

E/02/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Working Group** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 26th July 2021 @ 7pm, online via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	Town Mayor
Cllr. F. Davies	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. W. Whyte	Chair
Cllr. R. Willett	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mr. P Hodson	Town Clerk
Cllr. C. Cornell	Buckinghamshire Council
Mrs. C. Cumming	Buckingham Society

PUBLIC SESSION

Buckingham Ford

A Member of the Buckingham Society raised concerns over the lack of maintenance to the Buckingham Ford. Councillors were asked to consider seeking funding for the renovation of a wall leading off Ford Street and to install a stone bench, fringed by a grassy mound, for pedestrians to rest and admire the river.

276/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Hetherington, O'Donoghue and Ahmed.

277/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

278/21 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 14th June 2021 and received at Full Council on the 12th July 2021

279/21 Action Report

Litter Bins (886/21) – Members noted that a new litter bin and dog waste bin have been installed on the Tingewick Road.

Refill Station (328/20) – Members **AGREED** Cllr. Harvey's suggestion to liaise with Ganderton's Garage over the possible location of a water bottle refill station at Bridge Street play area.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Clarence Park Ramp (897/20) – *Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Cornell to speak.* Cllr. Cornell explained she was awaiting a response from the developers and would report with any updates.

*Members **AGREED** to reinstate Standing Orders*

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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.

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Streetlights – Article to be published on Thursday 29th July as part of Love Parks Week.

280/21 Budgets

Members received and discussed the latest budget report.

281/21 Maintenance of ford at Ford Street, MK18 1EP

To discuss whether to carry out additional clearing work at the ford, and whether officers should investigate options for restoring the ford to its historic status. A background note has been provided by Cllr. Whyte. Cllr. Whyte informed Members that for over fifteen years, the ford has been left without maintenance apart from occasional grass and weed cutting. It was explained that the agenda item was not to pre-empt the Section 19 flood report and any works that this might suggest, but to discuss the Town Council's view on how the ford should be generally maintained, and if it would benefit from visual improvement. Members noted there had been significant silt build up alongside the ford, with vegetation establishing itself along the Coopers Wharf wall.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council were responsible for clearing verges adjacent to the highways and a cut back of vegetation was carried out twice a year. When the Town Council took on the devolution contract for these works, the Council continued the same level of maintenance that Buckinghamshire County Council had previously provided.

Cllr. Schaefer questioned whether the ford should be managed differently to retain some of its heritage valuable but also making it an asset for wildlife and site of interest for passing pedestrians. Cllr. Schaefer stressed that public consultation was key to the project.

Cllr. Harvey said accessibility of the bridge from Chandos Park to Buckingham University should be more of a priority for the Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to form a working party to formulate recommendations for a future meeting of the Environment Working Group and to launch a public consultation in liaison with the Buckingham Society. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

282/21 Community Right to Bid

To agree for the Council to submit a request for the patch of woodland behind Castle House / between Summerhouse Hill & Western Ave car park to be registered as an asset of community interest. Cllr. Harvey said it was an under used area of Buckingham that could be made more of an asset for the town with community board funding. Members were asked to consider:

- a) whether to register it as an asset for the Community Right to Bid or not
- b) to review the status of this land (owned by Buckinghamshire Council) and whether more could be made of the space (e.g. more seats / benches / 'secret' sculptures / signage etc.)
- c) to decide if we want to name this piece of amenity woodland in the heart of our town (one suggested name is 'The Overn Copse' for example)

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The Town Clerk explained that Castle Hill was being considered within the scope of the Devolved Services discussions with Buckinghamshire Council. Buckingham Town Council have submitted a bid to manage of this parcel of land within the evolving devolved services arrangement. Buckinghamshire Council were in the process of appointing a Project Manager and it was hoped there would be future updates in the Autumn.

Members **AGREED** Cllr. Davies's suggestion for the Town Clerk to contact Buckinghamshire Council to find out the land's title and whether Buckingham Town Council could suggest an official name for the avoidance of future doubt.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

283/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

Members received the update Action Plan and the following items were discussed:
Branding – Members **AGREED** for the Estates Admin to report back to a future meeting on ideas for branding and communication of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

ACTION ESTATES ADMIN

Community Carbon Footprint – Members **AGREED** for the Estates Admin to research options for conducting a parish wide audit on carbon emissions to provide insight into those places where focused community-based action can make the biggest contribution to cutting local emissions.

ACTION ESTATES ADMIN

284/21 Local Councils' Climate Emergency Meeting

Members received the following update from the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr. Gateley:

Ideas from Haddenham Town Council:

- Food waste Challenge: assessing food waste; how to reduce this.
- Developing sustainable habits, e.g. reducing meat and dairy consumption.
- Electric Vehicle car club (in partnership with Thame).
- Research on use of aviation.
- Carbon sinks: woodland planting to offset carbon.

Ideas from Hazlemere Town Council:

- Aim to achieve net zero carbon by 2030; Working party established with 15/20 residents and 2 Councillors.
- Wildflower meadow/ pollinators.
- Solar panels, heat pumps, green energy supplier.
- Advanced recycling.
- Hazlemere Climate Talks 1st Monday of each month.
- Beehives into schools.
- Tree project: 1 tree for every child in Hazlemere; self-seeded tree seedlings sourced locally. Pot them up and nurture, then plant in local area.
- Bee Squared: a 1m square wildflower area in front gardens. Wildflower seeds distributed free to each house. Seeds sourced in bulk and put into small envelopes, then delivered to each house by volunteers. Cost 27p per household. Possible Community Board funding. Copy of leaflet to be sent separately.
- Repair café.

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- Biodiversity corridor.

285/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Members **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Communication Strategy Group to publicise the work of Buckingham Community Wildlife Project.

286/21 Members to discuss and agree Town Council representatives for each of the Community Board Action-groups:

Improving the Environment – (existing representative: Cllr. Willett)

Transport and Highways

Supporting Economic Recovery

Youth – (existing representatives Cllrs. O'Donoghue and Willett)

Members noted the next meeting of the Community Board Environment Action Group as Tuesday 3rd August 2021 @ 6pm

287/21 Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Working Group on the 18th October 2021 will be held in the, newly renovated, Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow.

288/21 News Releases

AGREED to issue a press release on the two new bins on the Tingewick Road.

289/21 Chair's Announcements

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th October 2021

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

290/21 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**

291/21 Cemetery and Allotments Planning, Scope of Services and Strategic Brief

Members received a confidential briefing note from the Estates Manager and discussed the finances of the new cemetery and allotments.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Willett to **RECOMMEND** a report to the Resources Working Group on a break down of costs incurred by the Town Council as a result of the delayed planning application for the new cemetery and allotments. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 1

ACTION TOWN CLERK

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Members unanimously **AGREED** the Statement of Need document and Strategic Brief.

292/21 Tingewick Road Green Spaces Update

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the management of the Tingewick Road Green spaces

293/21 Holocaust Memorial Stone

Members received a written report from the Estates Admin and unanimously **AGREED** to commission a memorial stone from Louis Francis Carving and install this at the eastern end of Bourton Park (location 3) at a cost of £1,265.

Meeting closed at: 21.03

Chair

Date

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