

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 21st October 2019** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Chair
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mr P Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs N Stockill	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

A Member of the public attended the Public Session to report unauthorised tree works on a Yew tree bordering one of Western Avenue's resident car parks. Members suspected that the Yew Tree had a Tree Protection Order (TPO) which, in general, makes it a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order, without AVDC's permission. Members **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to investigate and report back.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**444/19 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies from Town Councillors O'Donoghue, Cole, Gateley and County Councillor Whyte.

445/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

446/19 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 and received at Full Council on the 30th September 2019.

447/19 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.
Sports Pitch Provision (206/18) Town Clerk to email Committee an update once received.
AccessAble (xx/19) To attend Full Council on the 18th November 2019
Bollards – Land does not belong to BTC and chance of gaining permission form Deloitte is slim.

Out of hours – reviewed in office and can not see a cost effective way forward. The expenditure wouldn't justify the service. Looking at Saturday working for green spacing Team in the park in the future.

448/19 **Budgets**

Members received the latest figures.

Gas and electricity at Lace Hill – Contract up for renewal in January.

Shopmobility – Members noted that the service was open and being covered by staff from the office and TIC.

449/19 **Business Plan & Precept (E/80/19)**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk noting that the budget included a new line to account for bridge repairs in Bourton Park.

Cllr. Harvey asked:

Solar Panels Maintenance projecting £0 budget – moved into Lace Hill utilities budget.

Lace Hill Play area increased from £2-£4k – Total of play area budgets to account for investment in play areas over the coming years.

Expenditure over Income 2010 projecting 383k and up to 494k increase by 20% - when you add four committees together it results in 2.6% increase for next year. So 2.6% is next year only and beyond then the increase in income for new properties hasn't been forecast.

Cllr Stuchbury asked for a budget heading for Tingewick Road's Commuted sum.

Cllr. Smith asked if the replacement of play area equipment was being budgeted in the five-year plan. The Town Clerk said the budget will be increased but would reconsider inline with the predicted lifetime of play area equipment.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr Stuchbury asked when the costs for burials in the new cemetery would be published.

Members AGREED the recommendations as follows:

It is recommended that the Committee agree the proposed revisions to be included in the new Business Plan.

It is recommended that the Committee consider the proposed five-year budget, including the proposed budget for 2020/21 to be included in the precept, and recommend any changes required to enable a revised version to be provided for the next meeting of the Environment Committee to review before the budget is provided for Full Council to consider at the Precept meeting in January 2020.

450/19 **Climate Change Action Plan E/81/19**

Members received a written report, agree the proposed objectives and comment on the draft Action Plan.

Cllr. Stuchbury noted 'purchase all possible' to be changed to TC&E. Cllr Stuchbury also recommended adding target dates to all actions.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested removing the word 'supporting' from point 3.2

AGREED

Cllr. Harvey explained that 2030 rather than 2050 is relevant to the UK as a more affluent counties.

Cllr Harvey item 4. Water shortage and ways to reduce water consumption at home. Change wording to “materials and ongoing resources e.g. water”

Cllr Harvey said we accepted one motion for the whole town to become zero waste. So should discriminate what were doing or the town and what were doing for the public. TC said that was debated delineating what was in our control and what was possible for other to achieve and would be reconsidered in the office. Cllr. Stuchbury commented on the recent property development at Western Ave.

To replace 3.1 with wording of first motion ‘to commit to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. Then to remove 3.2 and 3.3 from the action plan. We revised action plan and take to next Full Council we aim to do this be making the TC by 2030 and encouraging the town’s population and business to work with us that aim.

Commit TC and encoring town planners and everyone else to follow suit – Cllr Smith and seconded by Stuchbury

451/19 Bourton Park Management Plan E/82/19

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and Estates Manager and agreed the recommendations. The Estates Manager said he would look at a wheelchair accessible path to the new accessible picnic bench.

Cllr. Stuchbury said the work of the Railway Walk volunteers and Greenspaces Team have improved the biodiversity of the Town’s greenspaces. Members AGREED the report recommendations :It is recommended that members agree the Bourton Park Improvements Action Plan; It is recommended that it is agreed that the action plan forms a part of the Town Council’s S106 wish list (Agenda item 13).

425/19 Bourton Park Bridge Survey E/83/19

To receive a written report from the Estates Manager. Initial price install 45-50k and cost for removing old bridge and bank repair totalling aprox 50k

Structural repairs The Estates manager epxaliend that Repairs are required for four bridges in Bourton Park, including repair of primary structural timbers, and replacement of a number of balustrade posts and balusters and deck boards in some cases. Bridge 2 (Bourton Road to Bourton Park – adjacent to the wildflower meadow) comprises primary structural glulam components that are at the end of their service life.

Cllr Stuchbury suggested using Section 106 funds for the bdge repairs.

Cllr Hafrvey suggested not repairing Birdge 2 as it was located so close to another accessible bridge. Cllr. Harvey also suggested making Chandos bridge accessible theofre making a bid for funding to make Bourton Park and Chandos Park birdges accessible. Cllr. Smith spoken in support of Cllr.

Harvey’s suggestion to close one of the two bridges entering Bourton Park from the Bourton Road.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith asked the Estate Manger to consider adding a link path along the river to connect the footpaths along with the total removal of bridge 2.

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke against the removal of bridge 2 without a full investigation of the possible funding sources to repair the structure. The Estates Manager said the professional opinion was not to repair the bridge. Members discussed the footfall of each bridge

Cllr. Stuchbury said he would like to see the cost of removing bridge 2 against the cost of replacing it with full public consultation on the options.

Members **AGREED** that the office proceed with obtaining costs for the repairs indicated in the survey to include obtaining detailed instruction from a structural engineer on how the repairs are to be carried out. As well as investigate what options there are for Bridge 2. **ACTION**

ESTATES MANAGER

426/19 Healthcare Public Meeting

The Town Clerk reported that a meeting with Healthcare provider at the end of October and would be pushing for a meeting in February 2020 with an external facilitator and if the Swan Practice wont agree to a February meeting then the Town cOuncil would press ahead regardless. . Cllr Stuchbury spoke in favour of inviting representatives from Buckinghamshire Public Health and Adult Social Care to the meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury said it would be unacceptable to delay the meeting beyond February 2020. Cllr. Strain-Clark said her original motion related only to the Swan Practice and residents concern regarding healthcare provision (GP Surgeries) in the town. There is a much wider health care provision beyond Lace Hill Medical Centre but Cllr. Strain-Clark was not convinced both subjects could be given sufficient agenda time within one meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury readout the motion from 451/18 noting the Buckingham Hospital and CCG's original invitation to the meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury said the meeting would be structured with written questioned submitted in advance.

427/19 Green Space Management at the Tingewick Triangle Development

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk an onsite meeting took place in the Summer and subsequently EM sent questions to the Developer and still waiting responce. PNEO of main concerns in St Rumbolds park path fromsite to Gawcott Road but no path or Railway Walk.

Cllr. Ralph said that following an onsite meeting with developers on the 1st February 2019 he had understood the developers would be installing a path with attention to any archaeology.

Cllr Harvey expressed concern

Cllr Stuchbury said that Section106 letter from Officer over commuted sum and should get in principle agreement for the Tingewick Road Section 106.

Proposed the Town Clerk seeks an agreement in principle for the Section 106 at Tingewick Road.

Cllr Ralph said the developers had initially agreed to install a path refurbish the site and make provision for easy access onto railway walk from the public greenspace. Cllr Isham said the section of walk in question was owned by AVDC and therefore should not be referred to as Railway Walk.

428/19 Section 106 Wish list E/84/19

To receive and review the Council's Section 106 wish list

The Town Clerk said that AVDC have requested a revised S106 wish-list for Buckingham. The Town Council agreed a number of proposals for S106 projects that meet the District Council's Sport and Leisure Facility Provision Standards in 2017. Some of these have been progressed. Those which are eligible and have not been delivered are including in the proposed list below. Additional projects have been added from the Neighbourhood Plan and the new Management Plan for Bourton Park.

BMX Track – The Town Clerk explained that AVDC didn't consider the BMX Track as part of their vision for the Heartlands Park. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to ask AVDC for their 5-year plan for Heartlands Park and whether a BMX Track could be incorporated within this.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke in favour of considering Lace Hill as a reserve site for the BMX Track.

Cllr. Strain-Clark spoke in support of funding a fully accessible public arts venue where people could see films or partake in art courses.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury that Buckingham Community Centre is considered for development for an arts centre.

Town Clerk said that alternative options are:

A new development on Osier Way and build on Section 106

RLS are looking at a large building and you could incorporate section 106 funding Creative unit on Cornwalls Meadow

All are creative and challenging ways of addressing the issue

Cllr Harvey moved that we move to the next item.

Plans

429/19 Additional Devolved Services and Town Centre Audit E/85/19

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and agreed the recommendations that the Council seek funding from the County Council / Unitary Council for similar work in the future. It is recommended that Councillors carry out a survey of issues in the town early in the new year, including highway defects, to enable a list of future priorities to be put together.

430/19 Greenspaces Complaint Log

Members received and noted the six-monthly report on Greenspaces complaints, compliments and FOI requests.

431/19 Shopmobility E/86/19

Members received a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk and AGREED the recommendations

It is recommended that the opening hours should be amended from 0930hrs-1530hrs to 1000hrs-1600hrs on a Tuesday.

1.2. It is recommended that aside from 1.1. the Shopmobility service continues to operate unchanged.

432/19 Crowdfunding for a Parks Project E/87/19

Members received a written report from The Administrator. Cllr. Smith spoke in support of easily achievable projects such as the accessible roundabout, wildflower and tree planting. Members AGREED

The next round of funding is in the spring 2020. It is recommended that the Environment Committee choose two projects to investigate in more detail in order to move forward with submitting a project for the spring round of funding.

433/19 BFRS Public Safety Plan Consultation 2020/25

Members received and noted the Public Safety Consultation. Cllr Smith suggested that Members respond individually. **AGREED**

434/19 News Releases

Accessible Picnic Bench and Electric Vehicle

435/19 Access Awareness**436/19 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

To receive a verbal report from Cllr. Newell to circulate the written minutes in due course.

437/19 Chair's Announcements**438/19 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th December 2019****COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION**

Exclusion of Public and Press

RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded

439/19 Chandos Park Lights E/88/19

Members received a written report from the Estates Manager and AGREED

That new LED street light luminaires are purchased and installed for the street lighting in Chandos Park. Its recommended that members agree to using Sparx and taking the budget of £4,892 from budget heading 204/4124.

440/19 Cemetery Records Volunteer E/89/19

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and AGREED that the Council advertises for a volunteer to complete the burial map and digitise cemetery records.

Meeting closed at:

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

DRAFT