

BTC/05/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 23rd November 2020 at 7pm online via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
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

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

802/20 **Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies from Councillor Bloomfield and received apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillors Whyte and Mills.

803/20 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

804/20 **Minutes**

Members received the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2020 and the following amendments were **AGREED**:

Page 1 - Correct the date of the meeting.

Page 4 (min 695/20) – 'Cllr. Clare informed Members...'

Page 7 (min 709/20) – 'Cllr. Mordue announced...'

With the above amendments the minutes were **AGREED**.

805/20 **Interim Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2020.

806/20 **Planning Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on: Monday 12th October 2020

23rd November 2020

Ratified

page 1 of

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.....

807/20 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes and confirmed the recommendation therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 19th October 2020:

Members **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Council earmark and commits the remaining budget from 301/4115 to the 2021/22 budget to give Councillors the opportunity to do an extra river rinse in the next financial year 2021. (744/20) *(This would be a total of £250)* **AGREED**

808/20 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 26th October 2020.

809/20 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020.

810/20 Economic Development Working Group

Members received the minutes of the Economic Development Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020.

811/20 Terms of Reference

Members reviewed and **AGREED** the Terms Of Reference as reviewed at Town Centre & Events Committee (min 718/20)

812/20 Motion – Cllr. M. Cole JP

"This Council requests that all councillors elected to represent their town and parish councils be afforded their civic title of 'Councillor' in attendance lists and minutes of the Buckingham & Villages Community Board, and that they are reinstated as Committee Members and not 'Public' at those meetings. Not to do so is undemocratic, and disrespectful to the Town and Parish Councils for which this Board is convened."

Cllr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to send a copy of the motion to Buckinghamshire Councillors Martin Tett and Charlie Clare.

Members were in agreement that Town Councillors were attending the Community Board meetings as an elected (or Co-opted) representatives of the community. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to use the title of Councillor to denote a Member of the Parish Council attending a Community Board meeting.

Cllr. Mordue said he would abstain from the vote.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 14

Abstentions: 2

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

Substantive motion

In favour: 14

Abstentions: 2

ACTION TOWN CLERK

813/20 Motion – Cllr. L. O’Donoghue

“As per Minute Number 176/20 Buckingham Town Council agreed to support the new national Code of conduct once it becomes ratified, however due to a number of posts that have taken place on a popular Facebook group I would like to submit that the following sections are added to the Town Council’s Code of Conduct with immediate effect. These are:

Not bringing my role or council into disrepute.

Behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your council into disrepute. As a member you have been entrusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on other councillors and/or your council.

Not bullying or harassing any person.

Bullying may be characterised as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. The bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and not always be obvious or noticed by others. The Equality Act 2010 defines harassment as ‘unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual’. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.”

Cllr. Harvey raised a point of order:

Standing Order 7a [A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 6 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 below, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.]

Cllr. Harvey contested that the motion sought to overturn a decision taken by Resources Committee on the 29th June 2020 (min 176/20).

The Town Clerk reminded Members that Resources Committee had agreed to arrange a workshop to develop the code of conduct once the final model is provided by NALC. The Town Clerk advised Members that Cllr. O’Donoghue’s motion did not seek to reverse that decision but to make an additional, interim arrangement.

Cllr. Strain-Clark seconded Cllr. O’Donoghue’s motion.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Harvey to adopt NALC’s draft model member code of conduct in its entirety.

Cllr. P. Collins raised a point of order:

Standing Order 7a [A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 6 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 below, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.]

The Town Clerk explained that Cllr. Harvey's amendment did not preclude a workshop from being arranged after the adoption of NALC's draft model member code of conduct and that the same principle applied as to Cllr. O'Donoghue's original motion.

The Town Clerk advised that the whole document had not been published with the Full Council's agenda, and so Members may have chosen to be cautious in adopting a document they had not recently read.

Cllr. Ralph seconded Cllr. Harvey's amendment.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 3

Against: 12

Abstentions: 1

The amendment fell

A vote was taken on Cllr. O'Donoghue's original motion and the results were:

In favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

814/20 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Stuchbury

Cllr. Stuchbury reported on his attendance at recent meetings, including Buckinghamshire Council's Education and Children's Select Committee, Community Board, Buckinghamshire Fire Authority and The Fire Authorities Audit Committee. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that he had placed a motion on the forthcoming meeting of Buckinghamshire Council's Standards Committee to review the Council's constitution.

Cllr. Mordue

Cllr. Mordue informed Members of a report to Buckinghamshire Council's Standards and General Purposes Committee Standards Committee concerning an electoral review of Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr. Mordue indicated that any changes would not come into effect until the 2025 Buckinghamshire Council elections but the precise timeframe for the stages of the review still needed to be confirmed.

815/20 Action List

226/20 (Public Crossing at Moreton Road) - Cllr. Cole informed Council that the Strategic Sites Committee on the 19th November 2020 had approved planning application 16/00151/AOP (Land Off Walnut Drive And Foscombe Road). As part of the development proposals a number of off-site highway works to mitigate the development are proposed including a pedestrian refuge on Moreton Road in the vicinity of the 'Old Gaol' roundabout, to provide safe crossing facilities to town centre services.

816/20 Diversity & Inclusion Working Group

Cllr. Gateley updated Full Council on the membership and action points from the last meeting of the Working Group (6th November 2020). The following ideas were highlighted as being in development:

- Review the Town Council's diversity and equalities policy

- Community carnival style event including poetry, music and foods from different cultures.
 - Use best practice examples such as the 'Show racism the red card' scheme and Oxford City's anti-racism charter.
 - Develop Council job roles to include elements of diversity and inclusion.
- Cllr. Gateley said the next meeting was on the 12th January 2021 where it was hoped a relevant officer from Buckinghamshire Council would attend.

817/20 Town Council Photograph

Members discussed whether to make arrangements for an online formal photograph of the current Council. Cllr. Stuchbury suggested including a photo shopped image of the late Cllr. Isham. Cllr. Gateley said it was appropriate to reflect the events of 2020 by capturing a photograph of Full Council on Zoom. Cllr. Newell proposed waiting until the Mayor Making ceremony in June 2021 when, hopefully, social distancing restrictions may have lifted. Members were in agreement that a photograph of a typical Council Zoom meeting could be placed in a future newsletter. Cllr. Ralph suggested each Councillor submitting individual photographs of decent quality to be submitted to the office for amalgamation into a group shot of Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Gateley arrangements are made for an online formal photograph of the current Council. Members were politely asked to dress for a civic occasion and it was **AGREED** that a separate group photograph would be commissioned at Mayor Making in June 2021.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour:14

Against: 2

ACTION TOWN CLERK

819/20 Town Council Awards

Members discussed and **AGREED** to form a Working Group to amend the Council's current scheme of awards.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

820/20 Notification of road closure - Moreton Road

Members received and discussed a notification of a road closure for the second part of the Moreton Road gas main works for the duration of three months.

Cllr Stuchbury suggested issuing a press release.

Cllr. Harvey proposing seeking clarification on was whether the order meant traffic control (lights) or a total closure, preventing all vehicular access.

Members were insistent that although it was imperative, it should take place with the minimum disruption to residents as possible.

Cllr. Smith proposed seeking clarity on whether work would take place at night and whether it would be subject to interruptions and, if so, would traffic management control continue during any interruptions.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

821/20 Covid 19

Members received and discuss a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

822/20 Precept Preparation Update

Members received and noted a written report from the Town Clerk

823/20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

None provided

824/20 Mayoral Engagements

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

4th November 2020 1-1 visit to Clearly Speaking 4th Nov.

6th November 2020 Online school remembrance service with the Royal Latin school.

8th November 2020 Remembrance service at the Buckingham War Memorial.

9th November 2020 On line Twinning Association

825/20 Announcements

826/20 Date of the next meetings:

Interim Council – Monday 21st December 2020

Full Council (Precept) 11th January 2021

Full Council - Monday 25th January 2021

827/20 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Exclusion of press and public

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.

828/20 Further Devolution of Council Services

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

829/20 Council Chamber

Members received a quote for building works for the Council Chamber to commission JK Property services to complete the renovations to the Council Chamber agreed by Full Council on the 30th September 2019 - 373/19.

Cllr P. Collins called for a recorded vote

Votes in favour: Cllrs. G. Collins, Ralph, Smith, Cole, Newell. Try, Ahmed, Harvey, Hirons, Mahi, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Gateley, Mordue and O'Donoghue

Votes Against: Cllr. P Collins

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Meeting closed at: 21.03

Signed Date

Town Mayor