

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014** 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. P. Hirons,  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. R. Lehmann  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue Town Mayor  
 Cllr. M. Smith  
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury

**In attendance:** Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk  
 Mrs. K. McElligott for the Committee Clerk  
 Also present Mrs. A. Brubaker Events Co-ordinator

#### **46/14 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllrs. Mordue, Newell and Whyte.

#### **47/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **48/14 Land Behind Market Hill**

Motion from Cllr. Stuchbury:

In light of the land at Market Hill (recently granted planning approval for the erection of 25 apartments and 24 dwellings) being offered for sale and the long term implications for the viability and economic growth of Buckingham town centre and its car parking, I ask that Buckingham Town Council consider whether, under the general power of competence, it should buy this land to support Buckingham town centre long term, and that a vote be taken giving the Town Clerk the right to make an approach and bring back to the Council all the facts so a decision can be made on the relevant Information received.

Cllr Stuchbury outlined the reasons for his proposal; this was the last piece of undeveloped land in the town centre and if the housing went ahead it would be lost to commercial usage for generations. He drew Members' attention to the Government-funded study of the town centre concluded in 2002, which recommended mixed commercial and residential use of this site, which had lain derelict for years while various applications were proposed and discarded, and the final approval had no onsite Affordable Housing, just a financial contribution towards off-site provision.

He felt that the Town Council should investigate purchase of the land with a view to developing it as the study had advocated. It might turn out that the proposal was unviable, but the Council should at least seek out the necessary information.

The Mayor seconded Cllr Stuchbury's motion.

Members discussed the cost to the Council; besides the land price, there would be architects and other professional fees to be taken into consideration, plus interest on the loan. Several Members felt that total costs would be beyond the Council, though others felt that the chance to augment shopping in the town centre should not be foregone.

Summing up, Cllr Stuchbury referenced previous missed opportunities such as the Town Hall and the White House. The District Council was only interested in promoting Aylesbury; it behove the Town Council to make the most of its town centre for the long term, if it was possible. The Town Clerk could bring the facts of the matter for the Council to decide on feasibility.

Cllr. Lehmann advised a small outlay on an independent consultant to provide the necessary report.

Cllr. Stuchbury called for a Recorded Vote.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins, that there be no expenditure on the proposal.

Voted for the amendment: Cllrs. Bloomfield, Cadd, P. Collins, Mrs. G. Collins & Isham (5)

Voted against the amendment: Cllrs. Lehmann, Mahi, Mrs. O'Donoghue, Smith, Mrs. Strain-Clark & Stuchbury (6)

Abstentions: Cllrs. Harvey & Hiron (2)

The amendment being defeated, the original motion was voted on:

For the substantive motion: Cllrs. Bloomfield, Mrs. G. Collins, Lehmann, Mahi, Mrs. O'Donoghue, Smith, Mrs. Strain-Clark & Stuchbury (8)

Against the substantive motion: Cllrs. Cadd, P. Collins & Isham (3)

Abstentions: Cllrs. Harvey & Hiron (2)

The Motion was therefore carried.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Meeting closed at: 7.20pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor