

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 17th August 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:05pm following the Public Session.

Present: Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
 Cllr. M. Cole
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try

For the Town Clerk Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk

In attendance: Mrs. K. McElligott
 Youth Cllr. R. Butcher

307/15 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Town Cllrs. T. Bloomfield, Mrs. G. Collins, J. Harvey, L. O'Donoghue and J. Quayle, District Cllr. T. Mills and retired Cllr. H. Cadd.

308/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

309/15 Presentation of the Honorary Freeman's Scroll

Postponed to the October Full Council. Cllrs. Mahi and Smith offered to provide transport to the meeting.

310/15 Motion – Cllr Stuchbury

That following AVDC's agreement to enter into talks with Town/Parish Councils to transfer community assets, that Buckingham Town Council express interest in taking over with full budgetary information the following:

1. Cornwall's Meadows Car Park and to enter into discussion with AVDC to transfer all District-run Buckingham car parks to Buckingham Town Council.
2. the Swan Pool; to express an interest to entering into long-term talks to transfer the Swan Pool as a community asset to Buckingham Town Council in the future.
3. the Heartlands public open space.
4. Buckingham Athletic's football ground.

Cllr. Stuchbury explained that he merely wanted the Council to embark on broad discussions about taking on certain District assets in order to investigate the practicalities and affordability and report back to the Council. Whatever the result of the move to a unitary authority, the Town Council would likely remain and able to provide local running for community-based properties. The Council had previously brought the parks and cemetery under its control to the benefit of all.

Cllr. Isham, seconding the motion, supported Buckingham assets being run by Buckingham. He recalled the disappointment of a previous move to acquire the Athletic ground.

Cllr. Mordue noted that AVDC felt it was right to resolve the unitary issue before discussing acquisition of community assets. He felt, on the matter of car parks, that it was unfair to expect Buckingham residents to subsidise the use of car parks by visitors and pointed out that two of the three were already free of charge. Maintenance could be expensive. The land at the Swan Pool belongs to BCC, so negotiations would have to be carried out with that Council.

Cllr. Hirons pointed out that motion said 'transfer'; AVDC had acquired several assets, such as the Town Hall, without compensation 40 years ago. It was fair that they return transfer something back for BTC to run.

Members voted 11-0, Cllr. Mordue abstaining, for the motion.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Try arrived during the following discussion

311/15 Motion – Cllr Strain-Clark

That this council calls on the Filmplace and the University of Buckingham to provide some seating in the Ian Fairbairn Lecture Hall that is accessible to wheelchair users and others with mobility problems, while allowing them to have a reasonable viewing experience.

The council understands that a platform could be built at the back of the auditorium, accessible by lift, necessitating the use of an evacuation chair in emergencies. The University would need to build the platform and provide the chair. Filmplace volunteers would need training to operate the chair.

This council therefore undertakes to start negotiations with the University and the Filmplace, with a view to helping them find a way forward.

Cllr. Strain-Clark described the University's steeply-raked lecture theatre where films are shown on Fridays & Saturdays for Members unfamiliar with the venue. There was a ground floor entrance, but wheelchairs had to be placed in front of the seating, which made it difficult to see the screen; the front row of seats, suitable for those who could not manage stairs, was also too close.

The Filmplace was staffed by volunteers, some older, some young volunteers doing Duke of Edinburgh Awards or other community work, who did not always stay on afterwards. The older volunteers could not be guaranteed fit enough to operate an Evac+chair. (Evac+chairs are used in the Verney Close office; some staff are trained in their use).

Cllr. Hirons, who is a volunteer projectionist at the Filmplace, expressed concern that if it became known that access for the disabled was available, there might be more than one person in a wheelchair to be evacuated; those who were capable of moving from chair to seating would still need the chairs to hand, which would be an additional hazard.

Cllr. Strain-Clark said that if no qualified operator was available then disabled customers could be turned away, but at present every showing was barred to the disabled. The University's Estates Manager had estimated that a platform could be built to accommodate up to 3 wheelchairs; each occupant could be evacuated singly by one trained operator who then returned for the next.

Members pointed out that this was a University building presumably used by disabled students who would need access to the other rooms on the upper floor. It behove the University to have suitable arrangements in place for their own students and staff, and the Council was willing to advise on training volunteers for film nights.

Cllr. Isham seconded the motion and Members voted 12-0 to offer help and support with expertise.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

312/15 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

312.1 Cllr. S. Cole – not present.

312.2 Cllr. T. Mills – apologised for absence

312.3 Cllr. H. Mordue

– invited Members to attend the Bucks County Show on Thursday 27th August where both AVDC & BCC would have stands.

- Cabinet had approved the formation of the National Paralympic Heritage Trust based at Stoke Mandeville, which would make documents and artefacts associated with British Paralympics available nationally.

312.4 Cllr. R. Stuchbury

- reported briefly on a meeting held the previous Friday re Transport planning in Buckingham and in particular the number of developments on the Tingewick Road; discussions had been frank and productive. The meeting notes would be circulated when available. A further meeting was to be arranged and a statement made on the bypass remedial works.

- as part of his BCC remit he had attended a meeting in S. Bucks to see how social workers worked with children at risk of sexual exploitation and with other problems. This was a constant topic for Scrutiny.

- there were a number of roadworks planned for the summer and bids for additional work in the rural areas.

- at AVDC much of the last meeting had been taken up with parking charges in Aylesbury. He had his written questions answered, and noted that the officer now calculated the time spent on completing the response.

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Whyte to speak.

312.5 Cllr. W. Whyte

- resurfacing work would take place in the next few weeks on Stratford Road and Elm Street which implied bus stop changes for the X5 and X60

- in response to criticism of the standard of some previous work, Mr. D. Stewart, Head of Quality, had conducted an inspection. The problems should not recur, as the procurement process had been improved.

- the next LAF meeting would be on 29th September at Well Street Centre. Four or five projects were seeking community support, but he invited the Town Council to submit any proposals, particularly in the transport field, for consideration.

- E-W Expressway; it was early days and little progress could be reported as the DoT had shut down early for the summer. BCC would support the DoT study and looked to discuss a suitable route, and obtain start/finish dates. If the feasibility study showed a need, it would probably be in the 2020-2028 programme

- sign decluttering: this had suffered some delay due to work pressures on TfB staff, but should be back on track by the autumn

- ditto the parking review

- BCC was looking at its property holdings with a view to improving energy performance (boiler controls, lighting, etc.) and thus delivering savings. This may include the Library

- the quarterly meeting at Silverstone with MEPC and Silverstone Circuits was to be held the following week, if Member had any questions they wanted asked

- ref. the 20mph article in the previous week's *Advertiser*, he noted that BCC had already said that they would not fund these; it would be better to work with the local County Councillors than to raise aspirations amongst the residents

- a second, very successful, meeting of the Dementia Awareness project had been held at the Fire Station. He was pleased that this initiative had taken off so well.

313/15 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on 29th June 2015 (**BTC/04/15**).
AGREED

314/15 Interim Minutes

314.1 RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 27th July 2015 (**IM/02/15**).

AGREED

314.2 (Min. 267/15 refers). In light of the additional information provided, to discuss whether to modify the Town Council's 'Oppose' response to the application 15/01218/AOP.

Members felt that, though some movement had been made towards meeting their concerns, the proposal was not yet satisfactory. The vote was 9-0 to maintain the OPPOSE response, with three abstentions. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

315/15 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 29th June 2015 (Extraordinary) (**PL/03/15**), Monday 6th July 2015 (**PL/04/15**) and Monday 27th July 2015 (**PL/05/15**).

Cllr. Hirons explained that the extra meeting had been required to meet the tighter response times imposed by AVDC.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked the Clerk if any further correspondence had been received on the matter of Cotton End steps; the answer was No.

AGREED

316/15 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20th July 2015 (**E/02/15**).

Cllr. Stuchbury queried Min 261; he thought it had been agreed, but the minute read that Cllr. Harvey would investigate and report back. The Chairman said the Minute was correct.

AGREED

317/15 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 13th July 2015 (**TCE/02/15**).

232/15 Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Bloomfield and RECOMMENDED to Full Council to appoint a budget and approve the purchase of a Commonwealth Flag

The Chairman said that the flag was suggested by NALC and would probably be used once a year.

Members agreed the Recommendation unanimously, cost to come from contingencies (132/4500).

AGREED

ACTION EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

318/15 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2015 (**R/02/15**).

It was agreed that the Recommendation from CSG was within the Committee's remit to agree so needed no discussion by Members.

AGREED

319/15 Action List

To receive and discuss the action list

(643/14: s106 discussions) It was felt that a reply was well overdue. *[Clerk's note: the letter was re-sent following the election and change of Secretary of State, and the response is on the Planning agenda for 24th August]*

(191/15: Buckingham Partnership) Members asked if any progress had been made.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

(119/15: Red Cross Centre) The DTC reported that a meeting had been held with BCC and a viewing opportunity for Members had been arranged for Wednesday 19th August. The Town Clerk had also met the Rev. Pearson-Gee about community use; at present this would just be the soup kitchen, but the Church would be happy to work with us on other uses. In answer to a question, this was not the same Church who had made a presentation to the Council.

(190/15: Public toilets) The plans were being re-drawn and costs estimated; information hopefully within the week.

(393/14: Community Centre Lease) the word lease could now be removed from this subject title. The roof repairs had been agreed.

319.1 Report on 20mph Speed Areas

Members felt there was a balance to be considered: slower speeds increased pollution, but reduced injuries from collisions. Cllr. Collins said that in Germany, speed limits were imposed around schools at peak hours, but normal limits prevailed otherwise. Cllr. Stuchbury felt this was a good idea and added areas where there were likely to be vulnerable pedestrians, such as care homes. Discussions should take place with the County Council on appropriate areas in case funding became available. Other Members disagreed, accident figures were dropping despite increased numbers of vehicles on the road, and physical measures such as 'sleeping policemen' would be required to enforce the limits; these were uncomfortable to drive over and could damage cars. It was better to have flashing amber lights near schools to warn drivers at danger times, as this was only a short period twice a day and the town was relatively quiet otherwise. The London Road was a main road and inappropriate for a measure more suited to estate and side roads.

Cllr. Strain-Clark was disappointed at this reaction: an accident at 30mph was much more likely to be fatal than one at 20mph. She reported that the matter had been aired on Facebook, where there was support for more Vehicle Activated Signs. Cllr. Mordue felt that speeding drivers would take little notice of signs; it was possible that some might see the VASs as a challenge and deliberately attempt a record figure. Cllr. Isham noted that money had not been found for the much-needed crossing at the bottom of Moreton Road; it was not likely that this would be funded, though there were some areas of the town that could benefit. It was worth an NHB application.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that the Council look at a limited scheme and meet BCC for discussions. Cllr. Cole suggested LAF funding.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr. Whyte to speak.

Cllr. Whyte said that no 20mph limits would be considered without a supportive feasibility study; the Town Council could apply for LAF funding, but there was also the possibility of reducing speed by traffic calming measures – for example at the pinch point in West Street – and funding from NHB, s106 or the precept. He recommended talking to Mr. Paul Hodson re the 2016 agenda.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Members voted 3 for, 8 against (1 abstention) the proposal.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Cole, and **AGREED** unanimously that the report be noted and the Town Clerk seek information on whether there was LAF funding for such a scheme in Buckingham.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

320/15 HS2 Community Environment Fund

An email from BCC regarding suitable project ideas related to HS2 fund had been circulated with the agenda.

Members suggested:

- a full traffic calming survey in Buckingham
- £600,000 to rebuild the Almshouses on Church Street
- a study of the impact of the construction traffic on the bypass, and nearby villages and any amelioration works necessary
- a link from Buckingham station to the E-W Rail Link
- a multi-storey car park
- a new Non-Conformist church to replace Well Street's
- cycleways

The Mayor invited Councillors to submit their ideas to the office for assembly into a report for the next meeting.

ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS/TOWN CLERK

321/15 Mayor Making Ceremony

An email from the Buckingham Society suggesting combining Mayor Making with Civic Day celebrations had been circulated with the agenda.

The majority of Members contributing to the discussion were past Mayors; though regret was expressed that it was necessary to elect the Mayor/Chairman of the Council at a separate meeting, all felt that the remaining Mayor-making ceremonial was an important start to the event. The Reception was an invitation-only Town Council occasion, and unsuitable for amalgamation with Civic Day.

Members suggested that the Mayor, in robes and chain, could be invited to add gravitas to the Civic Day celebrations if the Buckingham Society wished.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Mordue declared an interest in the following, as AVDC Cabinet Member for Finance

322/15 Car Parking Charges

To receive the notes of the Destination Buckingham group meeting held on 28th July 2015, and discuss Item 2 and agree the Town Council's position on this matter.

Cllr. Smith, as Chair of the DBG, reported that he had been contacted on 13th August by Mr. S. Harding; there was to be a meeting this week to discuss the changes after which he would be updated. He therefore recommended noting the item pending receipt of further information.

Members discussed the history of charged-for parking and reiterated the Town Council's aspirations for free parking in the town as an economic benefit.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Cole, and **AGREED** by 11-0 (1 abstention) to support the DBG in principle and wish them luck.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

323/15 Speed Control on A413 Moreton Road

To receive a response from Graham Knight regarding residents' concerns about speed control between Buckingham and Maids Moreton.

Cllr. Smith said that this would require a third MVAS. Cllr. Stuchbury asked for one to be sited from time to time on the Bourton Road to reduce speeds where schoolchildren crossed to the park.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Hiron, and **AGREED** unanimously that the Council apply for LAF funding for another MVAS.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Mordue declared an interest in the following, as AVDC Cabinet Member for Finance

324/15 New Homes Bonus

To discuss and agree projects suitable for NHB applications.

Members suggested:

- Pedestrian crossings – Prezzo ⇔ Kings Head; Nelson Street; London Road, Circular Walk ⇔ Hare Close path; Bourton Road, Badgers Way ⇔ Park entrance
- Resurfacing of Chris Nicholls Walk, and the RLS end of the Circular Walk
- Suitable access to Lace Hill Playing Field area, if developer won't fund, and DDA-compliant path surfacing to the play area.

- **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

325/15 NALC Survey

To receive the survey and responses from Members and to discuss and agree further responses.

The DTC reported that only 7 responses had been made, which gave undue weight to any single dissenting view.

Members noted the top priority for Transport was 20mph speed limits, and that for Environment/Sustainability the sale of generated electricity. They also pointed out that a Member's allowance is c£386 after tax.

It was suggested that the Town Clerk investigate other Council's Members' Allowances to see if BTC's were in line with similar Councils elsewhere and whether change was needed. The District Council is currently reviewing allowances, and may produce an advisory note for Parish and Town Councils, which could be discussed at Resources and adjustments made at Precept if agreed.

It was also noted that co-opted District Councillors received an allowance, whereas Town Councillors did not.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

326/15 Correspondence

None.

327/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports listed below:

327.1 Twinning Association Newsletter Summer 2015

327.2 Access for All Minutes 13th July 2015

328/15 Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

329/15 News Releases

None agreed.

330/15 Chair's Announcements

None

331/15

Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 14 September 2015

Full Council – Monday 5 October 2015

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed Date

Town Mayor

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