

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm. on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also Present: For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott  
Committee Clerk: Mrs N. Stockill

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

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs. Smith:

18/01744/APP The Coach House, Wharf House, Stratford Road, MK18 1TD

Mrs Smith, a neighbour of the Yard for 55 years, expressed her concerns regarding the above planning application and the associated increase in traffic in and out of Wharf Yard. Mrs Smith disputed the applicant's claim to the land in front of her property, claiming it had always been under the management of the Highways Dept. *[The Planning Clerk later confirmed this was the case]*. Mrs Smith explained that the proposed dwellings would be located behind the gated entrance to Wharf Yard, preventing 24 hour access to the properties. Mrs Smith asked Members to scrutinise the plans and encouraged them to oppose the application on the grounds of over development.

Members thanked Mrs Smith for speaking.

Mrs U. Robinson said there was no indication of how residents would gain access onto the Stratford Road as the yard's gate was locked overnight. Mrs Robinson felt that the residential development was inappropriate on a commercial estate and there were other places in Buckingham where this development could be sited.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Smith and Mrs Robinson for attending the Public Session and explained that Members would be discussing the planning application during agenda item 9.2 of the Planning Committee following the Interim meeting of Full Council.

## **92/18 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Mordue and Try.

## **93/18 Declarations of Interest**

180604 Interim Minutes

Ratified 25th June 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.....

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.

#### 94/18 Terms of Reference

To review, amend or confirm the Terms of Reference for Staffing Committee Members **AGREED** to the following amendments:

2.2 Composition - Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may *not* attend the meeting. ~~but they may not vote on a decision (except the Mayor who is ex officio a member of all committees).~~

2.3 delete '(as member or observer)'

5.1 Powers and Responsibility – Members debated the appropriate number of Committee Members required to decide to dismiss a member of staff.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury to amend 5.1 to: four or more Staffing Committee Members are required for deciding (as specified in relevant council policies) on whether a member of staff should be dismissed from post on the basis of conduct or capability.

The Mayor raised significant concerns that this amendment to the Terms of Reference was at variance with the Council's Standing Orders on majority voting and quorate numbers, as Standing Orders are supreme.

An amendment proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Hirons to read: confirming (as specified in relevant council policies) on whether a member of staff should be dismissed from post on the basis of conduct or capability

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 6

Against 8

The amendment motion **fell**. The vote on the original proposal was taken

In favour: 8

Against: 3

Abstentions: 1

The Substantive Motion was carried

6.1 Conduct of the meeting – amended to read “All meetings of the Staffing (Confidential Matters) Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council’s standing orders, current legislation and relevant policies.

6.2 Conduct of the meeting – amended to read “All business undertaken at the Staffing (Confidential Matters) Committee shall be done so in accordance with the Town Council’s standing orders, current legislation and relevant policies.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Hirons to amend 2.4 to read “*Given the above, membership should not exceed eight members to be reviewed at the beginning of the new financial year*”

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 11

Against 0

Abstentions 3

**Motion Carried**

Proposed by Cllr G. Collins and seconded by Cllr. P. Collins to amend the committee membership to six members as reference in draft minute 55/18 from the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council (21<sup>st</sup> May 2018).

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 2

Against: 6

Abstentions: 5

**Motion Fell****95/18 AMENDED PLANS**

17/04668/ADP Land North Of A421 Tingewick Road (Tingewick Triangle)

Approval of the reserved matters 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) pursuant to outline permission 15/01218/AOP for consideration of means of 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.

*BDW North Thames*

New documents:

Amended Drawings:

Affordable Housing Plan; Building Heights; Materials Plan; Parking Strategy Plan; Refuse Vehicle Tracking (Area 1 & Area 2); Site Layout; Street Hierarchy Plan

Comments from:

AVDC Ecologist; AVDC Environmental Health Officer; AVDC Landscape Architect

Cllr Cole readout the following statement: *"This is an application for Amendments to a Major Planning Application, and Members should note there are no statutory planning notices either on the site or on the AVDC Portal.*

*That apart, there continue to be concerns about APPEARANCE, DENSITY and NARROWNESS OF ROADS, DRAINAGE, PLAY AREAS and NOISE, despite several pre-planning meetings between the developer and BTC. Many of these are also AVDC's concerns, as below:*

- *AVDC's Landscape Architect, Hanna Doyle, has also raised a number of objections which you can see in the documentation (IM/10/18) with which the Planning Clerk has provided you; they include misleading visualisations and elevations in the Design Code; a dense housing layout in a semi-rural location; a lack of local distinctiveness; a lack of distinction between streets; loss of existing public right of way; lack of mix of affordable housing with for-sale housing; parking courts which should be discouraged; lack of structural tree planting and/or hedging on the estate boundary, along pavements and on plot perimeters; no distinction between NEAP and LEAP play areas, which in any case should not have perimeter fencing; and the siting of the NEAP area too far from housing. She draws attention to BNDP Policy DHE-1 regarding protection of existing trees and provision of new trees, avoiding 'occasional' tree planting. Finally, she is concerned that St Rumbold's Well, a key site in Buckingham, is overlooked in the masterplan, contrary to BNDP Policy CLH17 re the*

*preservation of St Rumbold's Well, which requests that it should be the main feature of the park which itself is nucleated and disconnected.. The masterplan also fails to identify links to the scenic railway walk and the proposed park*

- *AVDC Parks & Leisure finds the play equipment unacceptable the Local Lead Flood Authority objects to the development on the grounds of lack of information on Surface Drainage Strategy, and flood risks at the bottom of the site, particularly around St Rumbold's Well; and AVDC Environmental Health has concerns about noise and vibration from the A421, and from Ring Road Garage, which could require acoustic fencing. The developer suggests double glazing could address this, but this assumes windows would be kept closed.*

*There are currently 155 documents pertaining to this application, seven of them objections or neutral comments about the lack of local identity on this visually important western approach to Buckingham. BTC has made a number of comments which remain valid, among them the appearance, density and tenure blindness of the affordable housing (which strangely enough AVDC's affordable housing officer has not noted).*

*Our concern remains that this should not be another Lace Hill, which involved two of the same developers, Barratt and David Wilson Homes. Whilst we welcome the development of 400 homes with 35% affordable housing content on this site in principle, as always the devil is in the detail. I accordingly propose that BTC continues to oppose and if necessary attend this application until our concerns and those of AVDC have been addressed."*

*Members of the public left the chamber at 19.56*

Cllr Stuchbury seconded Cllr. Cole's proposal and expressed disappointment at the lack of suitable footpath access to Railway Walk.

Members **AGREED** to oppose and attend (no change)..

### **96/18 Annual Governance Statement**

To review and agree The Annual Governance Statement

Member questioned why the Completion Checklist has not been filled out and why section C of the Internal Control Objectives had been marked as 'No'. Cllr. P. Collins highlighted there was no separate sheet identifying the action being taken to address any weakness (identified in section C). Members were in agreement that the Annual Governance Statement was incomplete and **AGREED** to refer it back to the Town Clerk to be completed and resubmitted to the next meeting of Full Council.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **97/18 Accountant's Statement 2017/18**

To agree The Accountants Statement 2017/18

**AGREED**

### **98/18 Representatives on Outside Bodies**

To review and agree representatives to organisations per the attached list

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell and unanimously **AGREED** for Cllr. Gateley to be the Town Council's representative on the Film Place Management Committee (successor to Buckingham Centre for the Arts).

### **99/18 Photovoltaic Panels**

To agree a resolution to borrow for a total of £47,413. That an application is made to MHCLG to borrow the money to fund the installation of the Photovoltaic panels at Buckingham Community Centre and Lace Hill Sport and Community Centre. That

subject to a satisfactory application for borrowing that the money is borrowed from Salix. That the Report including the budget is agreed.

Cllr. Hirons requested a copy of the financial information, in particular the repayment schedule and implications on the Precept budget.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 11

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

**Motion carried**

**100/18 Chairman’s Announcements**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor being unavailable to attend the BTC-sponsored Bach Concert of the Summer Festival on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – Members **AGREED** for Cllr. Smith to attend in place of the Town Mayor.

Cllr. Harvey reported that the Deputy Town Clerk had submitted her resignation and would be leaving on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. Cllr. Harvey thanked Ms. Childs for excellent work in support of the Town Council and congratulated her on securing her new role. Cllr. Harvey explained there would be an item on the next Resources Committee for Members to decide to appoint an Interim Town Clerk.

**101/18 Date of next Meetings:**

Full Council Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Interim Council Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

Meeting closed at 20.10 pm

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....