

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 15th January 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Town Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	(from minute 724/17)
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

In attendance:

Mr. C. P. Wayman	Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
Cllr. W. Whyte.	County Councillor
Cllr. C. Clare	County Councillor
Cllr. T. Mills	District Councillor

In accordance with Standing Order 3.f the Planning Committee meeting was preceded by a public session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. A. Hough
Willowby, Bath Lane (17/04624/APP)

Mr. Hough read the following statement to Members:

I felt it courteous to advise that It is my intention to attend that meeting to speak at the public session re the above planning application, as I consider the decision to object was made on unclear information. Communicated to the council For your record the content of my points are as follows:- Willowby in Bath Lane Buckingham has been in the ownership of members of my family for 14 years, initially with my Father living there until 2014 when he passed away.

Since that time My wife and I have been the owner and rented it out to a small family as tenants. When I bought the property from my Fathers Estate it was intended that in due course it would become our home, hopefully with improvement/ development for an eco sustainable home suitable for all ages and providing social care to remain as such into old age and thereafter to become someone else family home. The time for us to consider that move from our current home is now approaching, and as such the process of planning was started in July 2017, those plans went before this council as a consultee and received a no objection. I subsequently had that application withdrawn as the project which was for a larger property than is currently applied for was partly in a Flood Zone 3, and We took on board comments from neighbours.

We submitted our plans on the above application number, for a smaller 2 storey house, built mainly on the existing footprint with a garage and bedroom above with the entire footprint in Flood zone 1

and 2 which is considered suitable for development by the Environmental Agency Sequential Test. So it was something of a surprise when I became aware this council opposed this application. The reasons for that opposition were stated that the New Garage and decking were on a solid plinth and would further intrude into floodable land in fact the Garage is in flood zone 2 and part of the decking also in that zone and would be designed to be a structure mounted on pillars, thereby ensuring there is no additional displacement of water downstream to other areas and properties.

Comment was made re the affects of flooding elsewhere and the unneighbourly conditions this would present, this is precisely why we withdrew the initial plans and had a full flood risk assessment carried out by qualified civil engineering consultants to ensure the property would mitigate that event. I should add that we are local people and fully aware of flooding and was present at the existing property on 21st July 2007 when the last serious flooding event took place. Fortunately the waters did not come too close to Willowby, however we were concerned the existing Cess Pit could be vulnerable to flooding, which if it occurred could result in potential problems. Therefore it was always a wish to have a pumped sewage system installed, at some point in the future, this is that point. This would as with any construction project cause disruption to neighbours as do all infrastructure projects, however we would take all steps to mitigate any disruption as far as possible. Surely foul water going to a main sewer is far more preferable. I must also point out that in your opposition you state that this would cause major disruption to neighbouring properties which share the access. Let me be clear this is a private drive which my wife and I within the curtilage of Willowby own, with access rights to Salisbury Bungalow which has a rented tenant, Holly Cottage and 1 Salisbury Cottage, for the purpose of access and exit to those properties only, with no parking by those neighbours permitted, not, as implicated shared as in your comments.

With regard to the soakaway the flood risk assessment was carried out by a professional civil engineering company, and as I am not an expert have to rely on the information provided. I have requested from them that they review their findings and comment.

Finally and very important you state that this part of the Conservation Area was attractive because of its open and natural character. I don't believe this is the case at all with the view down Willowbys drive being quite narrow and overlooking the side of the existing bungalow and a tall leylandii hedge, a garden shed and part the Ferdinand Rothschild building being visible. It is a private garden which is being viewed not an amenity. What has been highlighted to us is that this presents an invasion of our privacy and those of our tenants towards our garden and the people using it, this is proven by photographs taken from Bath Lane down towards our garden and from an upstairs window of Holly Cottage across most of Willowby's garden which has been zoomed in for affect and posted on the AVDC planning portal. The current roof height of Willowby therefore does not prevent that invasion of privacy, and the additional height of our proposal would without affecting the amenity of other properties solve that issue.

It is our intent to speak, or a representative to speak at the planning committee stage to communicate our views re your decision to oppose and ensure the accurate facts re our proposal are heard.

Following a question from Cllr. Strain-Clark Mr. Hough confirmed the garage was to be built on a solid platform and the decking it to be erected on pillars.

Mr. Hough left the chamber at 19.10

714/17 Apologies for Absence

None.

715/17 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4 Cllr. Newell declared an interest in agenda item 8 (Budgets/Grants) as a member of the AED project.

Cllrs Smith and Bloomfield declared interests in agenda item 8 (Budgets/Grants) as Trustees of the Old Gaol.

Cllrs. Strain-Clark, Gateley and P. Collins declared interests in agenda item 8 (Budgets/Grants) as members of the U3A.

Cllr. Mahi declared an interest in agenda item 15 (Medical Centre) as a member of the Swan Practice Patient Participation Group.

716/17 Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meetings held on:

Monday 20th November 2017

AGREED

Tuesday 28th November 2017

AGREED

Monday 11th December 2017

AGREED

Monday 8th January 2018 (Precept)

Minute 633/17 (*motion by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Mahi*) Cllr. G. Collins stated that her recorded vote for Cllr. Newell's motion was incorrect and that she did not abstain but in fact voted against the motion. The Chair asked Members to recall how they voted in case Councillor's name had been recorded incorrectly. Cllr. Gateley declared that it was possible she had voted to abstain and not against. Cllr. Gateley said she was happy for her name to be swapped with Cllr. G. Collins as it did not change the fact the motion fell and it was most likely their names had been recorded incorrectly. Members **AGREED**

Minute 633/17 (*motion by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. G. Collins*) The following amendment was proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. G. Collins and **AGREED**:

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. G. Collins to remit the precept budget to the Town Clerk to recalculate the figures and make the necessary cuts to reduce the precept to no more than the rate of inflation.

Motion Fell.

Minute 635/17 (*motion by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark*) The following amendment was proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. G. Collins and

AGREED: To remove the wording 'An amendment to the Officer's report recommendation'

Subject to the amendments the minutes were **AGREED**

717/17 Planning Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

Monday 27th November 2017

PL/09/17

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Mahi and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to consider organising a joint meeting on The National Infrastructure Project with The Buckingham Society.

AGREED

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Monday 18th December 2017

PL/10/17

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, and **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Council that the installation of bollards to prevent pavement parking outside Dominos be investigated and costed, and also the extent of the liability of the Council.

AGREED

ACTION PLANNING CLERK

718/17 Town Centre and Events Committee

22nd January 2017

Ratified 12th March 2018

page 3 of

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.....

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 4th December 2017. **TCE/05/17**
575.4/17 (Christmas Lights Switch On) Cllr. Gateley noted a typographical error (Saturday 1st December 2018).

719/17 Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 11th December 2017 **E/05/17**

597/17 (*Lace Hill Medical Centre*) Cllr. Mahi stated that minutes did not record a question he had posed to the Chairman. Cllr. Harvey explained that the purpose of the minutes were to record the Council's resolutions in relation to the business discussed at the meeting (i.e. the decisions made), the action that is required to be undertaken by Officers and those present at a meeting and the formalities that have occurred. They must record certain procedural matters, what decisions were made and why, but need not and should not provide a word for word account of what has been said.

Proposed by Cllr. Mahi and seconded by Cllr. P. Collins to insert the following discussion into the minutes:

"Cllr. Mahi asked the Chairman if a secret Chair's meeting that took place without the knowledge of Committee Members. Cllr. Smith assured Cllr. Mahi that no secret meetings had taken place."

In favour: 12

Against: 4

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Subject to the amendments the minutes were **AGREED**

720/17 Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. **R/05/17**

AGREED

Cllr. Stuchbury stated that the Council had just approved all of the Committee's minutes and therefore agreed the budgets within. Cllr. Stuchbury questioned whether the Council could then move onto to discuss a separate Precept budget different to the cumulative budgets from each approved Committee minute.

The Town Clerk stated that the minutes are a record of what happened at the meeting but the overall approval of the Council's Precept budget is the responsibility of Full Council.

721/17 Budgets 2018/19

To discuss and agree the Town Council budgets for the financial year 2018/19
Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins to remove the £50 grant funding to the U3A Writer's Group. As the list of grants had already been agreed at the Precept meeting this was not something that could be revisited so the motion was withdrawn.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Newell to approve the Officer's report recommendation to:

To adopt the budgets attached and increase the precept by 23p per week on a band D property.

The new cost per band D property would be £159.49 and would be a yearly increase of £12.10 or 7.59%.

To roll over any budgets on major items such as the New Cemetery if these monies have not cleared before the year end.

Cllr. P. Collins called for a recorded vote and the results were:

In Favour: Cllrs. Newell, Strain-Clark, Smith, Hirons, Gateley, Try, Bates, O'Donoghue, Mahi, Cole, Bloomfield, G. Collins, Stuchbury, Isham and Harvey.

Against: Cllr. P. Collins

Motion carried

722/17 Precept 2018-19

To pass a resolution agreeing the Precept figure for 2018-19 as per the above discussions

AGREED

723/17 To receive and question reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Stuchbury reported that he would be attending a pre-briefing on the Tingewick Road Development with Cllr. Mordue. Cllr. Stuchbury noted several written question that he had submitted to District Council including one on the lack of budget heading for public toilets and the implications for continued funding of Moreton Road facilities.

Cllr. Whyte reported on the first meeting of the Community Transport Project Executive Committee, now called Buckingham Area Rural Transport.

Cllr. Whyte explained that he had presented the concerns of Candleford Court residents at a recent meeting between Anglian Water and the Environment Agency and Officer had agreed to investigate the matter further.

Cllr. Stuchbury said he would pass on the details of the Candleford Court Residents' Association to Cllr. Whyte.

724/17 Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/53/17

The Town Clerk explained the background to the report and illustrated the research he had undertaken benchmarking against other Town/Parish Councils. The Town Clerk explained that the proposal was future proofing the Town Council and allowed for succession planning. The Town Clerk summarised that the proposals would see less Planning Committee meetings and more Full Council meetings. Planning applications would be dealt with under an agreed Planning Policy. This Policy would allow the Planning Officer to respond on behalf of the Town Council to most applications. Town Councillors could decide on the level of application which would be decided by the committee e.g. 20 homes + mixed use, a new home etc. There would also be scope for Councillors to call in any application that they might think is controversial that would normally be part of the policy response. The Town Clerk illustrated that Full Council would have one meeting per month and one other committee meeting each month (i.e. each committee would meet once every 3 months). Each Committee would set out a work schedule for the year with the major tasks that it wants to undertake. An example for each committee is included in the report. This would then be worked on to progress with updates given at each meeting.

Members discussed the proposal and some expressed concern that they had not been consulted on the proposal prior to this evening's meeting. Cllr. Newell said it was a sensible suggestion and reminded Members that all schools had vision statements, missions and strategy plans and this allowed for Buckingham Town Council to evolve into a more professional organisation.

Cllr. Strain-Clark said that the Chairs of each Committee should have presented the proposal to their Committee allowing for each committee to assess the proposal and make recommendations to Full Council.

The Chair reassured Members that although the Committee Chairs had received a pre-brief on the proposal there had been absolutely no debate or decisions made at the meeting it was simply a question of whether to take the idea forward for a full debate at Full Council.

Cllr Mordue entered the chamber at 20.28

The Chair said that he accepted Member's concerns regarding the consultation process but encouraged them to look at the substance of the proposal rather than the process as it was the idea of the proposal that will move the Council forward.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield and unanimously **AGREED** to remit the body of the Officer's report to individual Committees for further debate and an informal meeting of the Full Council with recommendations come back to Full Council. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

725/17 Annual Town Meeting

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/52/17

Members held a discussion on the use of private and public Facebook pages to conduct Town Council business.

Cllr. Smith spoke in favour of the proposal and suggested hosting the ATM discussion on the Council's Facebook page but broadcasting (sharing) the posts via Buckingham What Matters (BWMTY).

Members were in agreement that any responses should come from the Town Clerk and not the Town Councillors.

An amendment to the Officer's report recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously **AGREED** as follows:

"That Members agree to host a virtual ATM meeting on the Town Council's Facebook page, week beginning Monday 5th March 2018. Residents are to be invited, via a variety of media, to post questions or comment under (pre-agreed) discussion topics and Town Councillors and Officers are encouraged to respond where possible, with full answers being provided at the Annual Town Meeting."

726/17 Community Flood Plan

To discuss and agree to work with the Environment Agency and local community groups to implement.

Cllr Strain-Clark noted that Tingewick Road bridge depth gauge need repositioning.

Cllr Stuchbury and Mahi expressed an interest in being involved in any Community Groups.

Cllr P Collins asked that night time telephone numbers be added also.

Cllr. Try noted (section 5) that the Tesco superstore was no longer open 24 hours and

Cllr. Mahi suggested adding nappies to the list of emergency supplies.

The Chair ask for any further amendments to be sent to the Town Clerk .

Members **AGREED** the report recommendation.

727/17 Civic Awards

To discuss whether to make a Sports and Drama award and Friends of Buckingham award in 2018 (to be awarded a silver salver at the Mayor's Reception in May)

Sports and Drama Award - Cllr. Stuchbury nominated the Buckingham School's Drama and Dance Department for their work building confidence in young people in the community. Cllr. Stuchbury's proposal was seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **AGREED.**

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Friend of Buckingham Award – Cllr. Stuchbury proposed Mr John Barnet for his work as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Buckingham Youth Club and as Chair of the management committee. Cllr. Stuchbury's nomination was seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **AGREED**.

In favour: 9

Against: 1

Abstentions: 7

Motion Carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

728/17 Proposed changes the medical health care provision in Buckingham

Members to receive correspondence (via Cllr. Stuchbury) regarding the consultation on the medical health care provision in Buckingham.

728.1/17 Members to discuss and consider response to the correspondence from The North Bucks Careers Group

Cllr Stuchbury said that the Council needed to find ways to work with the HASC and Swan Practice to ensure it's an inclusive and accessible service that's delivered for the town and wider community. Cllr. Stuchbury stated the importance of having a Town Council representative on the Swan Practice Patients Forum and HASC group to feedback to Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Smith to seek to have a Member of the Town Council on the Swan Practice Patients' Forum.

In favour: 15

Abstentions: 2

Motion carried

728.2/17 Members to discuss correspondence (via Cllr. Stuchbury) to note and consider a Town Council representative to attend future HASC meetings.

Proposed by Cllr. Cole and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to nominate Cllr. Bates as a Town Council's representative on the HASC and Swan Practice Patient's Forum. **AGREED**

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Mahi to nominate Cllr Strain-Clark as a Town Council representative on the HASC and Swan Practice Patient's Forum. **AGREED**

728.3/17 Members to note and discuss correspondence from The Swan Practice to North Bucks Career Group.

Noted

729/17 Major Planning Application

17/04668/ADP

BTC/51/17

Land north of A421 Tingewick Road [*actually Land north of A421 and both sides of Tingewick Road*]

Approval of the details of the external appearance of the buildings, the landscaping of the site, layout and scale for each phase or part of the development together with discharge of conditions 2 (phasing) and 6 (design code)

BDW North Thames

16/01218/AOP refers: Application for Outline Planning Permission with access to provide up to 400 Residential Dwellings (including Affordable Housing), Open Space including Play Areas and sports and related recreation facilities, Landscaping, New Vehicular and Pedestrian Accesses, Engineering (including Ground Modelling) Works, Infrastructure Works (including Drainage Works and Utilities Provision) and Demolition (including Site Reclamation), Car Parking and Lighting. Permission granted 25/1/17.

Cllr. Cole advised Members that a number of the planning documents had not been submitted and therefore the Council were unable to make a reasoned decision on the application.

Proposed by Cllr Cole and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury to remit the agenda item to the next meeting of Full Council, providing that all of the necessary documents are available for consideration.

In favour: 16

Abstention: 1

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK/PLANNING CLERK

Members **AGREED** for the Planning Clerk to advise AVDC Planning Department that Buckingham Town Council could not consult on the plans until all of the relevant documentation was made available.

ACTION PLANNING CLERK

Cllr Whyte left the chamber at 21.30

730/17 Action List

Noted

731/17 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

731.1/17 Minutes from the Destination Buckingham meeting - 28th November 2017

Noted

732/17 Mayoral Engagements

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

Tue 21 Nov 2017 Bourton Meadow Preschool

Sun 26 Nov 2017 Christmas lights switch on

Tue 28 Nov 2017 Official opening of Shopmobility

Tue 28 Nov 2017 Destination Buckingham meeting

Wed 29 Nov 2017 John Lloyd at the Radcliffe Centre

Thu 30 Nov 2017 RAF Halton visit

Fri 1 Dec 2017 Anglian Water Growth Forum

Sun 3 Dec 2017 Strictly Buckingham Dance judging

Thu 7 Dec 2017 Celebration evening at Buckingham School

Sat 9 Dec 2017 Christmas Parade

Sat 9 Dec 2017 Community Fair

Sun 10 Dec 2017 Vice Chancellor's Christmas Drinks

Sat 6 Jan 2018 Twinning event: "Galette des Rois" evening

Tue 9 Jan 2018 Destination Buckingham

Tue 9 Jan 2018 Bucks Vision - Gawcott meeting

Thu 11 Jan 2018 Buckingham Society joint meeting

Thu 18 Jan 2018 General Charities meeting

Thu 18 Jan 2018 Sir Anthony Seldon: 'Beyond Happiness'

Thu 18 Jan 2018 Villiers Opening

Fri 19 Jan 2018 Donating Jo Cox book to Cherwell School, Oxford

Fri 19 Jan 2018 Donating Jo Cox book to new central Oxon County Library

Noted

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

Christmas Lights Switch-On 26 November.

Noted

733/17 Chair's Announcements

Mayor's Charity Ball @ Villers' Ballroom (24th March 2018) – Tickets are now on sale and the event will be raising money for the Mayor's charities.

Mental Health Awareness Walk (18th March 2018) – A journey around Buckingham to discuss what more can we do to support the mental health of young people in Buckingham. Open to anyone with an interest in the event.

Standing Orders – Cllr. Harvey suggested an informal working group to review and streamline the Standing Orders.

734/17 Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 19th February 2018

Full Council - Monday 12th March 2018

Meeting closed at: 9.30pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor