

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 17th July 2017** at 7.16pm following a Public Session in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	Chair
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Ms. C. Childs	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

215/17 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Isham and Newell.

216/17 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

217/17 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2017, ratified at Full Council on the 26th June 2017.
AGREED

218/17 Action Reports

To receive the report and note the updated information.

640/16 (Sports Pitch Provision) Cllr. Stuchbury requested the action be added as an agenda item at the next meeting. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

Members discussed altering the Action Report to perhaps contain the following headings:

- Deadlines
- Action Owner
- Minute Number
- Actions are to be listed numerically
- Actions that are 'completed' or 'on hold' should be moved into a separate table.

Members also suggested that Committee should decide on the top three priorities from each meeting that are to be progressed to the following agenda.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Hirons and **AGREED** for the Committee Chair and Cllr. Harvey to draft a revised Action Report template

and scoring system for consideration at the next meeting of Environment Committee.
ACTION CLLRS. SMITH & HARVEY

Members **AGREED** the following priorities to be progressed and placed on the next agenda for an update:

1. 931/16 (Dog Bins notices) the installation of dog exclusion notices around playgrounds.
ACTION ESTATES MANAGER
2. Gates at Lace Hill Playground – Cllr. Harvey reported here were no gates on the new Lace Hill Playground to prevent dogs from entering. Members **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to investigate how much it would cost to install two the gates.
ACTION ESTATES MANAGER
3. 513/16 Bourton Park Tree Works – Estates Manager to complete the tree survey in Bourton Park
ACTION ESTATES MANAGER
4. Sports Pitch Provision – to be brought to the next meeting for an update from the Town Clerk
ACTION TOWN CLERK

219/17 **Budgets**

Lace Hill Gas – Cllr. Harvey questioned why 62% of the budget was already spent. The Estates Manager explained that the energy expenditure of the new system was being managed by a new computer system and an efficiency report was being drawn up for the LHSCC.

220/17 **Lace Hill Playgrounds**

Cllr. Stuchbury said that he had received requests for a map showing where the local play parks were located and what ages they were designed for. Cllr. Stuchbury said it was not his intension that Buckingham Town Council should fund signage on private play areas and suggested the Town Clerk seek an update from the Developer at Lace Hill.

Cllr. Harvey said it would be useful to have an updated map of Buckingham showing parks and dog bin locations, which could also be included on the Council's website, plus QR codes on all notice boards linking back to the online map. Cllr. Mahi said a map of the play area could be included in the new homes packs that are sent to all new residents.

Members **AGREED** to refer the item to the Communications Strategy Group for further discussion.
ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

221/17 **Lace Hill Residents Association**

Members received and discussed correspondence from the Lace Hill Residents Association. Councillors **AGREED** to respond highlighting that the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre (LHSCC) was a facility for the whole of Buckingham but that the Committee agreed to fund up to four meeting a year, including an AGM, subject to review after three years.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that, given the problems arising on the estate, Members find out when the meetings would be held and try to attend. Members noted that any other Buckingham Residents Associations would have to pay for the hire of facilities and suggested the Lace Hill Residents

Association consider applying for grant funding following the expiry of the initial three year period.

222/17 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre Security

The Deputy Town Clerk explained there had been reports of individuals entering the centre and being verbally abusive to members of staff and hirers. Cllr. Harvey suggested taking advice from the HSE on lone working at LHSCC whilst liaising closely with the LHSCC Coordinator.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members discussed and **AGREED** that the cost of a security fob system for the external doors, and motion sensor flood lights onto the car park be explored.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

223/17 Action Report Prioritisation System

Discussed during agenda item 4 (*minute 218/17*).

224/17 Dog Bins

Members discussed and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to respond to a request for an additional bin on Badgers, explaining that there had previously been a dog bin near the suggest position but that it was removed following complaints from local residents. Members would consider any suggested alternative location.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

225/17 Winslow United Correspondence

Taking into account Mr. Cove's presentation during the earlier Public Session, Members **AGREED** to permit Winslow United and FC Buckingham continued use of the Lace Hill Sports Pitches as per the terms of the contract, but seek assurances that 'Buckingham' be incorporated into the team's name when the current football kits have to be replaced. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

226/17 Designation of War Memorial

Noted.

227/17 Grounds Maintenance Contract Update

Members discussed and **AGREED** the officer recommendation.

[For the benefit of the minutes the Officer Recommendation was as follows: That members agree the additional funds required to fund the Grounds Maintenance contract for the rest of this season be used from the budget headings listed.

That members agree the office investigate the options on how best to provide the grounds maintenance service in the future; looking at the possibility of bringing it 'In-house', contracting out all/some of the services or possibly extending the new contract and then bringing the findings back to this committee.]

228/17 BCWP

The Estates Manager reported the following highlights from the earlier Buckingham Conservation Wildlife Project meeting:

- The Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group expressed concerned about the possible impact on the pond arising from the introduction of any drainage needed for the linear path to be built in the old track-bed alongside the proposed University residential accommodation, on the site of car park at the top of Chandos Road.
- The Estates Manger was seeking assurances from AVDC that The Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group would still be able to store their tools in the secure locked room at the side of the current toilet block once the new public conveniences are opened.
- The Maids Morton Avenue Conservation Group noted that Beech and Sycamore saplings were competing for growth and an annual 'thinning out' of Sycamores was suggested. It was agreed that the Estates Manager would ask AVDC for a copy of the current management plan.

229/17 Access Awareness

Cllr. Bates remarked that traffic onto the Access Awareness website had increased and the figures would be circulated at a later Committee meeting.

Cllr. Stuchbury raised concern over the perceived lack of local business support for the Aylesbury Vale taxi tokens. Cllr. Stuchbury had received a letter from a Buckingham resident who had been unable to leave her home as local taxi firms were no longer accepting the tokens. Cllr. Stuchbury was investigating the matter with AVDC and **AGREED** to feedback to a later Committee meeting.

ACTION CLLR STUCHBURY

Members discussed the proposed plans for a Healthcare Centre at Lace Hill and expressed concern that all GP surgeries could be removed from the town centre. Members recalled the presentation from Dr. J. Pryce and his aspiration for the Swan Practice to retain a presence in the town centre - but only if it was economically viable.

230/17 Town Action Commission

Members **AGREED** to remove Town Action Commission from the list of standing items.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

231/17 News Releases

None

232/17 Chair's Announcements

Cllr. Smith encouraged Members to attend the Charity run at Bouton Park on Tuesday 25th July at 10.30am.

Cllr. Smith reported that a new memorial bench was to be installed outside of the Old Goal in memory of local resident Clinton Roberts.

234/17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th September 2017

Meeting closed at: 20.37

Chair..... Date.....

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EQUALITIES ACT 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, racial equality or diversity.

Initial

