

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 24th November 2014** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. H. Cadd
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. R. Lehmann
Cllr. A. Mahi Deputy Mayor
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue Town Mayor
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

515/14 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllr Mordue.

516/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

517/14 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2014 (**BTC/06/14**).

Agreed

518/14 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2014 (**IM/03/14**).

Agreed.

Minute 464/14 - Councillor Whyte had not been present at the meeting and commented that he was disappointed that the Town Council did not respond to the consultation over budget cuts.

The Mayor informed Cllr Whyte that Members felt that a number of key points raised previously had been ignored.

519/14 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 13th October 2014 (**PL/07/14**) and Monday 3rd November 2014 (**PL/08/14**).

Agreed.

520/14 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 27th October 2014 (**E/04/14**).
Agreed

521/14 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 October 2014 (**TCE/04/14**).
Agreed.

Minute 439/14 – The Mayor stated that the format had been set in plenty of time, as for the previous 3 years and the event had run smoothly; both schools had worked hard and well together. Both the Events Co-ordinator and the Mayor felt the event had been well led by the young people.

Cllrs Harvey and Try arrived during the following item

522/14 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 10th November 2014 (**R/04/14**)

The minutes had not been formally approved by the Chair of Resources; Members were disappointed that they were not able to agree them. They would be reviewed at the next Full Council meeting on Monday 20th January 2015.

ACTION: JANUARY FULL COUNCIL AGENDA

523/14 Motion – Cllr P Collins

To propose the Red Cross Centre, (and its land) on our "Community Right to Bid".

Cllr P Collins had not arrived in time to speak to the motion, Members moved onto the next item.

Cllr P Collins arrived during the following item

524/14 Action List

To receive and discuss the updated list (23.3/14)The Town Clerk had circulated a letter in from AVDC in response to the parking charges item. The Town Clerk informed Members that although the letter stated lighting in the car park had been upgraded there were 8 out of the 19 lights not working properly.

Members discussed the poor layout, ineffective drainage and disabled access of Cornwall's Meadow car park. Members also commented that the District Council should turn its attention to the appalling road surface.

Proposed by Cllr Lehmann, seconded by Cllr Cadd and **AGREED** that the Town Clerk write to Cllr Roberts to ask why AVDC were supporting shoppers in Wendover with an hour free parking; whilst the public visiting Buckingham had to pay.

Members **AGREED** that Cllr Roberts should in fact be asked to carry out a survey of all the traders in Buckingham to assess how the changes in parking charges had affected business; to gather information on whether the scheme was successful and

obtain relevant feedback. Cllr Strain-Clark also commented that Access for All should be approached for their opinion on disabled parking.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

(220/14) Cllr Stuchbury requested an update on the public toilets.

The Town Clerk reported that AVDC had to (in accordance with statutory guidelines) make a decision on the planning application by 3rd December. The Town Clerk had checked the planning portal and as at Full Council meeting date County highways, the Environment Agency, AVDC engineering had reported no objections or issues with the application. Comment had been received from AVDC's tree officer, though the Town Clerk reported that replanting of any affected trees would take place in Bourton Park; this had been included in the supporting documentation.

The Town Clerk informed members that the New Homes Bonus Committee had indicated they were wholly supportive of the need for public toilets in Buckingham, but were concerned about the outstanding lease position on the land and planning permission; the Committee would re-visit the application once those items were resolved.

Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should attend and speak at AVDC on behalf of the Town Council's planning application should it go to the Development Control committee for approval.

525/14 Lace Hill Playing Fields

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk informed Members of the content of his report and said that he had tried to talk to AVDC about having the land registered as an asset of community value, to be released with the potential to buy after a 6 month period. AVDC had advised they did not think that appropriate.

The Town Clerk had set out pricing given by the Green Spaces Manager for the ongoing maintenance and grass cutting; which should not exceed more that £14,000 per year to maintain.

Members discussed the report and the how important it was to of ensure residents of the Lace Hill development feel connection to and part of the town of Buckingham. Taking the playing fields on to the Town Council's estate would ensure the new community space is seen as part of the town. Members were also minded to be careful of the ongoing capital costs, not just the annual maintenance.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Smith and **AGREED** that the Town Council intend to take ownership over the playing fields and pavilion at Lace Hill following due process and negotiation with the developer; subject to a report being brought back to Full Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

A recorded vote was requested.

FOR:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield

Cllr. H. Cadd

Cllr. P. Collins

Cllr. J. Harvey

Cllr. P. Hirons

Cllr. D. Isham

Cllr. R. Lehmann

Cllr. A. Mahi

Cllr. Ms. R. Newell

Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue

Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. W. Whyte

Cllr Collins requested that the Town Clerk also clarify the position with AVDC over the community right to bid status; as had been requested previously.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

526/14 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that following the Planning Committee's instructions, Tibbalds would be carrying out a health check report on the plan. A meeting was booked for Friday 5th December; the Town Clerk requested any Members wishing to attend contact him.

Cllr Whyte commented that from a County point of view he had met with the management development team and attempted to expedite Buckingham's transport strategy.

Cllr Stuchbury had expressed concern over the eastern bypass dualling at a district planning meeting, querying why it was only to be dualled from the Milton Keynes side and up to the edge of the neighbourhood plan boundary.

527/14 DCLG Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods

To receive a prospectus for information
Received.

528/14 Hackney Carriage Service Consultation

To receive and discuss the consultation; to agree any responses

Members discussed the consultation and whilst Members agreed that taxis providers form a very important service in and around the town for varying elements of the community, the Town Clerk would respond with the following comments.

1. Taxis whether they are private hire or hackney carriage often loiter in the town centre in disabled bays and at the bus stops rather than the recognised taxi rank next to the Community Centre.
2. A gentle reminder of vehicular courtesy, driving performance and speed limits in the town was felt to be in order.
3. Consideration of the disabled or infirm when despatching suitable vehicles – difficulty with minibus vehicles. Ensure drivers are trained in assisting the disabled passenger.
4. Suggest taxi firms look into technology now available such as gps tracking systems to a) avoid taxis loitering in areas they shouldn't be and b) to investigate online booking systems.
5. New housing developments – look into providing taxi parking to be a consideration.

529/14 Accessibility Awareness Day

To receive a written report from Cllr Strain-Clark

The Mayor recorded Members thanks to both Christine and Peter Strain-Clark on a very well written and detailed report.

Cllr Strain-Clark reported on a very positive event, thanking all Members who contributed and requested the report be followed up fully by the Environment Committee.

Members commented on the very positive response from County officers who had attended the day and were taking the feedback on changes required seriously. It was generally agreed that AVDC should now come forward and take on the actions from the report that they were responsible for.

Cllr Smith (as Chair of Environment Committee) confirmed that the report would be taken in full at the next Environment Committee meeting and that Access awareness would be an ongoing agenda item; the report would be the start of a project going forward.

Cllr Harvey suggested that the report be circulated to neighbouring councils and parishes throughout Buckinghamshire, and to NALC to share ideas raised, in an attempt to bring attention to accessibility issues in other parts of the county.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

530/14 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Isham reported he had attended 2 committee meetings at District Council; 17th November Finance and 19th Budget meeting. It was the general view that District and County may be working toward a 2% precept increase.

Cllr Stuchbury reported that AVDC were looking at various housing policies following the failure of the Vale of Aylesbury's Plan; purchasing housing was one option.

Cllr Stuchbury also informed Members of the ongoing changes in Childrens Services following the negative Ofsted report.

Cllr Stuchbury went on to report on a meeting recently held with the 3 heads of the counties' grammar schools. The meeting had discussed the percentage of children passing the 11+ exam. Cllr Stuchbury reported that the Buckingham schools had the highest number of children passing the exam in the county.

A new report on internet and cyber stalking would also be published shortly.

Cllr Whyte reported that the new cabinet member for children's services Lin Hazell had that day been appointed; the interim head of department had also been made permanent.

Cllr Whyte informed Members of the next LAF meeting on Tuesday 2nd December, the hospital review was amongst subjects on a full agenda.

Transport for Buckingham had produced a new online tool for the reporting of potholes, streetlights etc and have an app available to download for both android and apple products – see <http://transportforbucks.net/report-it-pothole.aspx>

Cllr Whyte also reported that the legal teams at Buckinghamshire County Council and the Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have set up an alternative business structure; still owned by County to provide cheaper availability to public law services.

Road works - re-surfacing at West St was now complete; drainage works on the A422 to the west of town were also finished.

Cllr Whyte was to attend a meeting at Silverstone Park in the coming week where the development continues to expand on the Buckinghamshire county side; providing future employment growth. Silverstone circuit's management committee were also in conversation regarding stopping the regular Friday diversions on race weekends which cause difficulties for commuters in the area.

The recent public transport enquiry by the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee had identified the need to develop a new department – who would enable the commissioning of transport service County wide.

Finally Cllr Whyte thanked the Town Council for its support of the Buckingham Centre for Arts and encouraged Members to access the Film Place who would be celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2015.

531/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports listed below:

531.1 Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group Minutes 9th September 2014

531.2 Buckingham Centre for the Arts AGM report 13 November 2014

532/14 Buckingham Society AGM

To receive an invitation and Newsletter

Received

533/14 CPRE Buckinghamshire Voice

To receive a bulletin for information

Received

534/14 Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

535/14 News Releases

None

536/14 Chair's Announcements

The Town Clerk put forward a request from the Planning Clerk for Members to attend the Strategic Planning meeting at AVDC for Moreton Road phase 3 – please get in touch with the office.

537/14 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 22nd December 2014

Precept Monday 12th January 2015

Full Council – Monday 19th January 2015

Meeting closed at: 8.50pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor