

BTC/06/20

Minutes of the Precept meeting of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 11th January 2021** via Zoom at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole JP	
Cllr. G. Collins	Mayor
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. R. Newell	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	Deputy Mayor

In attendance: Mr. P Hodson Town Clerk
Mrs. L. Stubbs Communications Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public spoke in relation to item 3 (Just Giving – Buckingham Floods 2020), regarding the money raised by the community towards supporting residents who were heavily impacted by flooding over Christmas. The member of the public reported that there were 4 or 5 families in immediate need of funding and asked if the Council would consider holding the funds on behalf of the community so that they could be distributed in a fair and transparent way. The member of the public thanked all those in the community for their donations.

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for their work raising the money to support residents in need.

952/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. O'Donoghue.

953/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

954/20 Just Giving – Buckingham Floods 2020

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. A vote was taken regarding the recommendations in the report:

- a) That the Council agree to receive and distribute funding raised through Just Giving to support recovery from the recent flood and to contribute to works to reduce the impact of future flooding in the town.
- b) To use the Ear Marked Reserve code 901 9010 to receive the funds.
- c) To agree that decisions on distributing the funds will be made by the Funding Panel to be set up as described.
- d) To agree to apply to the Environment Agency (EA) for the allocated £500 of flood response equipment to help replenish the Town Council's used stocks.

Cllr. Harvey proposed, Cllr Stuchbury seconded that the recommendations of the report were agreed.

Cllr. Try proposed, that in order to make it clear that funding should be spent on immediate needs of residents first, the following amendment be made to recommendation 1.1.1., Cllr. Mahi seconded.

- a) That the Council agree to receive and distribute funding raised through Just Giving to support recovery from the recent flood and to use the remaining funds to contribute towards works to reduce the impact of future flooding in the town.

Cllr. Smith proposed an amendment that that families in most need be given £1,000 immediately, with no seconder this amendment fell.

Cllr. Harvey, as proposer of the motion, **AGREED** to include Cllr. Try's amendment as a substantive motion.

A recorded vote was taken and the results were:

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

Against: P. Collins

Abstentions: None

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members decided to discuss agenda item 6 (Budgets 2021/22) and 7 (Precept 2021/22) at this stage of the meeting.

957/20 Budgets 2021 - 2022

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. A vote was taken regarding the recommendations in the report:

That the 2021/22 budget as set out be recommended to Full Council;

- a) To adopt the budgets attached and maintain the current precept of £903,930 at a cost of £173.27 per Band D household, an increase of 169.16 per Band D property, being £4.21 or 2.49% per year, i.e. just over 8p per week.
- b) To adopt the ear-marked reserves as listed.
- c) That the total funding requirement for 2021/22 to be levied on Buckinghamshire Council be set at £903,930.

d) That the Council adopts the five-year budget attached for budgetary planning purposes, noting that the Precept Meeting each year will decide the actual budget and precept for the following year.

e) That the Council's Reserves Policy be to hold between five and six months Net Revenue Expenditure as a General Reserve.

The Town Clerk clarified a minor error in recommendation 1.a which should read:

a) To adopt the budgets attached and maintain the current precept of £903,930 at a cost of £173.27 per Band D household, an increase from 169.16 per Band D property, being £4.21 or 2.49% per year, i.e. just over 8p per week.

Cllr. P. Collins proposed a motion, and Cllr. Hirons seconded that, without changing the budget, the increase for band D households be reduced to zero, with the shortfall in the budget taken from the reserves instead.

Cllr. P. Collins called for a recorded vote and the results were:

In favour: Cllrs. P. Collins, Hirons

Against: Cllrs Ahmed, Bloomfield, Cole, Gateley, Harvey, Mahi, Mordue, Newell, Ralph, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury and Try

Abstentions: Cllr. G. Collins

Motion fell.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith that the Town Council adopt the budgets provided and agree the each of the recommendations.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: Cllrs Ahmed, Bloomfield, Cole, G. Collins, Gateley, Harvey, Mahi, Mordue, Newell, Ralph, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury and Try

Against: P. Collins, Hirons

Abstentions: None

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

958/20 Precept 2021/22

Members discussed and **AGREED** to adopt the precept figure of £903,930 at a cost of £173.27 per Band D household, an increase from 169.16 per Band D property, being £4.21 or 2.49% per year, i.e. just over 8p per week.

A recorded vote was taken and the results were:

In Favour: Cllrs Ahmed, Bloomfield, Cole, G. Collins, Gateley, Harvey, Hirons, Mahi, Mordue, Newell, Ralph, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury and Try

Against: Cllr. P. Collins

Abstentions: None

Motion carried

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Members returned to agenda items 4 (Motion – Proposed by Cllr. R. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. A. Ralph) and 5 (Motion – Proposed by Cllr. R. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. A. Ralph). Cllr. P. Collins left the meeting at this point in the agenda.

955/20 Motion – Proposed by Cllr. R. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. A. Ralph

I would like to propose that we look at the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Buckingham that was considered in 2000 and that the Town Council agrees to push this matter to be reinvestigated as a viable option to protect the community from future flooding events.

That the Council seeks Buckinghamshire Council's support to reopen the discussions about this flood alleviation project. Secondly that the Council asks the Member of Parliament for Buckingham to support this project and discuss it with the Environment Minister in light of the flooding on the entire water catchment area of the great Ouse for holding the water in a manageable way which would benefit not only Buckingham but the entire population living within the catchment area of the River Ouse.

<http://www.environmentdata.org/archive/ealit:442/OBJ/20000510.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3MUgiMB1ANWPqRJUtKRMaWNjnMGYuzwqQLTXp-J5axGPE3j4SOOe4JT8k>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288877/Great_Ouse_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf

Members discussed previous flooding in Buckingham in 1998, 2007, 2018 and 2020, including flood defence schemes that had previously been planned but not built.

A vote was taken on the motion and the results were:

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Note: Cllr. Mordue abstained from voting on this item, having missed the discussion while briefly leaving the meeting.

956/20 Motion – Proposed by Cllr. R. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. A. Ralph

That the Council asks the River Thames Conservation Trust for an urgent update on the project to use Natural Flood Management to develop the Upper Great Ouse catchment upstream of Buckingham to reduce flood risk, which is being carried out using S106 funding provided from Buckingham development.

Cllr. Mordue asked that the letter for the Environment Agency included a question about what river maintenance they had done prior to the flooding. Members **AGREED**.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Harvey proposed an amendment of the motion, that a copy of the request be sent to our MP and to the DEFRA minister. Cllr. Stuchbury accepted Cllr. Harvey's amendment to be added as a substantial motion.

A vote was taken on the motion and the results were:

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed and members **AGREED** that Press Releases should be written about both funding for flood victims, and plans to alleviate future floods.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

959/20 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr. G. Collins requested that everyone stay well and stay home as much as you can. Members asked that their best wishes be passed on to Cllr. O'Donoghue for a speedy recovery.

960/20 Date of the next meetings:

Full Council Monday 25th January 2021

Meeting closed at: 8.10pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor