

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 12th March 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
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. T. Mills	District Councillor
Cllr. C. Clare	County Councillor
Mr. N. Morrison	Morrison Property Consultants Ltd.

817/17 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. G. Collins, P. Collins, Cole, Smith and apologies from Cllr. Newell for lateness.

818/17 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. Mordue declared an interest in agenda item 12 (New Homes Bonus) as a District Councillor.

Cllr. Strain-Clark declared an interest in agenda item 13 as a Friend of Buckingham University.

*Members **AGREED** to take agenda item 9 (Development Proposal for new Town Council offices) next for the benefit of Mr. Morrison.*

819/17 Development Proposal for new Town Council offices

To receive a presentation from Mr. Nigel Morrison of Morrison Property Consultants Ltd

Mr. Morrison tabled a concept plan to construct 2000 sq feet of office space to on the land to the rear of the old NatWest building and was seeking an expression of interest from Buckingham Town Council to rent or purchase some of the units. The Town Clerk explained that he had held previous conversations with Mr Morrison where he had outlined the Council's requirement for 2000 sq feet of office space to accommodate the Council Chamber, office staff and a small office for confidential meetings. The Town Clerk confirmed the new office space would also allow for the Town Council to grow in the future. Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Morrison for considering the Town Council in his proposal and asked for him to liaise with the Town Clerk to discuss the development in more detail.

Cllr. Newell entered the Chamber during this agenda item.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Isham for the Town Clerk to continue discussions with Mr. Morrison and bring preliminary plans to a future Full Council meeting for discussion by Members.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 12

1 abstention

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Following questioning from Cllr. Bates, Mr. Morrison explained that his company had been approached by Buckinghamshire County Council to redevelop the Verney Close surgery and extend the building in which the library was situated. Mr. Morrison indicated that early plans were to build accommodation on the Verney Close surgery site with the possibility of including a new town centre doctors surgery on top of the library building. Mr. Morrison stated that BCC were still at the design stage and nothing had been formalised.

820/17 Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2018

AGREED

821/17 Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 19th February 2018.

AGREED

822/17 Planning Committee

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

- Monday 15th January 2018

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, and **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Council to discuss minute 615/17 regarding the restricting of Councillor's access to view plans to one preview meeting as this was not convenient for all the Councillors who wished to attend.

The Town Clerk spoke to the recommendation raising concern that the current system of Planning Preview meetings could be misconstrued as predetermination and explained that plans were available online and in the Council office for Members and the public to view at their convenience. The Planning Clerk currently attends two separate Planning Preview meetings at the Chamber on a Monday and Friday to talk through the applications with Councillors. The Town Clerk explained that The Planning Clerk did not work Mondays and came into the office especially to meet with Members. The work of the Planning Clerk is time consuming and with such frequency of committee meetings and additional hours (lieu time) can be difficult for the Planning Clerk claim back.

Cllr. Strain-Clark called for the plans to be made available in a location that was open to the public and accessible during office hours. Cllr. Stuchbury stated that Planning Preview meeting needed to take place to ensure the Chairperson was fully apprised of any issues before the meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury added that for transparency the meetings could be advertised to the public.

Cllr. Harvey commended the Planning Clerk on her commitment to the Council and cautioned against exploiting her goodwill by arranging meetings solely around Member's availability. Cllr. Harvey suggested holding one Planning

Preview Meeting on a Thursday in the Council Chamber and advertising it to the general public, explaining that plans would be available to view and the Planning Clerk would be present for any questions.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to first seek agreement from the Planning Clerk to move the Planning Preview meetings to a Thursday in the Council Chamber and for the meeting to be advertised in advance to the general public.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 10

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION PLANNING CLERK

Proposed by Cllr. Cole, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to co-opt two members of the Buckingham Society onto the working group for the Neighbourhood Development Planning Group.

AGREED

ACTION TOWN CLERK

- Monday 29th January 2018

AGREED

- Monday 19th February 2018

802/17 (*Former Railway Station Site*) - Cllr. Mahi noted the following recommendation had been missed off the Full Council agenda:

Proposed by Cllr. Bates, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and RECOMMENDED to the Full Council that the gathering of evidence of long-term use be put in motion.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that at the Environment Committee of the 23rd October 2017 (Report E/31/17) he had explained that a discussion has been had with a Rights of Way Officer from Buckinghamshire County Council. The Town Council can request it all to be designated as a right of way. However, their department is backed up and it could take up to 4 years to have it designated.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to proceed with the creation of a leaflet on the Buckingham Conservation Area.

- *To be distributed to all addresses in the conservation area.*
- *To encourage care of the buildings and appearance of the town centre/CA.*
- *To encourage reporting of damage and planning breaches, and engender pride of place.*
- *To encourage reporting of damage and planning breaches with respect to work to, and felling of, trees.*
- *To promote membership of Buckingham Society.*
- *To publicise the information in the Vision and Design Statement.*
- *To highlight characteristic architectural details.*
- *To contain a simplified map of the conservation area illustrated with interesting aspects of the V&D Statement and CA document.*

823/17 Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 5th February 2018.

AGREED

824/17 Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018.

AGREED

825/17 Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 26th February 2018.

AGREED

813/17 (*Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council*) Cllr. Harvey explained that the Planning Committee had not yet discuss the report and formulated any recommendations to Full Council. Therefore, it was most likely the Town Clerk would submit his conclusions to the Interim meeting of Full Council on the 9th April 2018.

826/17 To receive and question reports from District and County Councillors**Cllr Whyte :**

Unitary decision – The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced that he is minded to proceed with the proposal for establishing one unitary council for Buckinghamshire. Cllr. Whyte reminded Members that there was now a 10 week window for any further representations and the final decision would be announced on the 25th May 2018.

One Public Estate – Cllr. Whyte explained that Buckinghamshire County Council were in the process of reviewing their assets and were considering the best use of the Verney Close estate as described by Mr. Morrison earlier in the meeting. Cllr. Whyte stated that it was still early days in the planning process but that hopefully the plans had potential for better facilities for the residents of Buckingham.

Town Centre pavements – Cllr. Whyte noted that the works were now completed to a good standard. Cllr. Newell expressed thanks to Cllr. Whyte for pursuing the pavements repairs and asked if he could ensure the woodlands at Verney Close would be protected from any development. Cllr. Newell reminded Members that Buckingham Town Council had previously asked BCC for ownership of the woodland to ensure its protection but the request was refused.

Cllr. Mills

Cllr. Mills declined the opportunity to speak.

Cllr. Clare

Cllr. Clare reassured Members that Bucks Highways shared the Town Councils concerns regarding the development on the land North of A421 Tingewick Road.

Cllr Stuchbury

Lace Hill Play area - Cllr. Stuchbury has been in communication with Barrett Homes and AVDC to try and resolve the issues with the play area on Lace Hill.

Cllr. Stuchbury informed Members that he had attended a useful and information training course on prejudicial interests and recommended it to fellow Town Councillors.

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke on the loss of District Cllr. Kevin and asked the Town Mayor to send a letter of condolence on behalf of the Town Council. **AGREED.**

Cllr Mordue

Cllr. Mordue explained that AVDC were in the process of consolidating their software, primarily in the Human Resources function where systems have been striped from 120 to 12 items.

New Homes Bonus – AVDC’s Cabinet approved the grant of £25,946 to reinstate the ramp at Cotton end steps.

Aylesbury vale Broadband – Cllr. Mordue explained that an independent investigator had been appointed to review the case and he would be interview as a Board Members of AVB until such time as he resigned from the Board.

Cllr. Mills left the Chamber at 20.07

827/17 Major Planning Application

18/00216/APP Station House Tingewick Road, MK18 1ST

Erection of 20 no. two bed flats

West

Cllr. Hirons spoke against the application on the grounds of over development. Members felt that little attention had been given to the Buckingham Design Guide and the proposed buildings were bland and monotonous with no reassurance that lifts would be installed to provide access for less able-bodied residents. Although, the development would be four stories it was likely that most of the building would be hidden from sight by the line of mature trees to the South of the development.

Members were disappointed that there was no allocation for affordable housing and were cautious of the Flooding Authority’s comments regarding inadequate attenuation.

Cllr. Harvey relayed some observations from Cllr. Cole.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested allocating any section 106 funding to the redevelopment of the railway bridge tunnel allowing footpath and cycle access from the site to join up with other proposed and current routes.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to object on the grounds of over development. **ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

Members **AGREED** for the Planning Clerk to submit further comments regarding the lack of affordable housing, inadequate parking provision, insufficient attenuation from the site and lack of disabled access.

828/17 New Homes Bonus Project Grant round open for Expressions of Interest

To receive and discuss email from AVDC

Cotton Ends Steps - Members paid tribute to the dedication shown by Cllr. Stuchbury, the Town Clerk, Highways Officer Graham Smith and the Grants Officers at AVDC.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write to and consult Mr. Jones’s family on the naming the new ramp (perhaps as ‘The Jim Jones Stramps’ or something that his family might suggest)

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** to resubmit the New Homes Bonus application based on the same wish list as previous, subject to a conversation with BCC on feasibility.

829/17 Town and Gown Partnership

To receive a discussion paper from the Town Mayor.

Cllr. Harvey spoke of the University staff's enthusiasm to make the partnership work. Cllr. O'Donoghue spoke in favour of the report recommendations thanking the Mayor for developing the opportunity. Cllr. Stuchbury called for a Terms of Reference to be established and for the Town Mayor to Chair the meetings.

An amendment to the report recommendation Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** "There are a number of projects that could emerge from this but I think *in the very first instance and agreed by partners should be a terms of reference to form a joint planning team* to work towards developing a place where there is even greater mutual respect, reverence and affection between the University and its staff, the student body, the townsfolk, local businesses and the Town Council. My recommendation is we establish such a small focused body to be jointly chaired by the Mayor and VC with Councillors, TC Officers, students, University staff and local traders representation. Such a group can act as action/results focused working party to make recommendation back to appropriate parts of the University and TC structures.

ACTION TOWN MAYOR

830/17 Review of Local Government Ethical Standards: Stakeholder Consultation

To receive and consider a response to the consultation.

Members **AGREED** to individually review the consultation and submit comments to the Town Clerk by Friday 29th March for the Town Clerk for consolidation **AGREED**

ACTION ALL MEMBERS/INTERIM AGENDA 9th April

831/17 Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

To receive and consider a response to the consultation.

Members **AGREED** to individually review the consultation and submit comments to the Town Clerk by Friday 29th March for the Town Clerk for consolidation **AGREED**

ACTION ALL MEMBERS/INTERIM AGENDA 9th April

832/17 Buckinghamshire's Draft Freight Strategy (2018-2036)

To receive and consider a response to the consultation.

Members were in agreement that the Town Council could not consider the draft strategy until a route option had been decided for the East-West Expressway. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to form an initial response to the draft highlighting that a western link road off the A422 Brackley Road needed to be in place to avoid increasing number of freight lorries arriving the Town Centre.

833/17 Friends of Buckingham nomination

To receive and consider a nomination from Mr. J. Rooney

Members discussed and **AGREED** the nomination.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

834/17 Action List

Toilets – Town Clerk to ensure the Cornwall Meadows toilets are listed on the AVDC website.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr Stuchbury proposed an article in the Buckingham What Matters and a letter in the Advertiser from the Town Clerk on the locking mechanism for the new toilets. He also offered to ask the North Bucks Careers to invite the Mayor to a future meeting.

835/17 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below

19.1 Buckingham Community Centre Committee January – November 2017

Noted

19.3 Access for All 13th November 2017

Noted

19.3 Buckingham Centre for the Arts (AGM) 28th November 2017

Noted

836/17 Motion – Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. R. Newell and seconded by Cllr. R. Stuchbury

We call on Buckingham Town Council to do all it can to encourage the Town of Buckingham, residents and businesses to reduce the use of single use plastics in Buckingham to assist with the reduction of the problems of plastic waste, that is impacting on our Environment and Oceans.

Cllr. Newell spoke to the above motion explaining that the Council should lead by example and take positive action to support the reduction of single use plastic waste and utilize reusable and recyclable alternatives. Cllr. Newell asked for the item to be discussed at the next Destination Buckingham meeting.

21.07 Cllr Whyte and Clare left the chamber

A vote was taken and Members unanimously **AGREED** the motion.

ACTION AGENDA ENVIRONEMT COMMITTEE

837/17 Royal wedding – event at Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

To receive a written report from the Lace Hill Sports and Community Coordinator

AGREED

ACTION LHSCC COORDINATOR

838/17 Mayoral Engagements

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

23 Jan 2018 BACAB meeting

31 Jan 2018 SLCC Regional Training Seminar: presentation on Health Festival

9 Feb 2018 Meeting with Supt Tim Metcalfe & Police team

9 Feb 2018 Inspection of property managed by Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity

9 Feb 2018 Winter Reception RAF Croughton

13 Feb 2018 Pancake race (rain stopped play) followed by Church Pancake Party

14 Feb 2018 Buckingham Charities Governance committee

15 Feb 2018 Story telling at Hamilton House Care Home

15 to 17 Feb 2018 The Town & Gown Road Trip with UoB Vice Chancellor

20 Feb 2018 UoB Medical School Academic centre opening at Milton Keynes Hospital

23 Feb 2018 BAFA 10th Birthday celebration

24 Feb 2018 Food Fair & Junior Bakeoff judging

10 Mar 2018 Fairtrade fortnight coffee morning / big brew

10 March 2018 Mad March Ceilidh hosted by Mayor of Brackley

12 Mar 2018 Commonwealth Day flag raising

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

Jan 28th Vice-Chancellor's Reception (represented by Deputy Mayoress)

Feb 13th Pancake Races, Parish Church

Feb 15th TV Police Vehicle Theft Briefing, Community Centre

Feb 24th Buckingham Food Fare, Community Centre

Feb 25th Buckingham Literary Festival Launch, The Garage

839/17 Chair's Announcements

Wellbeing Mental Health walk – Sunday 18th March 2018, 11am outside of Waitrose.
New starters – Emma Churchill has started as the Supervisor in the Tourist Information Office and Sheena McGurtie has been appointed a the new town Planning Officer.
Mayors Charity Ball – tickets are still available from Villers or the Old Gaol.

840/17 Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 9th April 2018
Full Council – Tuesday 8th May 2018

Meeting closed at: 21.20

Signed Date

Town Mayor