

IM/01/20

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm. on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020** online via Zoom.

Present:

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

Also Present:	Mrs. N. Stockill	(Committee Clerk)
	Mrs. K. McElligott	(Planning Officer)
	Mr P. Hodson	(Town Clerk)
	Mrs S. McMurtrie	Town Plan Officer
	Cllr. C. Clare	Buckinghamshire Councillor
	Cllr. W. Whyte	Buckinghamshire Councillor

## PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public attended the Public Session to speak to Members about diversity and racial equality in Buckingham following the Black Lives Matter protests. The resident wanted to find out what progress the Town Council had made in discussing arising from the Black Lives Matter protests. The resident particularly wished to find out what Buckingham Town Council does to promote and celebrate difference in the town, and what the Council was doing in terms of tackling institutional racism, conscious and unconscious bias. The resident also asked how the Town Council was exploring the story behind our colonial past and working with local partners over these issues.

Councillors thanked the resident for attending the public session and suggested that this item be discussed in more detail at Full Council.

Cllr. Whyte spoke in the Public Session on agenda item 3 (Closing the High Street) he was concerned that he had not been approached for his views on the matter but suggested that the upper level of Market Hill could be considered for a road closure.

Cllr. G. Collins informed Members that in light of Newport Pagnell's experience, Cllr. Cole had rescinded his motion on Closing the High Street (agenda item 4).

### 141/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies from Cllr. Newell and Cllr. P. Collins

### 142/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**143/20 Closing the High Street - Briefing Note**

Members debated whether to discuss the Deputy Town Clerk's written report in light of the fact Cllr. Cole had withdrawn his motion from the agenda.

Cllr. Harvey said there was a case for Smith & Clays to address the issue caused by their customers queuing on the narrow pavement outside of the shop. There will be demands from other cafes and restaurants to provide an outdoor space for takeaways and that will need exploring further before the next TC&E meeting. Cllr. Harvey proposed that the Council put in place a temporary road closure, with traffic lights, on one side of Market Hill from outside Prego up to Quality Dry Cleaners. The road closure would still allow for access to Verney Close Surgery but would also allow some of the cafes and shops to utilise Market Hill for chairs, tables and adequate spaces for customer queues. Cllr. Harvey noted that WH Smiths have placed 1m strips on the pavement but these prevented pedestrians from passing at an adequate distance from the queue.

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for the written report and said it was an opportunity to enter into discussions with Buckinghamshire Council and Highways. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the issue was discussed at EDWG and TC&E in great depth and he understood all of the concerns but the Town Council has no statutory powers and therefore has to work in conjunction with Buckinghamshire Council to find a workable solution. Cllr. Stuchbury said that Full Council had to respect Cllr. Cole's decision to withdraw the motion and suggested that Members simply note the report.

Cllr. Strain-Clark said Members should look positively at what was possible for the Town Council to achieve and think of something to improve the town centre and make it safer during the pandemic.

Cllr. Ralph congratulated the Deputy Town Clerk on an impressive and comprehensive report.

Cllr. Mahi said there were so many implications involved in a road closure that Buckinghamshire Council had to be involved. Cllr. Mahi said that if there were obstacles preventing residents 'popping' into town to collect a prescription then, unfortunately, they would be more inclined to avoid the Town Centre all together.

The Town Clerk said there were no easy solutions and Buckinghamshire Council have said they're open to monitoring the situation. The Town Clerk offered to set up a workshop with Councillors this week.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. G. Collins and unanimously **AGREED** that the Town Clerk, as a matter of urgency, arranges a formal workshop using the Deputy Town Clerk's report and seek additional information from EDWG and UoB and Buckingham Society and write to all Buckinghamshire Council Members.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**144/20 Motion – Cllr. M. Cole JP**

*'That Buckingham Town Council requests the temporary closure of the High Street to traffic between the Town Hall and the Old Gaol to facilitate the reopening of shops and other businesses following their enforced closure by the Covid-19 pandemic, until further notice. This is to permit the safety of queuing shoppers; pavement cafe, pub and restaurant users; and pedestrians, pushchair users and those with mobility issues, by allowing them to maintain social-distancing in a traffic-free environment. It is noted that Newport Pagnell has effected a similar scheme in closing its High Street from June 15th.'*

The above motion was withdrawn at Cllr. Cole's request.

**145/20 Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund**

Members received an outline proposal from Buckinghamshire Council and discussed the Key Questions included. The Town Clerk explained that Buckinghamshire Council had access to funding to enable a scheme similar to those proposed.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark that the report is accepted and Members support the principle of what the report was trying to achieve and the Town Clerk writes to the Buckinghamshire Council requesting consideration of the following travel schemes:

- Implementation of 20mph speed limits in Buckingham in the following key areas: -
  - Outside schools and other places vulnerable residents can be at risk
  - Within all proposed housing developments, at the onset of the development modelling and design stages and before planning agreement is reached. \*
  - Within existing developments; Lace Hill, St. Rumbolds Field, Moreton Road 1 & 2, etc. \*
- Temporary intervention to allow for social distancing along Market Hill.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 14

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. O'Donoghue said the Gawcott Road was a dangerous road for cyclist and it was a well used cycle route for children accessing the Senior Schools. Cllr. Stuchbury spoke in favour of a cycle crossing at the A421.

*Cllrs. Mordue and Stuchbury declared an interest in the following agenda item.*

**146/20 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors at Full Council**

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

Cllr. Harvey was not in support of Buckinghamshire Council's method for allocating wards as it had resulted in an extensive and confusing list of Councillors that can claim to represent Buckingham West. Cllr. Stuchbury asked the Town Clerk for the legal basis of the proposal and said he was not in favour of excluding Members from any Council meeting. The Town Clerk explained that all of the Town Council's agendas were written by the Town Clerk and it was therefore up to the Town Council to decide who they wish to speak. Cllr. Smith said he didn't see an issue with advising all of the relevant Buckinghamshire Council Councillors, by email, of all Buckingham Town Council Committee meetings. However, it was up to the Council to decide on who is invited to speak on the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Ralph to accept the report recommendation that the Council invites all Buckinghamshire Council councillors who were elected to represent a part of Buckingham to provide a report and answer questions at each meeting of Full Council.

In favour: 10

Abstentions: 4

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**147/20 Community Board Representation**

147.1/20 Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk.

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Cllr. Stuchbury said he had spoken on this matter at the Shadow Authority's Cabinet meeting and recommended that a representative be chosen that had an in-depth knowledge of local planning.

Cllr. Smith said that he had no wish to be on the Community Board. Cllr. Harvey expressed an interest in the role.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to appoint Cllr. Harvey as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons and seconded by Cllr. Mahi to appoint Cllr. Cole as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board.

In favour: Cllrs. Cole, G Collins, Hirons, Bloomfield, Gateley, Mordue, Try, Mahi and O'Donoghue

Proposed by Cllr. G. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Mahi to appoint Cllr. O'Donoghue as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board.

Votes in favour of Cllr. Harvey: In favour: Cllrs. Strain-Clark, Smith, Stuchbury, Ralph and Harvey (5)

Votes in favour of Cllr. Cole: Cllrs. Cole, G Collins, Hirons, Bloomfield, Gateley, Mordue, Try, Mahi and O'Donoghue (9)

Cllr. Cole was appointed as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board for the forthcoming year. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Proposed by Cllr. G. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Mahi to appoint Cllr. O'Donoghue to deputise as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to appoint Cllr. Harvey to deputise as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board.

Votes in favour of Cllr. Harvey: Cllr. Smith, Harvey, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Gateley, Ralph and Mordue (7)

Votes in favour of Cllr. O'Donoghue: Cllrs. G. Collins, Bloomfield, Cole, O'Donoghue, Hirons, Try and Mahi (7)

The casting vote fell to the Chairman: Cllr. G. Collins voted in favour of Cllr. O'Donoghue to deputise as Buckingham Town Council's representative on the Community Board. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** that Cllr. Harvey will act as a reserve for the Community Board if the Deputy is not able to attend.

Town Clerk said he was prepared to write to the Community Board and explain that because of Councillor's work commitments it may be necessary for Buckingham Town Council to send an additional representative to the Community Board if the Deputy was not able to attend.

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Members **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow Cllr. Clare (Chair of Buckingham's Community Board) to speak

Cllr. Clare said it was in the Chairman's discretion to allow an additional representative and it would be wrong for Buckingham not to have representation at a meeting if this was allowed by the constitution.

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

147.2/20 Community Board Terms of Reference were noted.

147.3/20 Community Buckingham and Villages Community Board Map was noted.

**148/20 Buckingham Street Market**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that a rapid decision was required and could not wait for the next meeting of the TC&E agenda.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Mahi and unanimously **AGREED** that Buckingham Markets allow suitably licenced stall holders to sell sealed alcohol, subject to the individual approval of both the Markets Manager and the Deputy Town Clerk.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**149/20 Recording Online Meetings**

Cllr. O'Donoghue explained although Council meetings were only being live streamed on YouTube it was possible for anyone to record the footage and replay the meetings. Cllr. Stuchbury said he was in support of recording all Town Council meetings, in a similar vein to Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr. Harvey said he would like to consider continuing with virtual meetings and asked if we would be incurring cost to store data on YouTube. The Town Clerk said the data usage was very low and confirmed that the current law runs until May 2021 and hopefully will be asked to comment on any consultation. Cllr. Stuchbury said that if webcasting for all town Council meetings was to be properly implemented then it would need to be considered within the extension to the Council Chamber. The Town Clerk said there would be cameras installed within the Council Chamber to enable Zoom conferencing. Cllr. Try asked if there would be a way to trim the YouTube videos and attach them to the written minutes within the Town Council's website. The Town Clerk confirmed that could be an option for investigation.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Cole and unanimously **AGREED** to make video recordings of Town Council meetings publicly available in perpetuity.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury said he would be a placing motion on the next agenda of the Resources Committee that suitable equipment for inclusion in (or in addition to) the currently scheduled refurbishment of the Council Chamber be explored, including their storage and public access options, and reported with costs to a future meeting of the Town Council.

**150/20 Chairman's Announcements**

None

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**151/20**

**Date of next Meetings:**

Full Council

Interim Council

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Meeting closed at 20.38 pm

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....

**DRAFT**