

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council which will be held on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** at 7pm online via Zoom.

**Present:**

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
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. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mr P Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Two members of the public attended the Public Session to request that a new concrete skate park be constructed in Lace Hill. Bobbins Play park and two other locations surrounding the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre were listed as potential sites for a new scooter/skate park. Members asked questions on outline costs and various surface types. Cllr. O'Donoghue explained that Buckinghamshire Council had already secured funds to refurbish the Bridge Street skate park with the potential for including an area for scooters. Members thanked the residents for attending the Public Session and explained that the issue would be discussed further during agenda item 17.3.

The Chair formally welcomed Cllr. Robina Ahmed to Buckingham Town Council and to her first Environment Committee meeting.

### **311/20 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. G. Collins.

### **312/20 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Mahi declared an interest in agenda item 10 (Structural and Conditions Survey of Buckingham Community Centre) as a member of the Community Association.

Cllrs. Newell and Ralph declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Brackley Road Cemetery) as they had family members buried at the cemetery.

Cllr. Stuchbury advised Committee that his son was a member of Buckingham United Football Club.

### **313/20 Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and received at Full Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Members noted that the additional meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 was cancelled.

E/02/20

**314/20 Action Report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed that Committee send a representative to the next meeting of HASC on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

425/20 (Bridges Bourton Park) – An initial tender exercise did not produce any responses. The tender will be reissued and discussed at a future meeting of Environment Committee.

Members **AGREED** to add the following items to the Action Report and Risk Register:

- Land transfer on Tingewick Road
- New Cemetery

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

**315/20 Terms of reference**

Members discussed and **AGREED** the Terms of Reference.

**316/20 Budgets**

314.1/20 Members received and noted a revised Budget Forecast. Members praised the Town Clerk and his staff for their effective and efficient budget management throughout the pandemic.

314.2/20 Members received and noted the latest figures.

**317/20 Autumn Bulb Planting – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Members received a verbal update from the Committee Clerk and noted the event Risk Assessment.

**318/20 Green Spaces Apprentice**

The Town Clerk explained that recruitment for a new Apprentice would be postponed until January 2021 when, it is hoped, the usual work patterns for the Greenspaces Team would return to normal.

**319/20 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre**

Members received a report from the Lace Hill Centre Coordinator and unanimously **AGREED** for a report regarding an additional external fire exit door is brought back to the next committee meeting. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**320/20 Cattle Pens Finger Post**

Members noted a verbal report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** for an update to be given at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**321/20 Structural and Conditions Survey of Buckingham Community Centre**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. Cllr. Mahi reminded Members that he would refrain from any voting.

Cllr. Harvey expressed concern the survey may result in further delays to the installation of the PPV panels. The Town Clerk explained that officers are not able to advise members of the nature or cost of works which may be required in future years. It is therefore proposed that the Council obtains quotes for a thorough buildings survey, to identify any immediate and longer term issues, to

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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 .....

enable the Council to put any necessary plans in place and set to appropriate budgets to facilitate these. A future meeting of the Environment Committee would then be asked to decide on a quote and contractor before any works commenced. The Town Council is responsible for the building and a structural and conditions survey would allow the Council to budget more effectively for future use. Members unanimously **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to obtain quotes for a thorough Buildings Survey of Buckingham Community Centre. Cllr. Stuchbury proposed a reviewing the buildings lease to see if it was still fit for purpose now that the Town Council owns the building. Members **AGREED** to take a report to the next meeting of Resources Committee.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**322/20 Brackley Rd Cemetery**

Members received and discussed a written a report from the Estates Manager considering:

322.1/20 Exclusive rights of burial/Deed renewal fees

Members unanimously **AGREED** the exclusive rights of burial/deed renewal fee of £41 for non-residents and £21 for residents of the Parish, the renewal to be for a further 99 years.

322.2/20 Review of Cemetery fees

Members unanimously **AGREED** the increase of cemetery fees of 2.6%.

322.3/20 Burial plot provision report

Members noted the remaining burial plot provision report and unanimously **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to investigate options for a new Garden of Rest further and to obtain costs. Members thanked the Estates Manager for bringing the report to Committee and noted that if the new cemetery's planning application had been decided within the usual timescales then the Buckingham would not be in a position where additional ashes plots were urgently required.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**323/20 Wildflower areas on the bypass**

The Estates Manager informed Members of changes to the grass cutting regime along the Buckingham Bypass (A421) to allow for the growth of new wildflower areas. Four new roadside sites will be sown with a native wildflower mixture in the hope it will enhance the value of road verges for wildlife. The Estates Manager explained the mini-meadows would be managed differently to the wild flower meadows in Bourton Park and sections would not be re-seeded on an annual basis.

**324/20 Buckingham United proposal**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager. Members were generally in favour of the report recommendations and noted that the benefits were not just limited to Buckingham United FC. A vote was taken on the following report recommendations:

- To give permission to Buckingham United to expand their compound, install new fencing and install an additional container

**E/02/20**

- The Council give permission to install an access path from the compound to the existing path constructed to match the existing
- The Council agree to part fund the new path for 30% of the cost of the path to a maximum value of £3,000. Funds to be provided from the 2021-22 budget.

The results of the vote were:

In favour: 8

Against :1

Abstaining: 1

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**325/20 Access Awareness**

There were no updates.

**326/20 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

The Chair had previously circulated notes from the Buckingham Community Wildlife Project Steering Group gathered on 7 September 2020.

Members praised the local conservation groups for their sustained efforts in carry out some conservation work whilst following social distancing guidelines. Members noted the Buckingham Society's report on prospering colony of water voles in Bourton Park as well as lots of hedgehog nests in the same locality. Members **AGREED** to issue a press release on the work of the local conservation groups.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**327/20 Correspondence**

327.1/20 Members received and discussed an email concerning parking charges in Cornwall's Meadow car park. It was unanimously **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write to Buckinghamshire Council asking for the following:

- Installation of contactless payment facilities.
- Updated noticeboards to accurately reflect the cost of using the Ringo app.
- An amendment to any published advice that advocate the use of Ringo over cash payments.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

327.2/20 Members received and discussed an email from Mapping for Change. Members were in agreement that the system was more appropriate for larger authorities.

327.3/20 Members received and noted correspondence proposing a skate park at Lace Hill. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell that the Chair, Vice-Chair, Estates Manager and Town Clerk discuss the proposal and bring back a report to a future meeting of Environment Committee including site proposals for a BMX track.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**328/20 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Members noted an update on the Environment Committee's actions in the Climate Emergency Action Plan. It was **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to investigate funding options for an additional water bottle refill station in Buckingham.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**E/02/20**

**329/20 News Releases**

Members **AGREED** for the office to issue press releases on the Woodland bulb planting event and the ongoing work of Buckingham's conservation groups.

**330/20 Chair's Announcements**

**331/20 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Meeting closed at: 20.34

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