

IM/04/20

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm on Monday 21st December 2020 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

Also Present:

Mr P. Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
Mrs K. McElligot	Planning Clerk
Cllr. T. Mills	Buckinghamshire Councillor

The Town Mayor, Cllr. G. Collins read the following statement:

“Following recent emails and Facebook posts some one you have asked if my accounts have been hacked, they have not. I have been impersonated on Facebook and this is being investigated by Facebook. I have received malicious, nasty and libellous emails which have been reported to the Police. Someone obviously has something against me, I don't know why. I am taking legal advice and this whole mater is now in the hands of the police, who have classified it as hate crime against me.”

Cllr. Mordue, vice-chairman of Buckinghamshire Council's Standards Committee, said that he would not take the Mayor's statement into account if any case relating to this issue were to be presented to the Standards Committee.

The Mayor reminded Members and attendees that Town Councillors would not be able to enter into debate on any subject raised during the Public Session, but may consider the subject at a later date and respond accordingly.

A minute's silence was held in respect for Mr. Hedley Cadd, Town Councillor from 1995 to 2015 who had died the previous week.

A member of the public expressed concern about a post on the Town Mayor's personal Facebook page. She offered advice about reporting such matters, but was concerned about how long the post had been in existence and how this had been possible.

IM/04/20

Another member of the public, referring to the gravity of the Facebook post content, suggested that the Town Council and Mayor might publicly distance themselves from it, reiterate that the Town Council would not align themselves to such comments under any circumstances, and indicate the steps they had taken to encourage Members to avail themselves of appropriate training.

The Town Mayor thanked the Members of the public for attending the public session.

909/20 Apologies for Absence

Members accepted and received apologies from Town Councillor M. Try.

910/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

911/20 Motion – Proposed by Cllr. J. Harvey

Child Poverty has increased by 32% from 2015 to 2019 in the Buckingham Constituency. (Relative Child Poverty 2014/15 = 7.2%. 2018/19 = 9.5%. Absolute poverty is also increasing: up from 7.4% to 8.5% - see https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-datachildpoverty/?mc_cid=356841e3f1&mc_eid=7b470779fd&fbclid=IwAR1iZ6ByfwE3IOZ2rEq29SsuffFjPg38lxT0Rsy5YeXtoWwH0tqdAVRk House of Commons Library). Indeed, in parts of our town, there are more than 1 in 5 children living in relative poverty. This is a matter of great concern to the Town Council. Although our powers are limited, we are committed to tackling this scourge in whatever way we can. As a consequence, we will organise a day of reflection and action. The aim will be to bring together all those who wish to consider what might be done to build on existing good work (e.g. the Food Bank) and develop other ideas to help these local children and their families"

Cllr. Harvey spoke to the above motion suggesting an online meeting to garner creative ideas such as the expansion of the Buckingham Free Meals project of Buckingham Support network. The motion was seconded by Cllr. G. Collins.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Ralph (recorded in italics):

Child Poverty has increased by 32% from 2015 to 2019 in the Buckingham Constituency. (Relative Child Poverty 2014/15 = 7.2%. 2018/19 = 9.5%. Absolute poverty is also increasing: up from 7.4% to 8.5% - see https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-datachildpoverty/?mc_cid=356841e3f1&mc_eid=7b470779fd&fbclid=IwAR1iZ6ByfwE3IOZ2rEq29SsuffFjPg38lxT0Rsy5YeXtoWwH0tqdAVRk House of Commons Library). Indeed, in parts of our town, there are more than 1 in 5 children living in relative poverty. This is a matter of great concern to the Town Council. Although our powers are limited, we are committed to tackling this scourge in whatever way we can. As a consequence, we will organise a day of reflection and action. *The aim will be to bring together all those who wish to consider what might be done to build on existing good work (e.g. the Food Bank, Buckinghamshire Council and all organisations that are currently working around this current issue.) and develop other ideas to help these local children and their families."*

A vote was taken on the amendment and the result were:

In favour: 12

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

The amended motion becomes to substantive motion and a further vote was taken.

912/20 Motion – Proposed by Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Motion to Deliver on the promise to Buckingham by Buckingham town council to hold a public meeting to discuss health provision. The Council's Environment Committee agreed, "Due to the current perceived threat to Buckingham Hospital in the light of the proposed new Medical Centre at Lace Hill, this committee recommends that Buckingham Town Council organise a public meeting to discuss residents' concerns and invite the Swan Practice, the CCG and other interested parties to attend. historically Agreed with in a motion of the council" at the meeting held on 22nd October 2018 (minute number 451/18). In light of the inability for the Town Council for various reasons to progress the agreed action to discuss the various health questions within the community about the future of health provision in Buckingham, The main questions and areas for discussion being Buckinghamshire Health Trust, community health and how Buckingham Swan Practice are progressing their vision for future health care for a delivery model of the health centre. I'm proposing that the Council holds an online meeting with councillors reading questions out provided and submitted by members of the public in advance. Town Councillors would ask the questions of the three primary areas on behalf of our constituents online within a zoom meeting with the three parties delivering health and community care within Buckingham. In a perfect world we would've honoured our pledge of 2018 to hold a public meeting regarding health provision in advance of the 2021 election. Council would have advertised the fact that it would receive questions from the public and would arrange the opportunity for the three health providers in Buckingham to answer those questions within a public forum. I would hope sincerely that an online meeting would be something colleagues would consider as a way of meeting our promise published within our minutes.

Cllr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.

Cllr. Cole proposed the following amendment (recorded in italics):

Motion to Deliver on the promise to Buckingham by Buckingham town council to hold a public meeting to discuss health provision. The Council's Environment Committee agreed, "Due to the current perceived threat to Buckingham Hospital in the light of the proposed new Medical Centre at Lace Hill, this committee recommends that Buckingham Town Council organise a public meeting to discuss residents' concerns and invite the Swan Practice, the CCG and other interested parties to attend. historically Agreed with in a motion of the council" at the meeting held on 22nd October 2018 (minute number 451/18). In light of the inability for the Town Council for various reasons to progress the agreed action to discuss the various health questions within the community about the future of health provision in Buckingham, The main questions and areas for discussion being Buckinghamshire Health Trust, community health and how Buckingham Swan Practice are progressing their vision for future health care for a delivery model of the health centre. *I'm proposing that the Council holds an online public meeting with residents and Town Councillors. Questions would be asked of the three primary areas on behalf of our constituents online within a zoom meeting with the three parties delivering health and community care within Buckingham.*

The Town Council will have advertised the meeting in advance and the fact Councillors will receive questions from the public and would arrange the opportunity for the three health providers in Buckingham to answer those questions within a public forum.

I would hope sincerely that an online meeting would be something colleagues would consider as a way of meeting our promise published within our minutes.

IM/04/20

Cllr Hirons raised concern that an online meeting would be off-putting for older residents.

A vote was taken on the amendment and the result were:

In favour: 8

Against: 5

Abstentions: 3

The amended motion becomes to substantive motion and a further, recorded, vote was taken.

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

Against: Cllr. P. Collins

Abstentions: Cllr. Harvey

The Substantive Motion was carried.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

913/20 Chairman's Announcements

Members **AGREED** for the office to send a letter of condolence to the family of Hedley Cadd.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk reported the following updates:

- The Tuesday and Saturday Market will continue to run (apart from Boxing Day), however non-essential retail are unable to attend.
- The Flea Market will not be running.
- Play areas, outdoor multi-use games areas and outdoor gym equipment will stay open, and the green spaces team will continue working as usual.
- The Tourist Information Centre and the Tourist Information Centre phone line will be closed.
- Shopmobility will continue to be open on Saturdays. Users are asked to call in advance.
- Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre is now closed except for a small number of exempt activities.
- The Town Council office remains closed to drop in visitors.
- The cemetery is available for interments as usual and in line with restrictions.

914/20 Date of next Meetings:

Full Council Monday 11th January 2021 (Precept)

Full Council Monday 25th January 2021

915/20 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

916/20 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. **AGREED**

917/20 Ear-Marked Reserves

Members received and discussed the below recommendation from Environment Committee (min 906/20)

21.12.2020 Ratified

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND

4

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.....

IM/04/20

It is recommended that members agree to recommend to Full Council to carry out the bridge repairs described, appointing GM Utilities to carry out the work.

It is recommended to recommend to Full Council that the ear-marked reserve 901 9050 Bridge Repairs be increased by £45,959.03 to £60,959 to enable the works to go ahead.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell and unanimously **AGREED**

Meeting closed at 20.02 pm

Signed

Date