

Out of hours (302/19) – The Town Clerk had reviewed the matter but could not see a cost effective way of providing an emergency/out of hours' service. Members accepted that, in the future, the Greenspaces Team could be employed to work Saturdays within the Parks.

448/19 **Budgets**

Members received and noted the latest figures.

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

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk noting that the budget included a new budget heading to account for bridge repairs at Bourton Park. Cllr. Harvey queried why there was a zero balance on the Solar Panels Maintenance budget. The Town Clerk confirmed this line had been moved into Lace Hill's utilities budget.

The Town Clerk explained that the budget was prepared assuming RPI of 2.6%, in line with the rise reported in September 2019. For this reason, the draft budget was being prepared with a forecast precept rise to Council Tax payers of 2.6%. The Town Clerk highlighted that this percentage could vary once the actual numbers of electors is advised by AVDC. The 2.6% rise is planned overall – individual committee budgets may rise by more or less than this amount each year.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested creating a budget heading for the commuted sum from the Tingewick Road development (St Rumbold's Field).

Cllr. Smith asked if replacement of the town's play area equipment was being forecast within the five-year plan. The Town Clerk **AGREED** to review the play area budgets inline with the predicted lifetime of play area equipment.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members discussed and **AGREED** the following recommendations:

- That the Committee agree the proposed revisions to be included in the new Business Plan.
- 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.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

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

Cllr. Stuchbury noted that the action '*Purchase (where possible) locally produced and fair-trade food for the Council's use and civic events*' should be amended to become the responsibility of TC&E **AGREED**.

Cllr. Stuchbury also recommended adding target dates to the Action Plan.

Cllr. Harvey advised Members on the importance of committing to carbon reduction by 2030 rather than the Government's recent commitment to be net carbon zero by 2050. Cllr. Harvey explained that more affluent counties had a greater responsibility to reduce emissions more and faster than others.

Cllr. Harvey suggested amending Objective '*Economy, Housing & Waste*' to read '*– to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are*

climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water' **AGREED**

Cllr. Harvey reminded Members that Full Council had previously agreed (min 208/19) to an amended motion as follows:

It is proposed the Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions

Cllr. Harvey spoke in favour of delineating between direct actions that fall within BTC's control and indirect actions that were led by BTC on behalf of residents e.g. promotion and raising awareness.

Members **AGREED** to replace section 3.1 with wording of the Council's amended motion (reference above). Then to remove section 3.2 and 3.3 from the Action Plan.

Members **AGREED** for the office to bring a revised version of the Action Plan to next meeting of Full Council.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Members discuss and agree the following revised commitment:

It is proposed the Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions. We aim to do this by making the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030 and encouraging the town's population, organisation and businesses to work with us in that aim.

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

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and Estates Manager. The Estates Manager said he would look at the possibility of installing a wheelchair accessible path to the new accessible picnic bench in Bourton Park.

Members discussed and **AGREED** the following 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 (minute 428/19).

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER/TOWN CLERK

452/19 Bourton Park Bridge Survey E/83/19

The Estates Manager reported that following a recent inspection of the bridges in Bourton Park a decayed area was noticed and a structural survey was carried out of all of the timber bridges in the Park. The survey produced the following conclusions:

- Repairs are required for bridges 1,3,4 and 5, including repair of primary structural timbers, and replacement of a number of balustrade posts and balusters and deck boards in some cases.
- Bridge 2 comprises primary structural glulam components that are at the end of their service life. *[see Appendix A for key to bridge locations]*

The Estates Manager said initial costs for removing bridge 2 and reinstating the riverbank were totalling approximately £50,000.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested using Section 106 monies for the necessary bridge repairs. Cllr. Harvey proposed investigating option for removing bridge 2 as it was located so close to another footbridge. Cllr. Harvey spoke in favour of seeking funding opportunities to make Chandos Park and Bourton Park bridges and paths more accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** for the Estates Manger to include the option of creating a footpath link along the riverbank to connect the paths from bridges 1 and 2.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Cllr. Stuchbury stressed that he was not in favour of removing bridge 2 without a full investigation into possible funding sources to repair the bridge. Cllr. Stuchbury said he would like to see the cost of removing bridge 2 against the cost of replacing it with a brand new structure - with full public consultation on both options.

The Estates Manager informed Members that it was the Structural Engineer's professional opinion that, given the extent of the deterioration, bridge 2 was not worth repairing.

Members **AGREED** that the Estates Manager 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

456/19 Healthcare Public Meeting

The Town Clerk explained he was meeting local Healthcare providers at the end of October to discuss hosting a joint public meeting. The Town Clerk said he would be pushing for a meeting date in February 2020, hosted by an external facilitator. Members noted the Clerk's commitment to arranging a public meeting even if a consensus on dates could not be reached. 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 questions submitted in advance.

457/19 Green Space Management at the Tingewick Triangle Development

The Town Clerk reported on a recent onsite meeting with developers, Cllr. Stuchbury and the Estates Manager noting one of the primary concerns was the lack of an accessible footpath from St Rumbold's Well to AVDC's section of 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 the path with care not to disrupt any archaeology.

458/19 Section 106 Wish list E/84/19

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 proposed the rough ground at Lace Hill Football Fields as a reserve site for the BMX Track.

Cllr. Strain-Clark spoke in support of funding an accessible public Cultural Arts venue to host performances and art.

Town Clerk summarised potential approaches as:

- Build a Cultural Arts venue within an existing site, or a large new development could be asked to provide land as part of their S106 arrangements e.g. Osier Way
- Apportion Section106 funding to a local organisation e.g. Royal Latin School to build a Cultural Arts venue for public use.
- Build a Cultural Arts venue within Cornwalls Meadow.

Cllr. Harvey moved next agenda item.

459/19 Additional Devolved Services and Town Centre Audit E/85/19

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and agreed that the Council seek funding from the County Council / Unitary Council for similar work in the future and 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.

460/19 Greenspaces Complaint Log

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

461/19 Shopmobility E/86/19

Members received a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk and **AGREED** that the opening hours should be amended from 0930hrs-1530hrs to 1000hrs-1600hrs on a Tuesday. Members also **AGREED** that aside from 1.1. the Shopmobility service continues to operate unchanged.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

462/19 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** to move forward with submitting a project on either wildflower planting or the accessible roundabout for the spring 2020 round of funding.

ACTION THE ADMINISTRATOR

463/19 BFRS Public Safety Plan Consultation 2020/25

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

ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS

464/19 News Releases

Members **AGREED** for the Office to issue press releases on the following items:

- Installation of an Accessible Picnic Bench in Bourton Park
- First Town Council Electric Vehicle

465/19 Access Awareness

Items discussed earlier in agenda.

466/19 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Cllr. Newell to circulate the written minutes in due course.

467/19 Chair's Announcements

There were no items to discuss.

468/19 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th December 2019

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Members of the public left the Chamber at this point in the agenda.

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.

469/19 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.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

470/19 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.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Meeting closed at: 9.15pm

Chair..... Date.....
Appendix A – Bridges in Bourton Park (min 425/19 refers)

