

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 17th February 2020** in the Small Committee Room, Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre, Catch pin Street Buckingham MK18 7RR.

Present:

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|----------------------------|------------|
| Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley | Vice-Chair |
| Cllr. J. Harvey | |
| Cllr. A. Mahi | |
| Cllr. Ms. R. Newell | Chair |
| Cllr. A. Ralph | |
| Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark | |
| Cllr. R. Stuchbury | |

In attendance:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. L. Phillips | Estates Manager |
| Mr P Hodson | Town Clerk |
| Mrs N Stockill | Committee Clerk |

764/19 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Cole, Stuchbury, O'Donoghue and Smith.

765/19 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Newell declared an interest in agenda item 8 as a Member of the Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust and agenda item 13 as a volunteer River Warden.

766/19 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 and received at Full Council on the 27th January 2020.

767/19 Action Report

Members received the Action Report and noted the updated information. 428/19 (Section 106) - The Town Clerk **AGREED** to circulate AVDC's 5-year plan for Heartlands Park which had been received during the day.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

768/19 Budgets

Members received the latest figures.

769/19 Business Plan

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** the following amendments:

- Greater reference to the Environment Committee's responsibility to participate in and support (as required) all matters relating to community care, social care and health services.
- Change 'Climate Change Action Plan' to 'Climate Emergency Action Plan'.

- 4. Environment Committee Description – *“The Environment Committee’s remit is to take responsibility for the protection and improvement of the town, its environment and the health and wellbeing of its people”*
- 4.2 *“The Committee’s remit also includes working with other Public Services - acting as the consultee, making representations, participating in and supporting and leading as required all matters relating to community care, social care and health services, policing, crime and ASB education*
- Installation of solar panels to be added as a performance indicator
- Shopmobility performance indicator to be measured by percentage of items hired.

770/19 **Dogs on Sports Pitches**

The Town Clerk referred to the meeting of the 9th December 2019 (min 621/19) where Members agreed to use social media to encourage dog-owners to keep their dogs under control at Lace Hill and off the sports pitches, to erect two signs instructing dog owners not to allow their dogs on the sports pitches, and to clean up after their dogs. Additional signage is on order for posting on the rails around the football pitches.

The publicity on social media gave rise to a number of comments from dog owners and users of the football pitches. The Town Clerk said that he hoped the new notices would be received positively.

Members said it was important to remind dog owners to keep their dogs under control, and to respect children and young people playing organised games and matches. This would also empower coaches to challenge irresponsible owners.

771/19 **Section 106 Funding**

771.1/19 S106 Wishlist

The Town Clerk reminded Members that AVDC had requested a revised S106 wish-list for Buckingham and the Council had agreed a number of proposals for S106 projects that meet the District Council’s Sport and Leisure Facility Provision Standards in 2017. AVDC had agreed to proposed improvements to the Town’s play areas and additional items were added for making footpath and bridges more accessible and connecting the bridge and path at Heartlands and Bourton Parks.

Cllr. Harvey spoke in favour of making the bridge from Chandos Park to the University of Buckingham accessible.

Members **AGREED** to amend item 11 to read “Making footpaths and bridges within and connecting Buckingham’s parks accessible”.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

771.2/19 Garage Site 456999g Overn Crescent (18/04626/APP)

Members noted the correspondence and expressed their initial support of the provisional plans for Section 106 funding attributed to application 18/04626/APP.

771.3/19 Funding of soft play area

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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial

Members received and discussed correspondence related to the Section 106 funding of the soft play area at the Swan Pool Leisure centre.

Cllr. Harvey raised concern that, as stated in AVDC's letter, the full cost of the investment will be paid back to AVDC. Members were in agreement that any funds reimbursed to AVDC from the previous climbing wall and the new soft play area should be ring-fenced for future Section 106 projects in Buckingham. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write to Andrew Small expressing the Committee's concerns. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

772/19 Green Spaces Apprentice

The Estates Manager informed Members that the office would be seeking to recruit a Green Spaces Apprentice in April 2020 from Moulton College.

773/19 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre fees

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk and **AGREED** to increase the lace Hill hire rates by 50p per hour (except for the adult weekend rate which will rise £2 per hour) from April 2020. Additionally, it was agreed to continue to offer '10 bookings for the price of 9' as a block-booking incentive and for the hire rates to be reviewed again in February 2021, for the following financial year. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

774/19 Metal Detecting

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** that the Council gives permission for detecting on the Council's land to members of the National Council for Metal Detecting who sign the model contract, at the discretion of the Estates Manager, providing the Estates Manager agrees to the timing and scope of each search. Members **AGREED** the recommendation that this does not include either Brackley Road Cemetery or the new cemetery land, once this is obtained. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

775/19 Community Centre Works

The Town Clerk explained that the construction had commenced during the day. The Town Clerk said the connecting door between the Chamber and the Community Centre will remain unlocked (during Council meetings) to allow Councillors and staff to access the (refurbished) toilet. When the Community Centre is not in use there will be a gate to prevent anyone accessing the community centre from the Chamber side.

776/19 Volunteer River Warden

Members considered a report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** that the Town Council apply for grant funding to fund the officer from TCV to enable to the scheme to continue and that a budget be put in place to create an ear marked reserve to ensure that the scheme can continue for three months whilst funding be sought from other sources. This will involve taking £1,575 budget from the forecast underspend in budget code 255. Railway Walk and Castle Hill. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

777/19 Tree Planting in Bourton Park

The Estates Manager informed Members that the Greenspaces Team would

E/05/19

be planting 12 new trees with the Buckingham Table in Bourton Park on the 14th March 2020. The Estates Manager confirmed that Town Councillors would be informed and invited to the event.

778/19 Management of Green Spaces on New Developments

The Town Clerk reported on recent correspondence with AVDC concerning section 106 funding from the Tingewick Road development. The Town Clerk was scheduled to attend the next Lace Hill Resident's Association to discuss possible future arrangements.

779/19 Cemetery Lodge Update

Members noted the recent renovations to the Cemetery Lodge.

780/19 Access Awareness

There were no reports.

781/19 News Releases

Members agreed to issue a press release on the tree planting project with The Buckingham Table.

782/19 Chair's Announcements

There were none.

783/19 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th April 2020

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

AGREED 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 was, therefore, **AGREED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

Cllr. Stuchbury entered the chamber during this section of the agenda.

784/19 Dog Bin Collection

Members discussed and **AGREED** that the Town Council continue with the Service Level Agreement with the new unitary authority to continue to empty the 37 dog bins owned by the Town Council with the annual cost of £3,710.61. from budget 203/4102

785/19 New Cemetery Designer

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** to discuss the matter further at a future meeting of Environment Committee.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** that consultation takes place at the Good Endings fair to help shape plans for the new Cemetery.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

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Initial

E/05/19

786/19 Play area improvements

786.1/19 Lace Hill Play area

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** to purchase gates from Secure a Field from budget 250 4061.

ACTION ESTATES

MANAGER

786.2/19 Bourton Park Toddler Play Area

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** to commission Big Trees to complete the arboreal works required and to commission Secure-a-Field to complete the repair and resurfacing project in Bourton Park's Toddler play area.

ACTION

ESTATES MANAGER

787/19 Bourton Park Bridge Repairs

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** to proceed with quotation B – from AB design solutions. Taking £3,995.00 from budget 252/4601 Bourton Park/Repairs and maintenance. The outcome from this would enable officers to seek quotes for carrying out the repairs from appropriate contractors.

ACTION ESTATES

MANAGER

789/19 Fire Doors

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** to purchase of fire doors from Fireact from the depot equipment budget: 248 4013.

ACTION ESTATES

MANAGER

Meeting closed at 20.23

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