

BTC/07/19

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 16th March 2020** in the Small Committee Room of Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre, Lace Hill, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

In attendance: Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present at the public session.

844/19 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs Harvey and County Cllrs Clare and Whyte.

845/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the agenda.

846/19 Minutes

Members received and AGREED the minutes and of the Full Council Meetings held on:

Monday 18th November 2019 (reissue)

Monday 13th January 2020 (Precept)

Monday 27th January 2020

847/19 Interim Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020. Members AGREED to amend minute 791/19 to read: "Cllr. Stuchbury said he had previously meet with Miss Orton and discussed proposals for the development on section M on the Buckingham neighbourhood Development Plan in his role as District Councillor"

848/19 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

200316 16th Mrch 2020 DATE

Ratified

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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.....

- Monday 20th January 2020
- Monday 3rd February 2020
- Monday 24th February 2020

849/19 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020.

850/19 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes and confirmed the recommendation therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 17th February 2020.

A budget be put in place to create an ear marked reserve to ensure that the River Warden 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.

851/19 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020.

852/19 Compulsory Councillor Training

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. P. Collins said Town Councillors should be encouraged to attend training session and it should not be a compulsory requirement of the role. Cllr. Newell said it was important for Town Councillors to undertaken training relevant to other roles and as most NALC training is arranged for Saturday mornings it should lessen the impact of work and family commitments.

The following amendments to the report recommendations were proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury:

- The report to be retitled as 'Councillor Training'
- 1.1 That the following addition is made to the Council's Standing Orders:
(The Council will:) ...
- 5. viii *Encourage members of a Committee to attend specified training during the first 12 months of their role, and at four yearly intervals thereafter.*
- "To amend the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee to stipulate that, "*Members of the Planning Committee are encouraged to attend at least one session of training for town councillors in making planning recommendations during the first twelve months of their membership of the Committee*".

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 15

Against: 1

The amended motion becomes the substantive motion and a further vote was taken.

In favour: unanimous. The Substantive Motion was carried.

With the above amendments the recommendation was AGREED.

853/19 To receive and question reports from District and County Councillors Cllr Mordue

Following the announcement that mayoral and local elections have been postponed following the coronavirus outbreak, it means that Bucks may not get a new elected

unitary council for several months. An interim council had been set up to look after the new council until the elections this May. AVDC is in discussion with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about how we handle the year ahead.

Cllr. Stuchbury

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed disappointed at the low number of Councillors attending AVDC's budget meeting.

856/19 Action List

Noted

857/19 Internal Audit report 2019/20

Members received and noted the Town Council's Internal Audit report 2019/20

858/19 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members received the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan following its review by Committees.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Newell to AGREE the following proposed actions:

- It is RECOMMENDED that Members discuss the Action Plan and agree the Council's overarching objectives and actions for Committees.
- That these plans once agreed are reviewed yearly by the Full Council, with previously rejected suggestions reviewed and new suggestions added.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 10

Against: 5

The recommendation was AGREED.

859/19 Unitary Council

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the Town Council's bid to take on more devolved services. The Town Clerk informed Members that Buckingham library would be a Community Access point for the new Council and they would be installing a new logo on the side of the library building alongside the Town Council's brand.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked if the Town Council had been involved in the design of the parish charter and the community board. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had been involved in focus groups and had circulated relevant feedback to Councillors. Cllr. Newell has volunteered to take part in the new groups looking at the charter, and Cllrs. Hiron and O'Donoghue are attending the planning briefing once this is rescheduled.

860/19 New Homes Bonus Micro grant Application

Members received and considered an application from Moretonville Junior Football Club.

Cllr Mordue declared an interest as a NHB Microgrant Panel Member.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Hiron to support the application. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 14

Abstentions: 1

861/19 Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Members received a tabled report from the Town Clerk.

Annual Town Meeting – Cllr. P. Collins said the Annual Town Meeting should go ahead on the 18th March 2020 regardless of the number of Responsible Authorities available. Cllr. Mahi said postponing the Annual Town Meeting was down to duty of care for members of the public. Cllr. O’Donoghue said she would not be attending the meeting. Cllr. Smith reported that Cllr. Harvey, who was due to lead on the event, would not be available. Cllr. Mordue said there was a statutory duty to hold the meeting but the Council needed to act responsibly and should defer it, so as to be seen as acting in a responsible way. Cllr. G. Collins spoke in support of Cllr. Mordue.

Proposed by Hirons and seconded by O’Donoghue that the Annual Town meeting is postponed until the 1st June 2020. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions 1

The Town Clerk reported that two members of staff were currently self-isolating and all office staff were equipped with laptops to facilitate home working.

The Grounds maintenance team will still need to work but their rotas will have to be arranged to ensure they’re not working in closely proximity with each other or members of the public.

The Shopmobility service will close from Tuesday 17th March 2020. All of the regular customers have been informed. The Old Goal is now closed and the office was reviewing whether or not to close the Tourist Information Centre.

The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre will open dependant on the needs of the regular hirers.

The Street Market will continue to operate as normal unless government guidance tells us otherwise.

The following Town Council events were postponed: The Death Café, Civic Service and Good Endings Fair. The Lace Hill Easter Event and Spring Fair will potentially still go ahead and it was down to the local schools to decide whether the May Day festivities would proceed.

The VE Day celebrations are to be moved to coincide with VJ Day later in the year.

All other Town Council events will be considered on a case by case basis.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Try to recommend that the Council act as a point of contact for vulnerable individuals and signpost to relevant authorities.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 12

Abstentions: 3

ACTION TOWN CLERK

862/19 Twinning

The Town Mayor reported on his recent visit to Neukirchen Vlyun to sign the Twinning agreement and confirmed that the German delegation would like to arrange the English part of the formal twinning during a visit for the 12-13th December 2020, to coincide with the Christmas Parade. Members AGREED to issue a press release and for the Twinning Association to confirm the dates of the 12-13th December 2020.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

863/19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports listed below:

- Homelessness Prevention Forum 16th September 2019
- Minutes from the Access for All Meetings held on the 8th February 2020
- Minutes from the meeting of Pontio held on the 17th December 2019

- Minutes from the Aylesbury Vale Transport User Group meeting held on the 4th February 2020

864/19 Recommended Allowances for Town And Parish Councillors

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously AGREED to accept the report and adopt the allowance recommended by the Shadow Buckinghamshire Council, i.e. £585 per elected councillor per year.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

865/19 Mayoral Engagements

Members received and noted a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

Jan 30	High Sherriff's Reception, The Stables, Wavendon
Feb 11	Civic Service meeting with Rector
Feb 14	German Twinning Signing, Neukirchen-Vlujn
Feb 15	German Twinning Signing, Neukirchen-Vlujn
Feb 16	German Twinning Signing, Neukirchen-Vlujn
Feb 20	MDD Open Day Great Horwood (Mayor's Charity)
Feb 22	Pancake Races, Buckingham Parish Church
Feb 27	High Sheriff's Justice Awards, University of Buckingham
Mar 01	Red Cross Musical Tea, Adstockfields
Mar 06	Law School Presentations, University of Buckingham
Mar 07	Fairtrade Coffee Morning
Mar 07	Town Twinning Coffee Morning
Mar 08	AVDC Chairman's Civic Service, Haddenham
Mar 09	Commonwealth Flag Raising, Buckingham Community Centre
Mar 14	Bucks Magistrates Mock Trials, MK Courthouse (cancelled)
Mar 15	Mayor's Civic Service, Buckingham Parish Church (cancelled)
Mar 16	Annual Town Meeting Briefing, Council Offices

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

Feb 29	Banbury civic dinner and
Mar 1	Buckingham Food Fair 1st March

866/19 Motion – Cllr. P. Collins

“The decision to remove the toilet from the council chamber be reviewed”

Cllr P. Collins said this agenda pack was the first time he had seen the plans for moving the toilet out of the Council Chamber and he was opposed to any plans that involved sharing a toilet with the Community Centre.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield that Full Council revisit and review the decision that the Chamber toilet is removed and the disabled toilet in the Community Centre is shared by Chamber users. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 12
 Against: 0
 Abstentions: 3
 Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

867/19 Chair's Announcements

There were none.

868/19

Date of the next meeting:

~~Annual Town Meeting Wednesday 18th March @ 7pm~~
Interim Council – Monday 20th April 2020
Full Council - Monday 18th May 2020

869/19

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.

870/19

Update on works to the Council Chamber

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury that if the work does need to be re-tendered the current approach, Option 1, is retained. I.e. that the Chamber toilet is removed and the disabled toilet in the Community Centre shared by Chamber users.

Proposed by Cllr. Try and seconded by Cllr. P Collins that if work does need to be retendered then officers reevaluate the options for utilising the space within the Council Chamber.

A recorded vote was called for and the results were:

In favour of Cllr. Newell’s motion: Cllrs: Newell, Stuchbury, Strain-Clark, Ralph, Cole, O’Donoghue and Mordue.

Against Cllr. Newell’s motion: Cllrs: Bloomfield, G. Collins, P. Collins, Smith, Hirons, Try and Mahi

Abstentions to Cllr. Newell’s motion: Cllr. Gateley

The vote being 7-7, the casting vote fell to the Chair: Cllr Cole voted in favour of Cllr. Newell’s motion.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Councillor Try’s motion fell and no further vote was taken.

Meeting closed at: 20.55

Signed Date

Town Mayor