

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT  
BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007 AT 7 PM.**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Councillors	J. Barnett	
		H. Cadd	
		P. Collins	(Mayor)
		Mrs. P. Desorgher	
		D. Isham	
		R. Lehmann	
		H. Lewis	
		G. Loftus	
		H. Mordue	
		Ms. R. Newell	
		Mrs. H. Saul	
		Mrs. P. Stevens	
		Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
		P. Strain-Clark	
		R. Stuchbury	
	Guest	Mr. R. Newall – Aylesbury Vale District Council	
	Town Clerk	Mrs P. J. Heath	

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**2907 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were declarations of prejudicial interest for item 10 on the agenda, Community Centre Toilets, by Cllrs. Isham, Cadd, P. Strain-Clark, and Mordue as members of the Management Committee, Cllr. Desorgher as Chairman of the Community Centre Management Committee. Cllr. Collins notified members he sat on the Management Committee as the Town Council representative. Cllr. C. Strain-Clark declared a personal interest as the wife of P. Strain-Clark.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **AGREED** to move item 11 “Presentation and discussion on the draft planning guidelines for the land to the rear of Market Hill” to be heard next.*

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Mr Roger Newall of Aylesbury Vale District Council to address the Members.*

**2908 RECEIVE A PRESENTATION AND DISCUSS THE DRAFT PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR THE LAND TO THE REAR OF MARKET HILL.**

Mr Newall explained the draft planning guidelines and maps which had been circulated to all Members with the agenda. Members questioned and sought clarification on some points raised by Mr Newall. It is proposed that the development will be mixed retail and residential with the possibility of providing sufficient floor space to encourage “high street” shops to come to Buckingham.

The woodland at the Western Avenue end of the site could be enhanced and improved using section 106 monies from the development; this would also be used to renovate the old summer house which is a listed building. The development access would be vehicular from the Moreton Road; this would require enhancement of the entrance but as the current accesses from the entry road are in the same ownership this would be possible. There would be no vehicular access from either West Street or Western Avenue. Pedestrian access would be from Western Avenue and Market Hill past the retail units. The informal pedestrian access between Overn Crescent garages and West Street will be formalised. There will be 30% Affordable Housing and a further 10% low cost housing on the site.

Members thanked Mr Newall for attending the meeting.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.*

## **2909 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and the Interim meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Town Clerk confirmed, following a query by a Councillor, that no response or acknowledgement had been received from the letters and reminders sent to the Buckinghamshire PCT and the Mental Health Trust inviting them to attend a Council Meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **AGREED** to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing concern that neither body had responded to the Town Council's letters.

**ACTION THE TOWN CLERK**

## **2910 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were informed of the following items

### **2910.1 NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES**

THE FOLLOWING BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS ARE IN THE OFFICE

BCC – OPTIONS NEWSLETTER JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2007

BALC – MATTERS ARISING – MARCH 2007

BUCKS PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION – WINTER 2006 -2007

COMMUNITY ACTION – THE BIG TIMES – FEBRUARY 2007

COMMUNITY ACTION – IN FOCUS ISSUE NO 37

### **2910.2 DIS**

ISSUES NUMBER 650, 651, 652

## **2911 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **2911.1 PLANNING – 12.02.07 & 05.03.07**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

### **2911.2 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 19.02.07**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

### **2911.3 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 26.02.07**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

*(266 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council allows the Town Clerk to carry forward any TOIL hours still owing at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.)*

#### **AGREED**

*(267 Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that a new sub-section under 8 MOTION be created as follows "DISCUSSION of MOTION AND AMENDMENTS: Any motion issued under 8 (a) or an amendment of a motion shall be moved but not discussed or a vote taken unless a seconder has been named prior to that discussion but after the motion has been put." )*

*(267. Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that an additional sub section under 13 VOTING be created as follows "CASTING VOTE: In the case of an equality of votes the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. )*

#### **AGREED**

### **2911.4 EVENTS 12.03.07**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

*(372 Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RECOMMENDED** that the collection be divided between the Baby Café and Helen House Hospice [as per Minute 2006/249 ratified 30<sup>th</sup> May 2006]).*

#### **AGREED**

## **2912 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- 6.1 BCC/AVDC/all District Councils – Buckinghamshire Pathfinder Submission to Government Letter and book
- 6.2 AVDC Grass Cutting on Bucks Maps
- 6.3 BCC – Library opening times
- 6.4 Buckingham Twinning Association – Thank you for town signs
- 6.5 Thames Valley Police – Confidential Crime figures
- 6.6 AVDC – Notice of Hearing 28.03.07 – BP Licence

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Collins would attend to represent the Town Council's view.

- 6.7 Bedford Drainage Board – 2006 review and budget
- 6.8 Thames Valley Police – Community Police Awards 2007
- 6.9 AVDC – Standards Committee Agenda and Minutes

Members were asked to note the contents of the minutes and reports attached in respect of the proposed changes to the code of conduct and the nomination of independent parish councillors to the standards committee.

The Clerk informed the Council that the new Code of Conduct is expected to be published by the Government on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and will have to be adopted by the Council within 6 months; in practical terms it means that Councillors will have to sign the declaration of office and register of interest under the current code of conduct then re-sign when the new code has been adopted.

- 6.10 NALC – All about Parishes & Town Councils

The Town Clerk thanked the Councillors for their help and support over the previous 4 years.

## **2913 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### 2913.1 Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group – Cllr. Collins

Cllr. Barnett declared a personal interest as a member of the Community Plan Steering Group. The first phase of the work is due to start in May with the creation of a footpath on the Heartlands. The access for the work will be via the emergency access route off Bridge Street; the contract has an undertaking to reinstate the area once the work has been completed.

### 2913.2 Buckingham Partnership minutes

Members were updated on points raised at the partnership meeting by the Town Council representatives. Coach Park – the District Council would look at the use of the Athletic Football Club Car Park for the Coach Park. Town Signs – the locations for the two finger posts provided by the Town Council were discussed. The same design was being considered by the Circular Walk Group. BP Garage – the police confirmed that they had not objected to the recent application for extended hot food licence. Moreton Road Toilets – the District Council confirmed that they had been built the wrong way round but hoped that the recent changes will answer many of the complaints. Speed Review – it was reported that the last speed review would take place in 2009 with implementation in 2010. Ford Street – the County Council stated at the meeting that they do not own Ford Street in Buckingham. Members expressed surprise at this comment as they had declared ownership when the plans for Cooper's Yard were being considered.

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **AGREED** that the Council obtain a land registry search for the length of Ford Street from Well Street to Chandos Road.

### 2913.3 Buckingham Twinning Association minutes

The Members noted the Buckingham Twinning Association minutes which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were reminded of the Civic Visit in April and were informed that the gift to Mouvaux of an English oak has been purchased and is waiting in Mouvaux for the official dedication.

## **2914 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the invoices per attached list be approved.

## **2915 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT**

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the list of retrospective payments per attached list be approved

## **2916 RECEIVE A REPORT, DISCUSS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPECT OF THE USE BY THE PUBLIC OF COMMUNITY CENTRE TOILETS**

*Councillors Cadd, Isham and P. Strain-Clark, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the meeting.*

The Town Clerk read the letter received from the Community Centre prior to the meeting in which they confirm that the agreement would be terminated on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007. It was

confirmed that the Town Council would cease paying for the toilets to be open from that date; they would then revert to being open at the discretion of the Manager and Hirers.

The Town Council representative who had been negotiating with the Community Centre Management Committee for the continuation of the agreement reported to the Council on their last meeting confirming that the Community Centre Management Committee were aware of the options currently being investigated to provide additional toilets in Buckingham.

Members expressed their sadness at the Community Centre Management Committee decision to terminate the agreement. Cllr. Collins and Cllr. Desorgher confirmed that the toilets would continue to be open on a grace and favour basis by the Manager of the Centre and Hirers.

It was noted that at a recent AGM only 1 member of the public attended.

Members discussed the need for a notice to be displayed advising the public of the changing arrangements. It was noted that the role of the Town Council representatives was to feed into both organisations the comments and feeling of the other.

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** that a letter expressing the Town Council's sadness be sent to the Chairman of the Management Committee.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RESOLVED** that a notice be displayed explaining that the Agreement has been terminated and that the toilets will now be open subject to the Manager's or Hirer's decision.

*Cllrs. Isham, Cadd and P. Strain-Clark returned to the meeting.*

#### **2917 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MOVE OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BUCKINGHAM CENTRE AND TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON AN ALTERNATIVE OFFER**

The Town Clerk explained to Members that following the 5<sup>th</sup> February Full Council Meeting a letter was sent to Bucks. County Council asking for a meeting to discuss the hiring of the Buckingham Centre; after chasing a response the Council were informed that the Property and Tenants Manager would contact the Clerk to arrange a meeting; this has still to be arranged.

The Town Clerk informed Members that following the recent publicity in the newspaper an offer had been made to the Town Council for them to rent the ground floor of Chandos House, School Lane, the premises being large enough to accommodate both the Chamber and office space. Members noted the offer but felt any further discussion depended on the following item.

#### **2918 RECEIVE THE MOTION RE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER EXTENSION AS ATTACHED**

*This Council rescinds the resolution under Minute 2899 in the Minutes of the Buckingham Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007, because it believes these decisions are premature given that the Town Council does not have sufficient information available at this time to make an informed decision.*

*This Council believes that we should not waste the 20K already spent on this project but continue with our plans until we have detailed costs, together with information on funding available, and details on the feasibility of using other facilities in the Town, to enable the new Council to make a fully informed decision.*

Cllr. Lewis, supported by Cllrs Cadd, Barnett and Lehmann rising in their places as per standing order 13 (a), called for a recorded vote.

Members discussed at great length and in detail the motion, the background of the original motion under minute no 2899, and the subsequent discussions in the local newspaper. It was noted that there were two motions under 2899, a general motion to look for alternative premises and a more detailed motion which specified the location of those new premises which conflicted in essence with the first part.

The following points were made during the discussion which represented the member's personal views:

- The main requirement of the extension was the improvement of facilities and staff accommodation and not the housing of the furniture
- The original motion had not provided all the facts and costs in relation to either option
- There had been inadequate investigations done prior to the motions as to the cost of the extension.
- No decision or plan been presented as to the funding of the project
- No decision should be made without all the costs and implications known
- There could be structural problems with creating the extension due to the building design; there should be a structural engineers' report.
- The extension building work would effect the Community Centre; would they be compensated?
- The Community Centre did not want the storage so it should be turned into Public Toilets
- The Community Centre had been involved with the discussions all through and had asked for the storage and increased infrastructure
- Public toilets are a District Council responsibility, the tax payers of Buckingham should not pay for a service used primarily by those from outside the Parish
- It was not best value to build an extension for one night a week for a Council Meeting
- The Council Chamber would be used by local groups and organisations as was the current chamber until the Council stopped its use; they wanted to come back
- Work carried out unnecessarily - a quantity survey could provide budget figures from the plans
- All members had seen the minutes/plans/had opportunity to question the architect & Chairman - why wait until going out to tender to object?
- Office space is claustrophobic – need to give staff room as soon as possible

The Town Clerk explained that the offer received by the Council for Chandos House would have been presented to the Environment and Property Committee who have the responsibility for the project as another possible option; this could then have come back to the Council under standing order 12. The Motion under 2899 which is specific as to where the Council is to seek premises prevented any other course of action.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Saul, seconded by Cllr Lehmann that an additional line be added “...*That there would be no additional cost to the Council for the undertaking of this work.*”  
The amendment was agreed by 14 votes to 0

The substantive motion was put and a recorded vote taken

*This Council rescinds the resolution under Minute 2899 in the Minutes of the Buckingham Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007, because it believes these decisions are premature given that the Town Council does not have sufficient information available at this time to make an informed decision.*

*This Council believes that we should not waste the 20K already spent on this project but continue with our plans until we have detailed costs, together with information on funding available, and details on the feasibility of using other facilities in the Town, to enable the new Council to make a fully informed decision. And that there would be no additional cost to the Council for the undertaking of this work*

For the motion: - Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Newell, Cllr. Cadd, Cllr. Desorgher, Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, Cllr. Saul, Cllr. Lewis, Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, Cllr. Stevens, Cllr. Loftus.

Against the motion: - Cllr. Barnett, Cllr. Lehmann, Cllr. Collins.

### **2919 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

There were no comments from the County and District Councillors present.

### **2920 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS**

#### 2920.1 Mayor as Ex officio representative

The Mayor reported that he found it difficult being the Town Council representative on some of the organisations as they require a lot more input than his time allowed; it was felt that this should be noted when the allocation of representatives is done after the appointment of the Mayor.

#### 2920.2 New Mayor's Diary

Members were asked to note for the new Mayor's diary the 19<sup>th</sup> May to open S<sup>t</sup>. Peters and S<sup>t</sup>. Paul's Church Fete.

#### 2920.3 Annual Town Meeting

Members were reminded that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March; he hoped all Councillors would attend.

In response to a query the Clerk explained that the Finance and Administration Committee had put forward a recommendation to Council which was accepted to alter the format in line with Best Practice and legislation. The County Council and District Council were sending officers to speak.

As this was the last meeting the Mayor would be at before the elections when several Members were standing down, Members thanked the Mayor for the work he had done over the previous 2 years.

*The following items were heard under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 which excludes members of the Public due to the confidential and financial nature of the business to be discussed.*

**2921 RECEIVE FOR APPROVAL THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AND, THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE INTERIM MEETING HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007.**

**2922 RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES/NOTES AND ADOPT ANY RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN**

17.1 Finance and Administration                      dated    15.01.07 & 26.02.07

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

**CHAIRMAN..... DATE.....**