

BTC/04/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7pm online via Zoom.

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
Cllr. C. Clare	Buckinghamshire Councillor

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session

#### 687/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

#### 688/20 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were given:

Cllr. Mordue as a representative on the Swan Community Hub (agenda item 8.1).

Cllrs. Smith and Bloomfield as being Trustee and Treasurer of Buckingham Old Gaol Trust respectively (agenda item 8.5).

Cllrs. Hirons and Newell as a member of the PCC of St Peter & St Pauls Church. Cllr. Gateley as a member of St Peter & St Pauls Church and Fairtrade Buckingham (agenda item 8.2)

Cllr. O'Donoghue as an employee of the Buckingham Youth Club (agenda item 8.5).

#### 689/20 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 13th July 2020.

#### 690/20 Interim Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020.

Cllr. Cole suggested the following amendments which were unanimously **AGREED**:

Page 1 of minutes - Date missing at top of Minutes

201005 Full Council Draft Minutes 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.....

Page 2 of minutes - Repetition of ‘The Mayor confirmed that she would provide a written response to the questions raised.’

Page 3 of Minutes, (344/20) – Cllr. Cole proposed the amendment to Cllr Stuchbury’s motion that the first line be changed from: “*BTC wishes to express its deep alarm and concern...*” to the more forceful “*BTC expresses its deep alarm and concern*”, which Cllr Stuchbury accepted and therefore seconded.

Page 4 (344/200 Cllr. Try said that he would have preferred to see ‘voicing’ replaced with something stronger in the second paragraph, this was never seconded and the amendment fell.

Page 4 (Cllr. Cole’s statement) Penultimate paragraph should read ‘suggests’.

Para 4 on Page 5 (Cllr. Cole’s statement) - should read “of what a beautiful building is.”  
With the above amendments the minutes were **AGREED**.

### **691/20 Planning Committee**

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

- Monday 20th July 2020
- Monday 17th August 2020
- Monday 14th September 2020

### **692/20 Town Centre and Events Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 27th July 2020
- Thursday 10th September 2020

### **693/20 Environment Committee**

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020

### **694/20 Resources Committee**

Members received the minutes and discussed the recommendations of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020:

694.1/20 RECOMMENDED to Full Council to grant Lace Hill Residents Association £900 and Swan Community Hub £1,000 in line with their original applications, plus an additional £1,350 to the Swan Community Hub in line with their change of grant request form. (369/20) **AGREED**  
**ACTION FINANCE OFFICER**

694.2/20 RECOMMENDED that Members grant the Buckingham Churches Children’s Holiday Club funding of £300 in line with their change of grant request form. (369/20)  
A written report from the Town Clerk accompanied the above recommendation and Cllr. Harvey had circulated an information report to Councillors.

Cllr. Harvey referred to his analysis of the Holiday Club’s videos and craft materials, stating that the session was intended to be a Sunday school session and asserted that the Holiday Club were educating or promoting the Christian faith. Cllr. Harvey reminded Members that it was against the Town Council’s Equalities Policy to fund religious activities and recommended that Members follows through with the Communication Clerk’s original recommendation not to grant the Buckingham Churches Children’s Holiday Club

funding as the primary focus of the videos that were produced was religious worship and evangelism.

Cllr. Mordue did not agree that the video content was evangelical and that the sum of £300 was a small amount for the overall benefit to local families.

Cllr. Stuchbury said Members should make a decision that did not set a precedent for future community grant awards.

Cllr. P. Collins reminded Members that Buckingham Town Council had been funding activities at the Churches' Holiday Club for many years.

Cllr. Gateley confirmed that she would be abstaining from voting on the issue as she was members of the Christian faith and helped at many previous session of the Churches Holiday Club. Cllr. Gateley argued that, although the sessions were open to children of all (and no) faiths she could imagine the organisers would not want to be in a situation where they were prevented from promoting aspects of the Christian faith.

Cllrs. Strain-Clark and O'Donoghue were in agreement with Cllr. Gateley and suggested that Buckingham Churches Children's Holiday Club could carry on successfully without an additional £300 from the Town Council.

Cllr. G. Collins declared the item was discriminatory against the Christian faith and would set a precedent for not granting community grants to any youth groups in the future.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Town Council should not fund the promotion of a particular religion but could award funding to a faith based organisations with a wider social purpose. Cllr. Harvey called a Point of Order and asked the Town Clerk if voting for Resources' recommendation contravened any points of law. The Town Clerk explained that the Equalities Act 2010 made the Town Council responsible for promoting equality and diversity, providing an inclusive and supportive environment for all but that did not specifically relate to the funding of these activities.

Cllr. P. Collins declared he was no longer church warden. Cllr. P. Collins confirmed that he would updated his Register of interests with the Town Council Office.

#### **ACTION CLLR P. COLLINS**

The Mayor called for a vote on whether to grant the Buckingham Churches Children's Holiday Club funding of £300 in line with their change of grant request form.

Cllr. Harvey requested a recorded vote. The results were:

Votes in favour: Cllrs, G. Collins, Bloomfield, Try, Mahi, Mordue and P. Collins 6

Against: Cllr. Smith, Strain Clark, Cole, Ralph, O'Donoghue and Harvey 6

Abstentions: Cllrs. Gateley, Newell, Stuchbury, Hirons and Ahmed 5

The casting vote fell to the Chair: Cllr. G. Collins voted in favour.

#### **Motion carried**

694.3/20 RECOMMENDED that Members consider additional and final requests from successful 2020-2021 grant applicants who have not been able to resume their activities yet, and would like to apply for a change of grant use in January 2021. **AGREED**

694.4/20 RECOMMENDED that any remaining earmarked grant funds are made available for emergency grant funds during the remainder of 2020-2021, and that this funding should be prioritised for groups answering additional local need due to Covid-19.

#### **AGREED**

694.5/20 Resources Committee unanimously AGREED to makes the following recommendations to Full Council:

691.5.1/20 Add £2,000 to the contingencies budget (from 2021/22) which may be used by the Resources committee to support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations who urgently need funding during the year. **AGREED**

- 691.5.2/20 Invite those regularly receiving annual grants or funding currently to apply for four-year funding, including VCSE organisations that we currently support through other avenues than grant funding. **AGREED**
- 691.5.3/20 Grants will only be considered for projects and activities beneficial to the people of the civil parish of Buckingham. **AGREED**
- 691.5.4/20 Grant recipients must be based in the civil parish of Buckingham or provide evidence of the percentage of the work that directly benefits Buckingham residents. **AGREED**
- 691.5.5/20 Only not-for-profit bodies will be eligible for a grant. **AGREED**
- 691.5.6/20 Agree new one year and four-year application forms **AGREED**
- 691.5.7/20 Agree new one year and four-year grant monitoring forms **AGREED**
- 691.5.8/20 Agree new grant policy **AGREED**
- 691.5.9/20 Change the order of decision making, so that the Precept meeting in January sets the grants budget for the year, and then the next Resources meeting decides on specific grants. This will enable better budget control, and allow grant applications to be scrutinised after the grants fund budget has been decided. **AGREED**
- 691.5.10/20 Change three year grants onto a four-year system, starting in April 2022. All new long term grants to have a Grant Award Agreement. **AGREED**
- 691.5.11/20 The funding currently provided to the following organisations to be moved to the grants budget, and each organisation invited to apply for a grant: Tennis Club, Chandos Park Bowls Club, Buckingham Community Centre, Literary Festival, Summer Festival, Fairtrade Association. **AGREED**
- 691.5.12/20 Improve the content, search engine optimisation and layout of the grants page on our website. All of these improvements should explicitly present and promote diverse applications, including those from individuals with protected characteristics. **AGREED**
- 691.5.13/20 The Town Centre and Events Committee should investigate holding a Buckingham community group fundraising day, to be a large summer fair with 4 stalls from local VCSE groups and local grant giving bodies in order to support local groups to raise their profile, funds and recruit volunteers. Funding for this event should be included in the Town Centre and Events 2021/2022 precept. **AGREED ACTION TC&E COMMITTEE**
- 691.5.14/20 A new 'supported by Buckingham Town Council' text and logo image should be created for use by successful grants applicants. This should be funded from the Publicity budget, 102/4032. **AGREED**

With the above amendments the minutes were accepted.

## **695/20 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors**

### **Cllr. Clare**

Cllr. Clare explained that visitors to the Buckingham household recycling centre are now required to wear a face mask and confirmed work was underway to provide additional bays for unloading. Cllr. Clare informed Members that waste collections in Aylesbury Vale were suspended, following a major flooding incident at the waste transfer station in Pembroke Road, Aylesbury.

Cllr. Smith confirmed that the disruption meant all scheduled collections in the Aylesbury Vale area would be delayed by one day throughout the rest of the week (similar to usual Bank Holiday collection schedules).

Cllr. Harvey asked if the flooding could have been mitigated by regular maintenance of the drainage valves and nearby water courses. Cllr. Stuchbury asked Cllr. Harvey to forward him the information for further investigation.

**Cllr.**

**Stuchbury**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported on the Cabinet meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 where Members addressed questions on the Government's White Paper, Planning for the Future. Cllr. Stuchbury urged Members to review the minutes of the meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that Buckinghamshire Council were seeking more devolved powers to decide how to govern the area, which would reduce what decisions central government can make.

**Cllr.**

**Mordue**

Cllr. Mordue reported on the work of the Standards Commission reviewing the number of Councillors on the authority and ward boundaries.

### **696/20          Action List**

Members received and reviewed the updated Action List.

### **697/20          Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (min 343.1/20)**

Members discussed which six Town Councillors would take part in the Working Group from the following Councillors who have put themselves forwards. The Town Clerk explained that each Councillor could vote six times and the candidates with the majority of votes would go forward as the Town Council's representatives on the Working Group. In the event of a tie the casting vote would fall to the Mayor. A vote was taken for each candidate and the results were:

Cllr. Ahmed: 10  
Cllr. Cole: 9  
Cllr. Gateley: 12  
Cllr. Mordue: 7  
Cllr. Newell: 10  
Cllr. O'Donoghue: 11  
Cllr. Ralph: 12  
Cllr. Stuchbury: 9

The casting vote fell to the Chair: Cllr G. Collins voted in favour of Cllr. Cole as a representative of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group alongside Cllrs. Ahmed, Gateley, Newell, O'Donoghue and Ralph.

### **698/20          Covid-19**

Members received a brief update from the Town Clerk, noting that staff were beginning to return to work in the office and the official Qr codes were being used at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre and Shopmobility hut.

### **699/20          Moreton Road Crossing**

Members received a brief verbal update on the temporary status of the pedestrian crossing on the Moreton Road.

### **700/20          Budgets**

Members received and noted a revised budget forecast.

**701/20 20mph speed limits**

**701.1/20 Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and noted that it was possible to ask the Buckingham and Villages Community Board to support and fund or part fund the review and implementation of 20mph zones in Buckingham.

**701.2/20 Motion – Cllr. Stuchbury**

*“I propose that Buckingham town council investigate the cost of the traffic regulation order and associated costs for lowering the speed limits in appropriate areas of the town to 20 miles per hour. To request that the Community Board provides the necessary funding to implement such a scheme, and that the Town Council considers whether a contribution for such a scheme should be added to the precept.*

*I put this motion to the Council having listened to the discussions of Buckinghamshire Council’s Environment and Transport Select Committee where the Cabinet member suggested he had no finances to progress these matters but was personally supportive of the principle of the lowering of speed limits outside schools. The webcast of that meeting can be seen at this link:*

[https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/507039](https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/507039)”

Cllr. Ralph seconded Cllr. Stuchbury’s motion.

*Cllr Harvey was absent for the voting.*

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 12

Against: 3

Abstention: 1

**Motion carried**

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**702/20 Community Board Funding**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and discussed the recommendations within. Cllr. Hirons suggested a pedestrian crossing in Nelson Street to assist with increased footfall from the Tingewick Road. Cllr. Smith explained that TfB had previously discounted Nelson Street as there was no safe place to locate a pedestrian crossing.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously **AGREED** that the Council agrees to apply to the Community Board for as many of the listed schemes as are viable and meet the Boards’ criteria and priorities, including the following:

- Implementation of 20mph speed limit zones **ACTION TOWN CLERK**
- BMX/Scooter track, possibly to be sited at Lace Hill  
**ACTION ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
- Permanent pedestrian crossing on the Moreton Road from Prezzo to the Kings Head  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK**
- A feasibility study regarding the installation of public toilets in Bourton Park  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK/ESTATES MANAGER**
- A structure (possibly temporary) in Heartland Park for outdoor performances and (Covid compliant) social gatherings.  
**ACTION COMMUNITY BOARD COORDINATOR**
- Bridge replacement in Bourton Park **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**
- Park sculptures project **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

Cllr. Bloomfield said the BMX Track should become a priority as it has been a wish of the Town Council for many years. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **703/20 Planning Notification (20/03130/ATN)**

Members received a written report and recorded their thanks to the Planning Clerk for bringing the matter to their attention. Members **AGREED** for the Mayor and Chair of Planning Committee to write to BT opposing the removal of the phone box, pointing out that it is in the centre of town and accessible to all; not everyone has a mobile, or unrestricted access to a phone – such as children, vulnerable adults, or those in an abusive relationship who may need to call a helpline without the abuser knowing.

**ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

### **704/20 Sport and Art Awards**

Members discussed and **AGREED** to make an award to the Buckingham Ladies Hockey Team in 2020, to be awarded a silver salver in the open by the Mayor.

### **705/20 Devolution**

The Town Clerk announced that Buckingham had been chosen to lead on the devolution project with the Buckingham and Villages Community Board. The project would take place over three phases with the first tranche involving devolution of some greenspaces and the Moreton Road toilets. The Town Clerk said he would report back to a future meeting of Full Council with more information.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **706/20 Elections May 2021**

The Town Clerk reported on the UK Government's plans to move the 7 May 2020 scheduled polls to 6 May 2021.

### **707/20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members noted the reports listed below:

707.1/20 Buckingham and Villages Community Board 7th July 2020

### **708/20 Mayoral Engagements**

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

22nd July 2020	Children's murals
15th August 2020	VJ day
16th July 2020	Formal opening water bottle refill station
30th August 2020	Cricket club Guinness book of records challenge
3rd September 2020	Merchant Navy day flag raise
4th September 2020	Meeting with MP Greg Smith
5th September 2020	Buckingham Summer Concert
18th September 2020	Presentation Best Dog in Show
26th September 2020	Macmillan cake sale
29th September 2020	Lord Lieutenant's online awards

### **709/20 Chair's Announcements**

Members recorded their thanks to the Buckingham Rotary Club for assisting at the flu clinics at Lace Hill.

Cllr. Mordue announced that Buckingham's twinned town of Neukirchen-Vluyn had elected a new mayor, Mr. Ralf Köpke.

### **710/20 Date of the next meeting:**

Interim Council – Monday 2nd November 2020

201005 Full Council Draft Minutes Ratified

*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.*

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Initial.....

Full Council - Monday 23rd November 2020

Meeting closed at: 20.31

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor