Council to take enforcement within Conservation Areas seriously; designation of a Conservation Area is not a vanity project. In particular, reporting breaches of Conservation Area rules should not require the demonstration of actual harm to the town's streetscapes, and better publicity on the restrictions applying within Conservation Areas should be undertaken, together with promotion of the Enhancement Opportunities listed within the Conservation Area Document.

AGREED

The Planning Committee **RECOMMENDS** that to preserve the convenience of the connecting path from Western Avenue, especially in the light of increased use of Western Avenue Car Park following changes to the charging regime from 15th July 2013, the informal footpath be designated a Public Right of Way and moves be made by this Council, and a budget identified

Minor amendment – declarations of interest: Cllr Whyte declared an interest as a County Councillor.

AGREED with the above amendment.

Councillors briefly discussed the Recommendation above and also **AGREED** that budget be found from contingency funds as the Planning Committee had no budget to carry the item forward.

Cllr Lehmann commented on the excellent work of the Planning Committee in the persual of the removal of unauthorised signs in the Conservation Area. Cllr Lehmann requested that a sign advertising the town's markets on the bypass be removed.

282/13 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 15th July 2013 (**EP/02/13**).

The Environment, Property and Health Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Town Council express a view to the Police and Crime Commissioner to further consider the definition of rural crime and re-address the balance of living in isolated rural areas as opposed to a rural market town.

AGREED

283/13 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 8th July 2013 (**TCE/02/13**).

Cllr Smith requested the minutes be returned to the Town Centre and Events Committee for revision as the following items were incorrect:

197/13 Omission of Gazebo Hire Agreement.

198.2/13 Should refer to revised Street Market Rules & Regulations.

208/13 Visitor information – another item (Youth Community Choir) should appear elsewhere in the minutes.

Councillors also discussed the wording of item 196/1, agreed it was not clear and should be revisited at the next T,C&E meeting.

ACTION: T, C&E AGENDA 27TH AUGUST

284/13 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 29th July 2013 (**FAP/02/13**)

AGREED

Cllr Stuchbury requested that item 140/13 in the Action list be fully inclusive of scrutinising large payments made to external organisations as part of the considered grant process; Cllr Newell confirmed that a full report from the Town Clerk was due to the Finance, Admin and Personnel Committee on 16th September.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/FAP SEPTEMBER AGENDA

285/13 Motion from Cllr. P. Collins re Buckingham Community Centre:

Community Centre: The Community Centre has never run at a true profit and holds a full repairing 99 year lease from the Town Council from 1984.

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find sufficient committee members and have quorate AGMs even though in 2006 the constitution was changed to lower the requirement from 25 to 15 members present.

We are down to 3 trustees of the lease (originally there were 4) and 10 committee members when there should be 15.

The committee have become increasingly concerned about their personal liability since the committee members and trustees are personally liable for any debts incurred by the Buckingham Community Association – Registered Charity no 289362.

It is highly probable then unless a new set of trustees can be found to relieve them of their liability, that they will seek to wind down the community centre and hand the lease back to the town council in an orderly manner, probably on or before 1/1/2015 and in order to keep options open they are not taking any bookings beyond 31/12/2014.

The town council needs to decide how it intends to deal with this situation as it will almost certainly want to see the community centre continue running as a going concern. Soon people will want to book dates in 2015 and the community centre will have no choice but to refer them to the town council so the town council needs to know what it intends to do if goodwill is not to be lost.

The Town Clerk is to present the next full council with all the relevant contractual information and options available so that full council may decide how it intends to proceed.

Councillor P Collins proposed the above item exactly as printed above. The Town Clerk advised that BALC had given advice that due to Cllr Collins' prejudicial interest in the item; he should not propose the motion.

Councillor Smith proposed the motion above, Cllr O'Donoghue seconded the motion.

Cllrs Isham, Mahi, Bloomfield, Try, G & P Collins left the meeting.

Councillors discussed the motion and the potential liabilities that may personally bind the Management Committee to personal financial responsibility. The Town Clerk had partially reviewed the lease documents and advised Councillors of the set-up of the original lease from AVDC in 1984; it did appear, somewhat unusually, that the Trustees had passed on financial liability to the Management Committee. It was not clear why it had not been able to clear the personal liability from the Management Committee.

Councillors continued to debate that the item should be discussed under the Finance, Admin and Personnel Committee where it had first been raised; in order that full and further discussion could take place, rather than passing a finite motion at Full Council. Councillors all agreed that the Town Council were supportive of the continued successful management of the Community Centre, but also queried why the issues raised in Cllr Collins' motion had not been raised previously, highlighted by the Trustees, or mentioned at meetings of the Management Committee of the Community Centre.

A recorded vote was called for on the motion above:

For: Cllrs Lehmann, Strain-Clark, Smith and Cadd

Against: Cllrs Newell, Mordue, Stuchbury, O'Donoghue and Harvey

Abstentions: Cllr Whyte

The motion fell.

Councillors **AGREED** that a letter be written to the Trustees of the Community Centre to for their collective views on the issues highlighted by Cllr Collins in relation to the Community Centre Management Committee.

286/13 Motion from Cllr G. Collins re Buckingham Community Centre:

That the Community Centre matter is dealt with solely by Full Council only; thus avoiding duplication of the matter from other Committees.

Following Councillors discussion of item 9 above being further discussed at F,A&P meetings Councillors immediately moved to vote.

Proposed by Cllr Lehmann, seconded by Cllr Mordue that the Community Centre matter is dealt with solely by Full Council only; thus avoiding duplication of the matter from other Committees.

A recorded vote was called for on the motion above:

For: Cllrs Lehmann, Strain-Clark, Smith and Cadd

Against: Cllrs Newell, Mordue, Stuchbury, O'Donoghue, Whyte and Harvey

For 4, Against 6, no abstentions.

The motion fell.

Cllr Stuchbury left the meeting.

*Cllrs Isham, Mahi, Bloomfield, Try, G & P Collins returned to the meeting.
The Town Clerk briefly left the room.*

Cllrs G and P Collins expressed dissatisfaction at not being called back into the Chamber for item 10 and left the meeting.

287/13 20mph Speed Limits – The Mayor’s London Roads Task Force

Cllrs deviated from Agenda order

Cllr Mahi briefly discussed the potential liability issue of the Community Centre Management Committee with the Town Clerk.

Cllrs returned to Agenda item order

Cllr Whyte requested the above item be referring to the Planning Committee.

288/13 NALC Draft Consultation: Developing the Strategy

Members received and noted the document.

289/13 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing and that following a meeting with the Planning Committee and other Councillors on 5th August to discuss the site assessments, a meeting would be set up to invite developers and landowners to a public forum on 14th September. Details would follow.

290/13 Local Government Boundary Commission: Electoral Review of Aylesbury Vale Consultation

The Town Clerk advised that a response would be required by the end of September. Members had previously agreed to write to the Boundary Commission to ensure no further subdivisions of the parish boundaries were made. Councillors discussed that Buckingham should retain its identity and that possible blurred boundaries between the town, and villages of Gawcott to the South and Maids Moreton to the North should be avoided.

Cllr Strain-Clark commented that if the boundary divisions for town and district were not the same, the voting public could become confused as to exactly who they were voting for.

Members **AGREED** that a response be sent to the Boundary Commission outlining the concerns highlighted above.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lehmann briefly left the meeting during the following item

291/13 BCC Consultation on Filming on the Highway

Councillors discussed the consultation, and noted its content.

292/13 AVDC Best Consultancy Service

Members received a published guide.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr O’Donoghue and **AGREED** that a quote be requested of the Best Consultancy Service to calculate how many hours work it would take to consider the impact of harm by the installation of a satellite dish.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Newell declared an interest in the following item as a School Governor

293/13 Correspondence

(752/12) Councillors received a response from The Royal Latin School and noted the response in which the School had taken on board the Town Council's comments and amended their admissions policy to include any child who is a registered carer.

294/13 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Whyte informed Members that in his role as Chair on Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee, Councillors were beginning a pre-enquiry into the Transport for Buckingham contract. Findings would be published after Christmas. Cllr Whyte urged the continued use of the TfB website road repair tool to report and progress repairs. The system forms part of TfB's key performance indicators and issues an acknowledgement, case number and 10 a day response time should follow.

Cllr Whyte also reported the next LAF meeting was scheduled for 26th September; there were funds still unallocated for youth projects in the area, Members were advised to get potential projects onto the agenda for consideration.

There would be several County Councillors in attendance at the Bucks County Show on the 29th August; Cllr Whyte also thanked Members for attendance at the recent TfB roadshow in Buckingham on 25th July.

295/13 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

295.1 AVDC/AVALC Liaison Meeting Notes 11/7/13

295.2 Buckingham Community Centre Minutes 28/2/13 + 28/3/13

295.3 Buckingham Community Association AGM Minutes 28/3/13

295.4 NBPPC Chairman's report & accounts – June 2013

295.5 Buckingham Economic Group Minutes 17/7/13

Members noted the reports.

296/13 Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information.

297/13 News Releases

None.

298/13 Chair's Announcements

Cllr Newell informed Members that the New Deputy Town Clerk, Christopher Robson would start on Monday 2nd September.

299/13 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 9th September 2013

Full Council – Monday 30th September 2013

Meeting closed at: 8.35pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor