

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 12th December 2016** at 7.02pm following a Public Session in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	Vice Chairman
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Chair
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Ms. C. Childs	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs S. Hoareau	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre Co-ordinator
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

631/16 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. P. Collins & Mahi.

632/16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. O'Donoghue declared an interest in agenda item 8 as a resident on Linden Village housing estate.

Cllr. Stuchbury declared an interest in agenda item 7 as he had held recent correspondence with the Officer concerned.

Cllr. Strain-Clark declared an interest in agenda item 11 as a Friend of Buckingham University.

633/16 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 24th October 2016 and approved at Full Council on the 21st November 2016 were **AGREED** and there were no matters arising.

Members **AGREED** to take agenda item 9 next for the benefit of Officers present.

634/16 Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre Event 26th November 2016

To receive a verbal report from the Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre Coordinator (LHSCC Co-ordinator).

The LHSCC Co-ordinator tabled leaflets and slides concerning recent activity at Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre, highlighting the following:

- Updated Induction process for new hirers.
- Established key holder policy.
- Reviewed risk assessment, fire and health & safety procedures.

- Created and disseminated marketing items for the Centre.
- Focusing on attracting long-term hirers for daytime and weekend bookings.
- Updating Town Council webpage to promote the Centre.
- Seeking quotations for Badminton nets and posts.

The LHSCC Co-ordinator noted the forthcoming events/classes:

- Baby Sensory Sing/Sign classes starting January 2017
- Glee Choir starting January 2017
- Family Fun Day/Summer BBQ 2017
- Parent Baby & Toddler Group starting January 2017

Cllr O'Donoghue asked how the nursery at LHSCC and the Toddler Group differ. The LHSCC Co-ordinator explained that she would run the Toddler Group with help from parent volunteers. Sessions would last 2 hours and take place on either a Monday or Friday afternoon in the Sports Hall. In contrast to the nursery, parents stay and play with their children and sessions are free. The LHSCC Co-ordinator explained it was an opportunity for parents to get involved and meet other families in the area.

Members discussed and **AGREED** to consider quotes for the provision of badminton facilities at a future Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that provision has been made within the Precept budget for the purchase of new equipment.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury requested use of the Centre's Wi-Fi when visiting on Council business. The LHSCC Co-ordinator explained that hirers will be able to use the Wi-Fi once an Internet Policy was in place. LHSCC Co-ordinator to circulate the Wi-Fi password to Members.

ACTION LHSCC CO-ORDINATOR

Cllr. Newell thanked the LHSCC Co-ordinator for attending and for all her hard work.

The agenda order was resumed.

635/16 Action Report

86.3/16 (Festival of Health) – Cllr. Harvey apologised that he had not been in a position to submit a written report to December's Committee. He reported expressions of interest from Oxford Brookes, NHS England and Chief Nursing Officers. Cllr. Harvey **AGREED** to produce a written report for the February Committee.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK/CLLR HARVEY

215/11 (Renewable Energy) – Cllr. Stuchbury requested a copy of the correspondence with AVE.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

90/16 (Table Tennis, Bourton Park) – GSM confirmed work was to start in Spring 2017

84/16 (Cemetery Handbook) – Members held a discussion on the appearance of graves at Brackley Road Cemetery and **AGREED** the cemetery handbook should be an agenda item for February's Committee.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

636/16 Budgets

To receive the latest figures

AGREED

Cllr. Newell to investigate year to date spend on the new toilets and feedback to members.

ACTION CLLR NEWELL

637/16 Precept

To discuss and agree Committee recommendations for the forthcoming Precept budget

(Shopmobility) – Members **AGREED** to amend the budget heading as Shopmobility was under a Resources' cost centre.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

249 (Public Toilets) – The GSM confirmed that the budget was for cleaning toilets at Chandos Park, Moreton Road and the new facility. Further, it includes a maintenance fee for electronic door systems.

Members discussed and **AGREED** the latest figures and that any unspent funds in the Environment budgets be put into the Parks Development budget in Earmarked reserves (9035/901) at year end.

The LHSCC Co-ordinator left the Chamber at this point.

638/16 Railway Walk Group Funding

To discuss providing a budget for the Railway Walk Group

Members held a discussion on the history of the Railway Walk Group and noted their appreciation of the conservation work and improvements the group had made to the area. Members **AGREED** for the GSM to contact the Group and establish their willingness and ability to manage annual funding.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** (in principle) to provide the Railway Walk Group with an annual budget.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

639/16 Linden Village Parking

To discuss parking on the green open space at March End as requested by Cllr. Harvey.

Cllr. Harvey informed Members this had been a subject of concern for residents of Linden Village and had been discussed on the Facebook group 'Buckingham What Matters'. He petitioned Members to investigate who owned the parcel of land and seek a title transfer to the District Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **AGREED** to contact Land Registry and establish who owns the land with a view to putting measures in place to prevent parking on the greenspaces.

Cllr Smith proposed the following amendment to the proposal:

'..to contact Land Registry and establish who owns the green open spaces on Linden Village with a view to putting measures in place to prevent parking on the greenspaces'

Amendment seconded by Cllr. Hirons and **AGREED** by Members.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER.

640/16 Sports Pitch Provision

To receive an update from the Town Clerk

[Town Clerk's note: The County Officers who were at the meeting and on who I am awaiting information have not responded and appear to be off on long term absences or have left the council. I have asked Cllr. Stuchbury to see who I should contact for follow up but have not had a reply so far.]

Cllr Stuchbury asked for a copy of the original email correspondence.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

641/16 Scenic Walk Transfer

Members to discuss AVDC's recommendation to transfer their portion of Scenic Walk to Buckingham Town Council.

Members debated the merits and potential liabilities of owning and maintaining two railway bridges. Members were in agreement of the amenity value of the Scenic Walk and its potential to link the new development on Tingewick Road with the Town.

Cllr. Smith stressed that the Town Council did not need to own the land but ensure the preservation of the right of way along the entirety of the walk, including the portion through the University's land. Cllr. Hirons said there was another permissive route from end of Station Terrace towards the old platform (no more than 5 yards). Members **AGREED** to carryout an investigation into rights of way along the Railway and Scenic walks.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

642/16 Dog Fouling Bylaws

To receive a response from AVDC and agree how to progress the matter.

Members noted the response and asked for the GSM to reply with the following requests:

- Members to be informed when he District Dog Warden visits Buckingham.
- Members to receive an incident report on the most recent patrols in Buckingham.
- Members to be informed of the cost (per hour) of additional patrols.

Members discussed implementing a dog fouling bylaw on Lace Hill Sports Pitch and agreed that it was not worth putting in place unless an Officer could be employed to enforce the bylaw.

Cllr. Harvey suggested using posters showing the effects of Toxoplasmosis, or placing a dispenser of biodegradable dog bags on the side of dog bins. Members agreed that the irresponsible action of some dog owners is having a detrimental effect on the environment of Buckingham's streets and greenspaces and is posing a potential health risk, particularly to young children. Members said they were receiving frequent complaints and the issue was causing conflict between dog walkers in the parks and greenspaces across Buckingham. Cllr. Smith remarked that it was likely the main offenders walked their dogs early in the morning and late at night and perhaps the Town Council should consider employing someone locally to be the Town's Dog Warden and patrol during unsociable hours.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed launching a competition open to all residents of the town to design a poster telling dog owners to 'scoop the poop'. The competition could involve local schools and would run in parallel with discussions (across various platforms) on what can happen if someone was to contract an infection from dog waste. Cllr. Stuchbury said a shortlist of entries can be voted for on Facebook and the Council's website. Cllr. Harvey seconded Cllr. Stuchbury's proposal and Members **AGREED** to investigate the idea of a poster competition. **ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER**
Members **AGREED** to investigate the cost of installing bag dispensers and improved signage across the parks. **ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER**

643/16 Access Awareness

Cllr Stuchbury informed Members there were designs available for remedial works at Cotton End Steps. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to prepare a response to the design statements. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

644/16 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

644.1/16 BCWP – Minutes of the 24th October 2016
Noted.

644.2/16 Buckingham Town Action Commission – Minutes of 17th November 2016

Members discussed the minute's reference of a bridge from Heartlands into the Cricket Pitch. Cllr. Newell explained that it had been considered as part of the circular walk but had been rejected as too costly as the Environment Agency required the structure to be extended in height and length. Members **AGREED** that the updates from the Town Action Commission should have a separate agenda item in all future Environment Committee's. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

645/16 News Releases

Press release on the dog fouling competition for the new spring term.

646/16 Chair's Announcements

None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th February 2017

Meeting closed at: 20.37

Chair..... Date.....

**NOTES ON THE PUBLIC SESSION HELD BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12TH DECEMBER 2016 AT 7PM**

Mr. John Russell thanked Members for their continued support of the Access for All Group.

The Chair/Cllr Newell thanked Mr Russell for attending the meeting and for his kind words.

Mr. Russell left the Chamber at 19.02

