

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.
on **Monday 9th September 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow,
Buckingham

Present: Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue Deputy Mayor
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. W. Whyte

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott
Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk
Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk
Ms. S. McMurtrie Town Plan Officer

353/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hiron, Bloomfield, Newell and Cllrs G & P Collins.

Mrs. McElligott introduced the new Deputy Town Clerk to Councillors.

354/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

355/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2013 and ratified at Full Council on 12th August 2013 were received.

356/13 Motion – Cllr Harvey

In every part of Buckingham from Monday to Saturday, tens of thousands of letters and packets are collected and delivered by the Royal Mail each year. This is a vital service that keeps our local economy flowing and families in touch. No wonder it is one of the UK's most treasured services. All this activity is carried out at an affordable price and gives an equal service to all our residents and businesses whether they have a low income or are millionaires.

However this service is under threat. Buckingham Town Council agrees with the members of the Communication Workers Union, when in a recent consultative ballot voted against privatisation, because "the sale of Royal Mail will undoubtedly bring higher prices alongside reduced services". As Buckingham is a rural town the privatisation will impact greatly on our townsfolk.

We resolve to write to the Business Secretary, Vince Cable and our MP, John Bercow to express our council's great concern about the proposed sale of the Royal Mail, and propose the Government to rethink their proposals. Furthermore we agree that the Town Mayor will write to Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union, conveying our full support for the "Save Our Royal Mail" campaign.

Members discussed that no official announcement had been made by the Government to sell the Royal Mail and whether action by the Town Council at the current time was prudent.

Councillors went on to debate the effect of previous privatisation of public services and the subsequent, often negative impact on employee rights and benefits; knock-on effect to the tax payer and changes to services offered by privately run companies versus those run in a public capacity.

Members also discussed the impact of such services provided to those in very rural locations, the increased loss of rural post offices in small towns and villages and whether the motion should be more focussed.

An amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr Mahi that the motion ends with - 'and propose the Government to rethink their proposals', removing the final sentence, was defeated by vote.

A recorded vote was requested for the original motion.

FOR – Cllrs O'Donoghue, Strain-Clark, Smith, Harvey, Mahi, Stuchbury, and Isham

AGAINST – Cllrs Whyte and Mordue

NO ABSTENSIONS

The original motion was carried.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/MAYOR

357/13 Invitation to the Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership event; 'Growing Together' Conference.

Cllr Smith commented that this invitation was previously known and he, along with Cllr Harvey were attending.

Members **AGREED** that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor should also attend.

Cllr Strain-Clark offered to attend if the Mayor or Deputy were unable to.

358/13 Chair's Announcements

Cllr Stuchbury advised Members that the following motion would be put before Cabinet on 17th September and requested that Members write personally to support the motion from AVDC.

2 Recommendations/for decision

2.1 That the Cabinet;

2.2 Confirms its preference in relation to the following options:

Option 1: To proceed with and adopt the main changes to the Bucks Home Choice Allocation Scheme as set out in Section 5 & 6, with the inclusion of a sub group model or;

Option 2: To proceed with and adopt the main changes to the Bucks Home Choice Allocation Scheme as set out in Section 5 & 6, without the inclusion of a sub group model.

2.3 Agrees that a report should be brought to Council on the 16th October 2013 setting out the final proposed changes to the BHC Allocation Scheme.

The full Motion is available on AVDC Website

359/13 Dates of next meetings

- Full Council - Monday 30th September 2013
- Interim Council - Monday 28th October 2013

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed **Date**