

BTC/05/21

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 4th October 2021 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

- Cllr. M. Cole JP
- Cllr. F. Davies
- Cllr. M. Gateley
- Cllr. S. Hetherington
- Cllr. H. Mordue
- Cllr. A. Schaefer
- Cllr. R. Stuchbury
- Cllr. M. Try
- Cllr. R. Willett

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| In attendance: Mr. P. Hodson | Town Clerk (Virtual attendee) |
| Mrs. N. Stockill | Committee Clerk |
| Mrs S. McMurtrie | Town Planning Officer (Virtual attendee) |
| Cllr. C. Cornell | Buckinghamshire Council |

PUBLIC SESSION

Cornwall's Meadow Care home, Land Rear of 13 High Street, Buckingham

A Member of the public attended the Public Session to raise concerns about the lack of car parking provision at the new care home site in Cornwall's Meadow for staff, visitors, residents and emergency services. It was noted that the renovation plans for 13 High Street did not allow for additional customer or staff parking and the shared access road with the care home may become congested at peak times. The resident expressed concerns that the Cornwall's Meadow car park was full to capacity at weekends, when most visitors might be expected.

Members were asked to consider conducting a footfall survey across the bridge from Heartlands Park to the car park in order to ascertain the volume of pedestrians that have to cross the busy car park entrance to reach shops and other facilities.

McDonalds, Land adjacent to Tesco Store, London Road

The resident said the impact of this development would be significant on the available capacity at the junction that forms the entrance to Tesco as this junction already experiences peak time queuing and the 24 hour sales of refreshments could attract gatherings in the Tesco car park and possible anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Cole thanked the member of public for raising their concerns with Full Council and assured them that the Planning Committee would be monitoring the situation and would discuss the resident's suggestion at a future meeting. Cllr. Cole reported that McDonalds had withdrawn their application for the 24-hour sale of refreshments and ask the Planning Clerk to confirm details at the Planning Committee meeting on the 11th November 2021.

370/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Harvey, Whyte, Osibogun, Ralph, Collins, Ahmed and O' Donoghue.

371/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the agenda.

372/21 **Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 12th July 2021

373/21 **Interim Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021

374/21 **Planning Committee**

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

Monday 19th July 2021

Cllr. Cornell left the meeting at this point in the agenda

Monday 16th August 2021

Members **AGREED** the report recommendation from Cllr. Ralph and seconded by Cllr. Davies that: "I propose this matter of public comments on planning applications no longer being visible on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal is brought formally to the attention of Full Council and in doing so ask that a letter is sent to the relevant Cabinet Members of Buckinghamshire Council to ask if they will confirm that what Mr. Nicholson said is in fact correct and if so, request sight of the relevant GDPR documentation emanating from Central Government diluting the democratic process of transparency in planning applications in this way. At the discretion of Full Council, a copy of any such letter might usefully be forwarded to Greg Smith MP."

Unanimously **AGREED**

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Monday 13th September 2021

375/21 **Town Centre and Events Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 27th July 2021 and Monday 6th September 2021.

Cllr. Stuchbury praised the Town Council staff for their hard work co-ordinating the seasonal events programme despite the challenges faced during the Covid-restrictions.

Cllr. Mordue declared an interest in the subject matter of the recommendation as he was an existing Member of the Friends of Buckingham University.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a Councillor be appointed to represent the Town Council on the [Friends of Buckingham University](#) group.

A vote was taken and the results were:

8 in favour

1 abstention

Members **AGREED** to add the item to the next Interim meeting of Full Council in order to allow absent Town Councillors an opportunity to volunteer. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

376/21 **Environment Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 26th July 2021. Cllr. Schaefer reminded Members that the first meeting of the Buckingham Ford Working Group was scheduled for Thursday 4th November at 10am. (*minute 281/21 refers*)

377/21 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th September 2021

NB: the recommendation made by the Resources Committee to Full Council was considered during the confidential section of this meeting

378/21 Action List

Public Healthcare Meeting (912/20) – “I am proposing” to be amended to “It is proposed”.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

379/21 External Audit

Members received and noted the external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 3).

380/21 Motion – Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Willett: In light of recent decisions taken in respect of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and regardless of any future decisions or planning consent granted by Buckinghamshire Council, Buckingham Town Council signals its intention to look at taking over the open spaces and playing fields within Maids Moreton Road Phase Three Development. The Town Council grants the Town Clerk consent to enter into confidential discussions with the developer.

A vote was taken and the results were:

8 in favour

1 abstention

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

381/21 Climate Champions

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** to consult with former Town Councillor Mrs Ruth Newell. Members discussed the membership of the working group and **AGREED** that it should not be restricted to a defined number of Champions. It was **AGREED** for the Greenspaces Administrator to circulate a Doodle poll to all Councillors to convene an initial meeting of the Climate Champions.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

382/21 Covid 19 Update

The Town Clerk reported that all office staff were now working from the office, with occasional home working where necessary. All staff were observing social distancing and wearing masks where possible/appropriate.

383/21 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan/Vale of Aylesbury Plan

The Town Clerk reported that in light of the adoption of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan the majority of Buckingham’s Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP) still stands and Council needed to build a case for defending its rate of affordable housing to future developers looking to build in the Parish. The Town Clerk reported on the meeting of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee held on 14th September 2021 where it was agreed that the BNDP should be reviewed in light of VALP, with a view to developing a plan that would enable the necessary housing to provide for the Western Bypass / future transport needs, and which clearly demonstrates how the required infrastructure would be delivered.

384/21 Creating a Vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

Members received and discussed a consultation from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Cole and unanimously **AGREED** to refer the consultation to Planning Committee (next meeting on the 11th November) outlining Members' concerns as:

- The Oxford-Cambridge Arc plans could, ultimately, supersede Highways elements from within the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan.
- The one million new homes aspiration will need infrastructure: schools, clinics, hospitals, water and electricity supplies, waste and sewage disposal etc. Councillors are not satisfied that the outline plans set out where essential infrastructure which will support the new homes will be needed, as well as where there will be new employment sites.
- The Government's Planning White Paper suggests significant reforms in the planning system and would suggest that, moving forward, Town and Parish Councils will have little sway where developments will be located.
- Building one million new homes will require huge swathes of land and the necessary infrastructure support (roads, school, medical centres etc.) will require even more. The significant environmental concerns with the plan and relating to swathes of countryside being turned into another city is of serious concern to the Town Council

385/21 Community Governance Review

Members received and discussed the following consultation questions from the Local Government Boundary commission:

- a) Do you feel that any the suggested numbers put to us - 80, 98 or 120 – represents an appropriate council size for Buckinghamshire Council from 2025?
- b) If so, why do you feel that your preferred number is the 'best' choice? if possible, please refer to the aspects listed in the paragraph above in explaining your choice.
- c) If you don't support any of these numbers and want to suggest an alternative one, or if you prefer to express a more general view about the size of the Council but without specifying a figure, please explain why you feel this way. Again, it might be helpful to refer to the aspects listed above.

Cllr. Mordue said he would abstain from the vote as he was a Member of the Standards Committee at Buckinghamshire Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Schaefer that we, the Town Council, support a number <100 to allow the manageability and efficiencies of Buckinghamshire Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Willett that, based on the workload of Buckinghamshire Councillors, a Full Council of 120 would allow for a larger number of elected representatives and share the workload across a greater number of Members.

Cllr. Schafer amended her proposal to: The Town Council chooses not to specify a figure but encourages Members to respond to the consultation questions on an individual basis. Cllr. Try seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken for Cllr. Stuchbury's proposal and the results were:

3 in favour

4 against

2 abstentions

Motion fell

4th October 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

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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.....

A vote was taken on Cllr. Schaefer's proposal and the results were:

7 in favour

2 abstentions

Motion carried

ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS

386/21 Public Health Care

386.1/21 Lace Hill Medical Centre Consultation

Members received information about the Swan Practice's Consultation on Healthcare Services in Buckingham and decided the following response:

Cllr. Mordue said he will abstain from the vote as a Member of Healthwatch Bucks but was in support of the development of a new medical centre in Buckingham.

Cllr. Try confirmed that there had not been a meeting of the patient participation group since before the pandemic.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Gateley to form a working group to consider the consultation and recommend a response to be considered at Interim Full Council on the 1st November 2021.

A vote was taken and the results were:

7 in favour

1 against

1 abstentions

Members **AGREED** the following Members of the working group as Cllrs. Hetherington, Davies and Try.

386.2/21 Public Health Meeting

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk. Cllr Stuchbury explained that the original motion offered the opportunity for the public to ask questions of healthcare providers in Buckingham.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury not to agree a date for the public meeting but to wait until after the completion of the Swan Practice consultation Town Clerk on how a future meeting could take place to be arranged

Cllr. Gateley summarised that the mood of the meeting was that, at this present time, it would not be helpful to have a public meeting on healthcare. Members were in general agreement to keep the item on the Action Report and revisit the subject at a more appropriate time.

Members **AGREED** to leave it on the action list and review it at an appropriate time.

387/21 Child Poverty Day of Reflection & Action

To receive and discuss a written report from the Town Clerk

Members nominated Cllrs. Willett, Davies and Stuchbury to form a working group to devise a plan for the day of reflection. Members **AGREED** the nominations and for Cllr. Harvey to be given the opportunity to join.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

388/21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

To receive any reports from Members

Cllrs. Mordue and Stuchbury reported on several meetings relating to their roles as Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Members noted the next meeting of the Buckingham and Villages Community Board on 13th October where the Board would consider the Town Council's bid to fund a 20mph feasibility study.

Twinning Association - Cllr. Gateley updated Members that the plan was for a delegation from Germany to visit Buckingham to sign the agreement here in October 2020 during the weekend of the second fair. This was postponed due to the lockdown. A formal signing of the twinning agreement will take place in the Council Chamber during the afternoon of Saturday 25th October. This will be a formal event, with the Mayor and Town Clerk fully robed and the mace present. A formal civic celebration will be held in March 2022. This will involve a delegation from Neukirchen Vluyn and a delegation from Mouveaux, to mark the 20th anniversary of Buckingham's formal twinning with that town.

389/21 Mayoral Engagements

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

July 13: Buckingham in Bloom judging.

July 16: Buckinghamshire Radio interview re The Otter Trail (at Bourton Meadow Academy).

July 16: Meeting of Buckinghamshire Mayors of towns/ parishes which have declared a Climate Emergency (Zoom).

July 19: Meeting with Dr Jane Tapsell, University of Buckingham Pro Vice-Chancellor. (Zoom).

July 19: Opening of Scouting in Buckingham Exhibition at The Old Gaol.

July 20: Oxford Fiddle Group/ Opening of Buckingham Fringe Week. Radcliffe Centre.

July 22: Meeting of Buckingham Area Community Advice Bureau (BACAB) Trustees (Zoom).

July 22: Meeting of local Mayors (Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire) (Zoom).

July 23: Launch of The Otter Trail.

July 25: Opened Lace Hill Fun Day.

July 29: Trustees Meeting of Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity. (Zoom).

August 16: Opened Alice in Wonderland production.

August 20: Friends of Buckingham Hospital tea party.

August 21: Shop Raffle prize giving. (Old Gaol)

August 21: Three Counties Radio interview re Otter Trail.

August 27: Meeting with Professor James Tooley.

August 29: Opened Bandjam.

August 31: Buckingham Society Summer Lecture and Garden Party.

September 2: Florence Nightingale House Hospice Briefing (Hulcott).

September 3: Flag raising for Merchant Navy Day.

September 3: University of Buckingham School of Computing Centre for Artificial Intelligence Opening.

September 4: Celebrate Buckingham Day.

September 8: Buckinghamshire High Sheriff's Summer Reception (Weedon).

September 13: Pontio Meeting.

October 2: Richard 111 Buckingham Half-Angel Exhibition. Old Gaol.

October 3: High Sheriff's Justice Service. Aylesbury.

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

Music Not in the Market

390/21 Chair's Announcements

Remembrance Parade – coordination meeting to be rearranged.

391/21 Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 1st November 2021

Full Council - Monday 22nd November 2021

392/21 Confidential Session

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

393/21 To confirm the recommendation of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th September 2021

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** It is **recommended** that the Committee recommends to Full Council that the Council enters a three-year contract with Cloudy IT to provide IT infrastructure, phone and network services for the costs as described, with an option to extend for a further two years. The setup costs that cannot be met from the revenue budget to be funded from Ear-marked reserve 901 9051 Office Development / Furniture. Cloudy IT provided the cheapest quote and scored highest on the tender evaluation.

AGREED

Meeting closed at: 21.09

Signed Date

Town Mayor