

Minutes of a meeting of the **Resources Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 26th February 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell Vice-Chair
 Cllr. Mrs. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Also present: Mr. C. Wayman Town Clerk
 Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk

Cllr. Newell took the Chair for the meeting in the absence of Committee Chair, Cllr Bates.

804/17 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Town Councillors Strain-Clark, Harvey, P. Collins, Bates and County Councillor Whyte.

805/17 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. There were no declarations of interest.

806/17 Minutes of last meeting

To receive the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday January 2nd 2018 ratified at the Full Council meeting held on 22nd January 2018.

AGREED

807/17 Minutes of Personnel Subcommittee

To receive the minutes of the Personnel Subcommittee meeting held on 23rd November 2017.

AGREED

808/17 Minutes of CSG Committee

To receive the minutes of the CSG Committee meeting held on the 10th January 2018.

AGREED

809/17 Action Report

140/16 (Town Action Commission) – The Town Clerk explained that he was awaiting confirmation from AVDC as to when the additional parent/ child parking, towards the rear of the car park, would be implemented.

810/17 Accounts and Budgets

Members are asked to receive and consider the attached Income and Expenditure reports.

811/17 Invoices passed for payment, and income received

Members are asked to receive the attached schedule of invoices paid.
Noted.

812/17 Debtor Write Off report

The Town Clerk explained that the invoices were still being pursued by the Finance Officer.

Cllr. G. Collins suggested altering the roundabout sponsorship fees from annual to quarterly payments. Councillors discussed and **AGREED** that the Eurolane debt should not be written off but pursued for payment and their sign removed from the roundabout at year end. Members expressed their thanks to the Finance Officer for bringing the matter to their attention.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

813/17 Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Council

The Town Clerk explained that the proposal aimed to reduce the amount of Committee meetings resulting in one Full Council meeting per month and one other Committee meeting each month (i.e. each committee would meet once every 3 months). There are currently 56 Committee meetings a year and each meeting involves a large amount of Officer time preparing agendas, reports and proposals. The proposal would see a reduction to 24 committee meetings per year allowing for a more streamlined process where meetings are shorter with a focus on outcomes.

Cllr. Hirons suggested contacting NALC for best practice on the recruitment of new Town Councillors. Cllr. Newell advised Members that the Town Mayor had written an article on Facebook and a number of Buckingham residents had expressed an interest in becoming a Town Councillors in the 2019 election.

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed concern that moving the financial responsibility for budgets and grants to Full Council would remove a level of scrutiny and oversight that was present in other Councils' structures and stated that he could not support the report recommendation. The Town Clerk explained that scrutiny could (and does) happen at Full Council where all Town Councillors would be present ensuring that all important agenda items are given full and due consideration by the Council. The Town Clerk added that many of Resources' agenda items were periodical and could be split across the agendas of Full Council.

Cllr. O'Donoghue stated that she felt the report was disingenuous as there had always been enough people willing to stand for Town Councillors in all of the previous elections and any spare seat were filled by co-option. Cllr. O'Donoghue did not feel as though the workload on Town Councillors was onerous and required adjustment.

Cllr. Newell spoke in favour of the report stating that the Council should be looking at more effective and efficient ways of working by deciding our aims and development plans in advance similar to the governance structures of schools, whose Committees meet once a term.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. G. Collins for the Town Clerk to investigate and propose a form of scrutiny, similar to the remit of Resources Committee, to run alongside any new structure agreed at Full Council.

A vote was taken and the results were:

5 favour

2 against

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

180226 Resources Minutes Ratified 12th March 2018

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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.....

814/17 Council Chamber

Members discussed the report were in agreement that the hire rates needed review.

Proposed by Cllr. G. Collins and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to amend the report recommendation to read *“for a £5 charity/community rate from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and £7 thereafter and a £10 commercial rate to be adopted as of 1st April 2018. Any new bookings taken from April 2018 would be charged at these new rates.”*

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Hirons and seconded by Cllr. Newell to accept the original report recommendations [*For the benefit of the minutes the original report recommendation reads as follows: My recommendation is for a £7 charity/community rate and a £10 commercial rate to be adopted as of 1st April 2018. Any new bookings taken from April 2018 would be charged at these new rates.*]

Members voted on Cllr. Hiron’s proposal and the results were:

- 5 against
- 2 In favour
- Motion fell

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members then voted on Cllr. G. Collins’s proposal and the results were:

- 0 against
- 7 in favour
- Motion carried

815/17 Chair’s Announcements

None

816/17 Date of next meeting: 16th April 2018

Meeting closed at: 19.55

Signed.....

Date.....