

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 15th June 2020** at 7pm online via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	Vice-Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Chair
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr P Hodson	Town Clerk
Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
Cllr. M Try	Buckingham Town Councillor

122/20 Election of Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Newell to the position of Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

123/20 Election of Vice Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Gateley to the position of Vice Chair of The Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

124/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor Clare.

125/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

126/20 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 6th April 2020 and received at Full Council on the 11th May 2020

127/20 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

566/19 (River Great Ouse) – The Estates Manager explained that the River Warden Scheme has been temporarily suspended until business returns to normal following the Covid-19 pandemic.

895/20 (Public Healthcare Meeting) – Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the Buckingham Society were keen to arrange a similar public event and suggested that the organisations join forces. The Town Clerk said it was possible to arrange a public meeting via Zoom involving representatives from the Swan Practice.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to arrange an online meeting, and that if representatives from the GP Practice, Commissioners and Adult Social Care were not willing to attend an online meeting then Committee Members should submit formal questions to the September meeting of HASC including questions canvassed from the general public.

AGREED ACTION TOWN CLERK

128/20 Budgets

128.1/20 Members received and noted the latest figures. The Town Clerk confirmed that Cemetery Lodge was now tenanted.

128.2/20 Members received and discussed a revised budget forecast for 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Newell that the figures are accepted and reviewed again at a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

**AGREED ACTION
TOWN CLERK**

129/20 Covid 19 Update

The Greenspaces Manager reported that the additional electric vehicle was now fully operational. The Town Clerk informed Members that additional signage would be distributed throughout the town centre and parks cautioning pedestrians of narrow footpaths and reminding people of the Government's advice regarding social distancing. Cllr. Gateley said she had received many positive comments from members of the public and the Greenspaces team should be congratulated as they had been doing a fantastic job during difficult circumstances. Members were in agreement that the condition of the parks and greenspaces was a much needed morale boost for the town. Cllr. Smith added that he was impressed with the wildflower meadow in Bourton Park and it was a tremendous addition to the town. Cllr. Stuchbury said so many residents were using the parks, which has led to overflowing litter bins. The Estates Manager said the Green Spaces team have been busy clearing lots of rubbish from the parks and they would monitor the situation to see whether the Council needed to carry out more checks and bin emptying rounds.

130/20 Water Bottle Refill Station

The Estates Manager reported that the water-bottle re-fill station was now installed in Chandos Park, using funding provided by the organisation previously known as Buckinghamshire Council's Local Area Forum. It was hoped that its 'opening' would coincide with the re-opening of the public toilets.

131/20 Three dozen steps to health in our towns

Cllr. Harvey explained that the wrong report had been circulated with the agenda and as a result Members could not discuss the Cllr Harvey's motion. Members **AGREED** to refer the item to the next Environment Committee meeting on the 29th July 2020

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Members discussed how the scheme could be translated into activities for residents with mobility issues. Cllr. Strain-Clark said she was pleased to see an event proposal involving neighbouring Parish Councils.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for the report to be updated with an estimate of the resource requirements from the Town Council staff. Cllr. Harvey said that if neighbouring parishes were keen to be involved then it would be possible to negotiate who could provide funding and staff resources.

132/20 War Memorial

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager. The Town Clerk explained that in recent years it has been noted that the area around the memorial has become very crowded on Remembrance Day. So to give more space for people to attend the remembrance day service it was proposed that the memorial be moved. It was particularly noticeable that the numbers if anything increased in 2019, when it had been thought they might drop the year after the centenary, in 2018.

Cllr. Newell said the advantage of it's current location was that the crowds gathered along Castle Street could still view the memorial also that the area is banked around the sides, allowing better viewing than the flat grassed area. Members noted that there were a lot more organisations and schools from outside Buckingham that are all now laying wreaths during the service.

Cllr. Smith raised concern that moving the war memorial onto the Church Green could interfere with other events such as Pancake races and the Churches' summer holiday club. It was also noted that the grass could become a quagmire after periods of heavy rain. Cllr. Gateley observed that the War Memorials Trust does not support the relocation of war memorials unless they are 'at risk' and asked if there were ways of managing the numbers congregating around the war memorial more effectively. Cllr. O'Donoghue suggested that the youngest participants should be lead into the area at the beginning of the parade to ensure they were not squashed in around the fringes. Cllr. Stuchbury said there could be more room created if there were less empty chairs left around the memorial.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell and unanimously **AGREED** that the issue is referred to the TC&E Committee for further discussion and that all of the event organisers meet up to make a clear plan on how to accommodate all of the groups involved.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

133/20 Tingewick Triangle Development

Members received a brief report from the Town Clerk and it was noted that efforts had been made to clear the litter around St Rumbold's Well.

E/01/20

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested arranging a formal meeting with the developers and David Rowley from Buckinghamshire Council.

AGREED ACTION TOWN CLERK

134/20 Gazebo for Chandos Park Bowls Club

Members received and discussed a request from the Bowls Club.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to accept the report recommendation that permission is given to Chandos Bowls Club to build a Pergola at the Club providing it matches the description provided to the Town Council. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

135/20 Public Toilets

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager

Proposed by Cllr. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to **AGREED** the report recommendations that:

- The toilets in Cornwall's Meadow and the disabled toilet cubicle in Chandos Park are re-opened as soon as possible with additional safety measure put in place.
- An additional daily clean is carried out on the toilets at the additional cost of £60 per week and the cost of additional signage of £120 be taken from 254/4612.

Members said it was important to publicise the reopening of the public toilets, stressing that only Radar key holders can use the disabled toilet in Chandos Park.

Proposed by Cllr. Gateley, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark and unanimously **AGREED** for the Greenspaces Team to install hooks behind the toilet doors in Cornwall's Meadow and Chandos Park. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

136/20 Town Centre Audit

Members received a brief report from the Estates Administrator concerning the results of the Town Centre Audit.

Members **AGREED** to issue an updated version of the spreadsheet to the relevant Buckinghamshire Ward Councillors **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

137/20 News Releases

Members **AGREED** two press releases, on the reopening of the public toilets and the water bottle refill station.

Members **AGREED** to issue a press release on the increased use of the town and parks litter bins, asking residents to take their litter home if the bins are full.

138/20 Access Awareness

E/01/20

Cllr. Stuchbury said it was important that any access issues raised from the Town Centre Audit were addressed as a matter of urgency.

139/20 Chair's Announcements

Cllr. Newell said that there will be an additional meeting on the 29th July 2020.

140/20 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 29th July 2020 @ 7pm

Meeting closed at: 20.14

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