

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 6th December 2021 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley Town Mayor
Cllr. S. Hetherington
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. W. Whyte Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey attended Via Zoom.

In attendance: Mr P Hodson Town Clerk
Mrs N. Stockill Estates Administrator

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr. Harvey to speak. Cllr Harvey did not participate in any vote.

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

533/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Ahmed, Davies, O'Donoghue, Willett, Osibogun and Schaefer and received apologies from the Estates Manager.

534/21 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

535/21 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 18th October 2021 and received at Full Council on the 22nd November 2021.

534/21 Action Report

Members received and noted the updated Action Report. The Town Clerk advised Members that an action to carry out a survey of the Community Centre had been missed off the list and would be added for the next meeting.

535/21 Budgets

535.1/21 To receive the latest figure

Members noted the latest budget figures.

535.2/21 Budget Changes for 2022/23

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Ralph and unanimously **AGREED** that the Committee recommend the proposed five-year budget and revised earmarked reserve, to be included in the proposed budget for 2022/2023 for Full Council to consider at the Precept meeting in January 2022.

536/21 Review of Quick Litter Pick Initiative

Members received a written report from the Estates Administrator and unanimously

E/04/21

AGREED to fund the installation of an additional Quick Litter Pick Station in Chandos Park from budget code 251/4601 (Chandos Park Repairs and Maintenance).

Members were in agreement that if the scheme continued to be successful then it could be promoted to Buckinghamshire Council for consideration in the Heartlands Park.

ACTION ESTATES ADMIN

537/21 Greenspaces Compliments & Complaints Log

Members noted the 6-monthly log.

538/21 Exemption Conditions for small-scale Cemetery Developments

Members discussed a written report from the Estates Manager regarding DEFRA's consultation on Amendments to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as applied to Groundwater Activities and related Surface Water Discharge Activities

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-quality/amendments-to-the-epr-for-groundwater/>

The Town Clerk highlighted that if the proposals were to be adopted without change, residents of Buckingham who have pre-purchased burial plots could be significantly disadvantaged. The number of remaining burial plots in the Brackley Road cemetery would be reduced, and the capacity of the new cemetery would be reduced. It was therefore proposed that the Council respond to the consultation outlining the negative impacts on Buckingham residents under the proposed answers and requesting that a more detailed proposal be issued which include measures to avoid the risks listed.

Members discussed and **AGREED** the proposed responses to the consultation.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

539/21 Tingewick Road Cemetery Update

Members noted that the Council's appointed contractor is in the process of delivering the brief agreed by the Council. A full report is hoped to be ready for the next Environment Meeting to consider, on 28th February 2022.

540/21 Grass Cutting Regime in Bourton Park's Paddocks

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager. Members were in agreement that Buckingham was lucky to have such a variety of greenspaces.

Cllr. Stuchbury said it was an issue for TC&E Committee to consider whether Bourton Park was the appropriate location for future Celebrate Buckingham events.

541/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

Members received and noted an updated version of the Climate Emergency Action Plan

542/21 Tree Planting Sunday 16th January 2022

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Administrator.

543/21 Church Hill Information Board Proposal

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. Members preferred that the land be called Castle Hill. Members **AGREED** the following report recommendation:

6th December 2021

DRAFT

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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

E/04/21

It is recommended that Members agree to allow the proposed board to be installed on the Church Green, conditional on the exact location and final design being agreed by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

544/21 Community Board Environment Group 14th September 2021

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham & Village Community Board Environment Group.

545/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Members received a verbal updated from the Estates Administrator and Members **AGREED** for the Town Mayor to write a letter of thanks to the Coordinators of the Railway Walk Conservation Group who were retiring after many years of hard work.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR & TOWN MAYOR

546/21 Chair's Announcements

547/21 News Releases

Members **AGREED** for the office to issue a press release on the success of the Bourton Park Quick Litter Pick scheme.

548/21 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 28th February 2022

Meeting closed at: 20:04

Chair

Date