

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:05pm following the Public Session.

**Present:** Cllr. Ms. J. Bates  
 Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. M. Cole  
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try

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

**146/16 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllrs. Mrs. M. Gateley, Ms. R. Newell and M. Smith.

**147/16 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this point. Cllr. Hirons declared an interest before item 10 (Min.155).

**148/16 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. **(BTC/03/16)**

**149/16 Interim Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 **(IM/01/16)**

**150/16 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 **(PL/15/15)**

887/15 Discussed and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the information board at Hunter St Churchyard be re-instated.

**AGREED**

It was reported that a member of the Buckingham Society had collected the board from the Church, so presumably reinstatement was in hand.

The numbering was corrected to PL/17/15.

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 **(PL/01/16)**

42.2/16 Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that through the Town Action Commission, the Town Council bring together various groups within the town to have formal discussion on the subject. To establish a Town Action Commission with a focus on maintain, enhancing and preserving trees and hedgerows within the town.

**AGREED**

In answer to a query, 'Town' was defined as everywhere within the parish boundary.

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (**PL/02/16**)

**151/16 Recommendation from Planning 21/3/16**

859/15 Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council decline the offer to join with the other Councils named and Mr. Homer to formulate a strategic plan as described.

**AGREED**

Members were advised the above recommendation was missed from the last Full Council agenda in May. The letter rejecting Mr. Homer's offer had been sent.

The Town Clerk's had been asked for his advice; Members felt that it was prudent to follow this - that a strategic approach be taken with the other settlements and that at least an initial meeting be held to ascertain the position of the other areas.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**152/16 Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 (**E/01/16 v.2**).

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for clarification of Minute 99/16; he felt the minute was not full enough. The Town Clerk explained that an item on the invoice was queried but a satisfactory response was given at the meeting.

**153/16 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 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 (**TCE/01/16**)

The last sentence wording of Min.65/16 was amended to

*The review of the Charter Fair accounts concluded the Committee scrutinised the higher cost of events falling within its remit.*

**154/16 Resources Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (**R/01/16**).

133/16

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that each Councillor should have a maximum 5 minutes per report on matters that impact Buckingham; under Full Council item 'To receive reports from District and County Councillors'

**AGREED**

134/16 (Cotton End steps); reference was made to correspondence on this subject, but it was pointed out that this had occurred after the 13<sup>th</sup> June so was not discussed in the meeting.

146/16 (new depot); the decision to rent had been made at an earlier meeting but the precise rental figure had not been available; its inclusion in these minutes regularised the matter in the opinion of the Internal Auditor. The word 'Noted' was changed to 'Agreed'.

Cllr. Hirons declared an interest in the following item as a Trustee of the Friends of Buckingham Library.

**155/16 Motion – Cllr Stuchbury**

To propose that Buckingham Town Council become a Friend of Buckingham Library and agree a contribution to the library; to appoint a Member of the Council to the Friends of Buckingham Library group to attend their meetings and report back to the Town Council.

Cllr. Hirons reported he was a trustee.

Members discussed the motion, noting that such support might set a precedent for other organisations, and that if Councillors took out individual Memberships it would generate more funds than a single corporate Membership. Cllr. Stuchbury felt that the Mayor *ex officio* should be the representative.

Cllr. Harvey proposed an amended proposal; if Cllr. Stuchbury agreed the amended wording, he would second the motion.

The amended version read

To propose that Buckingham Town Council become a corporate sponsor of the Friends of Buckingham Library and agree to pay £50 to the organisation; to attend their meetings, maintain liaison and report back to the Town Council.

Members voted 6 for the revised motion, 6 against, with Cllrs. Hirons and Mahi abstaining; the motion was not therefore passed.

It was generally agreed that all Members should join the Friends and support the Library.

**156/16 Action List**

156.1 (833/16; Acts of Random Kindness) Members felt that this should be Random Acts of Kindness. The Town Clerk summarised as follows: boxes had been placed in the Library, the Old Gaol, Sainsbury's and Tesco; the fifth was in the office following repair and was destined for Aldi. The Deputy Town Clerk would empty the boxes at the end of the month. Members felt that the scheme should be publicised.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

156.2 (710/15; Buckingham Partnership) Cllr. Harvey suggested calling a meeting of the Partnership to heal post-referendum divisions, but this was dismissed as being beyond the remit of the Partnership.

156.3 (310/15; AVDC Devolved Services) The Town Clerk was asked to pursue a formal reply to this letter.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

156.4 (541/15; MKCCG consultation) Cllr. Stuchbury felt that a meeting was still needed – the public still had concerns. Cllr. Mrs. Collins said that she had attended a meeting, and that MK Hospital was confirmed as a Major Accident Centre, and that Maternity services would be retained at Bedford Hospital. There would be a public consultation, she would check the dates of this.

**ACTION CLLR. G. COLLINS/TOWN CELRK**

**157/16 Annual return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Proposed by Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** unanimously that the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounts Statement be signed by the Mayor.

**158/16 (98/16) Disabledgo**

Cllr Strain-Clark reported that the representative at DisabledGo had left suddenly and an interim officer was in place. A table of venues surveyed and others not yet surveyed or which did not want to be included had been circulated.

Members expressed concern at the number of restaurants in the latter category. The Acting Chair, Mr. Russell, was intending to visit all and encourage them to take part, pointing out that it cost the business nothing and could encourage custom. It wasn't just for wheelchair accessibility, it was for other disabilities such as visual. Cllr. Strain-Clark was thanked for her work on this project.

*Cllr. Mordue left the meeting.*

#### **159/16 (93/16 & 902/15) Town Action Commission – preservation of trees in Buckingham**

Action point via Environment Committee 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016:

93.1 To choose two members to take a lead on the Town Action Commission regarding the preservation of trees in Buckingham.

93.2 Cllr Strain-Clark indicated that she could take on a small role in this project.

93.3 Cllr. Harvey reiterated the point of the Town Action Commission. It is about drawing together a report that could then go out to other organisations. The aim of the Town Action Commission is to involve the public in working alongside Councillors. It's about encouraging people to be involved in a public effort to make a difference in the town.

93.4 Discussions continued over the sort of person who might be suited to leading it, but a decision couldn't be reached on a suitable candidate(s).

93.5 **Proposed** by Cllr. Smith and **AGREED** by Members that this should go back to Full Council for further discussion.

Members discussed the loss of trees, and made reference to the loss of trees at Station Terrace and total clearance of the riverbank along the Tingewick Industrial Park ("Clarence Park") despite its designation as a 9m wildlife buffer "to be retained unmanaged". A residents' group from across the river was seeking to have this remedied and had been in correspondence with AVDC, EA and Taylor Wimpey, using FoI requests to elicit information.

There being no Councillors present willing to take the lead in the matter, it was suggested that this might be suitable for a Buckingham Partnership meeting.

It was **AGREED** unanimously to defer the subject to the next appropriate meeting.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **160/16 Mayor's Reception**

To discuss the format of the reception and consider the following suggestions:

- (a) At the start, before Councillors process in, the Town Crier also ask for guests to be upstanding (the Mace Bearer role is traditionally silent, and it is a bit of an anachronism that s/he be required to speak on this occasion)
- (b) The event to have a Master of Ceremonies (MC) - maybe the Town Clerk or the Town Crier (with his volume turned down)
- (c) The MC announces speakers in turn, and say what's going on (eg the Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance etc)
- (d) Mayor robing and all awards etc take place in front of the regalia table, so everyone can see
- (e) That at the end of the formal business, guests be clearly advised of the buffet tables, and someone (the MC?) remain to direct them once Councillors had processed out.

Members discussed Cllr. Smith's suggestions, Cllr. Newell's emailed comments and particular problems encountered at this year's event. (a) found no support, (b) and (c) only if the MC was the Senior Councillor or Town Clerk, (d) a good idea and (e) this was normally done by the Mayor in his/her closing remarks.

The lack of a microphone meant some guests could not hear (a microphone had been arranged, but was not available due to damage).

The law is that the Chairman of the Council be elected at the first meeting of the Full Council in the new year (May) but there is no reason why this cannot be the same occasion as a Reception, as it used to be in Buckingham and still is at other Councils.

Proposed by Cllr. G. Collins, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, that the Annual Statutory Meeting be reunited with Mayormaking as before.

For the proposal 8, against 2 with 3 abstentions, therefore **carried**.

**161/16 Moretonville Junior Football Club**

To receive and discuss an email requesting support.

Members agreed that a letter of support be sent, and details of the autumn grant application process. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**162/16 Cabinet Members Reports Bucks County Council**

To note questions raised by Buckingham Members and responses received.

Noted.

**163/16 (117/16 Planning) BALC response**

To receive advice reference temporary leave of absence for Chairman

Members agreed to accept the advice from BALC that the Chairman may take a temporary leave of absence from the role on personal grounds, allowing him to attend meetings while Cllr. Cole takes the Chair.

**164/16 Correspondence**

164.1 To receive an email from Mr Boileau, Royal Latin School

164.2 To note a letter from BALC

Members noted the correspondence.

**165/16 Reports from District & County Members**

Cllr. Stuchbury intended to suggest amendments to the VALP document to be considered the following night at the AVDC Special Meeting.

He was also intending to submit a written question to the Cabinet Member on compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

He had become concerned that BCC was concentrating on improving Children's Services to the detriment of services for the elderly. He knew of some instances where these had fallen below an acceptable level and appealed for any further examples to be sent to him.

BCC was progressing the idea of a Unitary Authority, but did not appear to be discussing this with other Authorities in order to achieve the optimum outcome.

**166/16 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

166.1 Minutes of the Community Centre Management Committee of 21/01/2016

166.2 Minutes of the Buckingham Twinning Association held on 4/5/2016

166.3 Minutes of the Access for All meeting held on 9/5/2016

166.4 Minutes of Destination Buckingham Group held on 14/06/2016

Members noted the reports.

**167/16 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements**

Members noted the information.

**168/16 News Releases**

The following were agreed:

(156.1; Random Acts of Kindness): The Town Clerk would base an item on the responses gathered and publicise the box locations.

(158; DisabledGo)

(165; VALP) Reaction to outcome of Special Meeting

**169/16 Chair’s Announcements**

The Mayor noted the news that Verney Close GP practice was amalgamating with the Swan Practice.

**170/16 Dates of next meetings**

Interim Council – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Full Council - Monday 15th August 2016

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

Town Mayor