

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 16th July 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	Town Mayor
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance: Mr. L. Phillips Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk

203/18 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Strain-Clark and Newell.

204/18 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.

None.

205/18 Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2018 and approved at Full Council on the 25th June 2018.

AGREED

206/18 Action Report

To receive the report and note the updated information 771/15 (Access Awareness) Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury for the Estate Manager to seek quotations on the repair and reinstatement of the step from Church Street to St Peter and St Pauls. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 8

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

463/17 (Sports Pitch Provision) Cllr. Smith reminded Members that The Town Clerk had met with The Buckingham School, The Royal Latin School and Buckinghamshire County Council on October 11th 2017 to progress the agreement for a new sports pitch at Verney Park. The schools and County Council had agreed to discuss their requirements during a meeting in November 2017 but no further update has been received by the Town Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write enquiring as to whether they are still interested in pursuing an agreement. Copy to be sent to County Councillor Clare.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

207/18 Budgets

4158 (Lace Hill Gas) – The Estates Manager explained the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre (LHSCC) was now under a new provider with a different tariff that benefitted from a lower unit rate with no standing charge.

1056 (Eurolane Roundabout) – The Estates Manager was in the process of contacting Maids Moreton Vets to see if they are interested in taking over sponsorship of the roundabout.

208/18 Tree Wardens

The Estates Manager updated Member on the successful introductory session of Buckingham's Tree Wardens. A future trip to Winslow arboretum is being planned and The Estates Manager hopes to consult with the group over planting around the Lace Hill football pitches and at the site of the new cemetery.

209/18 Devolved Services Contract - 2019 and beyond

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** to ask Mark Averill (Head of Highways at BCC) for a breakdown of precisely what is on offer within the enhanced devolved services agreement and the size of the accompanying grant. Members request this report ahead of the next meeting of Environment Committee on the 3rd September 2018 for the Estates Manager to analyse and report on.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Members **AGREED** to invite Mark Averill to a future meeting of the Environment Committee, following their informed discussion of the enhanced devolved services offer. Members also **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to issue a press release explaining that Buckingham Town Council (BTC) were reviewing devolved services for the benefit of the town, listing the devolved services currently managed by BTC.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

210/18 Food Vendor Request

To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk

Members held a lengthy discussion and were in agreement that it would not be in the best interest of nearby residents to allow food vendors to trade from the LHSCC carpark or Bourton Park. It would take trade away from the town centre and take up car parking spaces leading to overspill into the residential streets of Lace Hill and Badgers. Members **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to write and confirm that BTC would not allow trading from LHSCC carpark, Bourton Park or any other land owned by BTC.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

211/18 AVDC Housing & Homelessness Draft Strategy

To receive and consider any response to the draft strategy

Members discussed recent cases of trailer tents and mobile homes around town noting that homelessness was not always as visible as someone rough sleeping.

Members **AGREED** for The Chair of Environment and Cllr. Stuchbury to respond on behalf of the Committee noting recent incidents of homelessness in

Buckingham and the Council's involvement with the Almhouses. *Signposting:* the Town Council could offer to ensure vulnerable individuals contact the relevant authorities to seek help. Members **AGREED** once the draft strategy was finalised it would be brought back to a future Environment Committee for consideration within the NDP refresh.

A vote was taken and the results were

In favour: 8

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION CLLRS GATELEY & STUCHBURY

212/18 Dog Fouling and Dog Bag Dispensers

To receive a written report from the Estate Administrator.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue and seconded by Cllr. Smith to **AGREE** the report recommendation to purchase additional keyring dog bag dispensers. The Estates Manager informed Members there was currently a surplus of keyrings following the cancellation of last week's Dog Show in Bourton Park.

Following a question from Cllr. Mahi on dog fouling The Estates Manager explained that Dog Control Orders could only be enforced (fixed penalty fines) by a qualified enforcement officer contracted or employed by BTC. Cllr O'Donoghue had received complaints from dog walkers that the bins were not being emptied frequently and dog walkers were leaving their bags of dog waste by the side of bins. The Estates Manager explained the more regularly used bins are emptied twice a week and recommend not leaving dog waste by the side of the bin but taking it home or putting in any other refuse bin. Members discussed and unanimously **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to seek quotes on campaign stickers for the town's dog waste bins reading "Any rubbish bin will do and if it's full use another park bin or take it home"

Members **AGREED** a press release on the campaign.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

213/18 Play Parks

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

Cllr. Harvey spoke against AVDC's play park requirements that 'Play areas should not be fenced unless there is a hazard such as a busy main road or deep water course near by.' Cllr. Harvey stated that any future applications for play areas in Buckingham must make provision for a gate in order to prevent dogs from entering the playground. Cllr. Smith added that provision should also be made for accessible and sensory play equipment.

Cllr. Isham left the chamber 20.11

214/18 Skate Park Shelter

To discuss correspondence from Thames Valley Police

The Estates Manager informed Members he was meeting with Thames Valley Police, and AVDC to discuss TVP's wish to remove the shelter. It is hoped that during the section 106 regeneration of the skate park the shelter can be considered for redesign or removal. The Estates Manager explained that the mobile CCTV unit would be moved to the skate park once Bucks County Council had given permission to use their lamppost. Members **AGREED** for the Estates

Manager to report back to TVP that BTC were against the removal of the skate park shelter.

215/18 Plastic Free Buckingham Bags

To receive a written report from the Estates Administrator
Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Hirons and **AGREED** to proceed with the purchase of 150 Plastic Free Buckingham branded cotton bags from Company B and for the bags to be sold from the Tourist Information shop.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 7

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

216/18 Photovoltaic Panels

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded Cllr Harvey and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council That the Council agrees to arrange a public works loans board loan for £47,413 for the cost of the photovoltaic panels and their installation.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to submit a revised Business Case to Full Council on the 1st October 2018.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

217/18 Access Awareness

Members **AGREED** to purchase a replacement for AVDC's sign at Cotton End Steps. The new plaque will display the logos from both authorities ensuring that people know BTC worked hard towards the reinstatement of the steps.

218/8 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Members discussed and **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to write to the Environment Agency expressing grave disappointment at not been informed of the pollution incident until after any preventative measures could have been taken. The Estates Manager explained that he was liaising with the Environment Agency on a regular basis and was investigating their River Warden Schemes for the protection and restoration of the River. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

219/18 News Releases

Members **AGREED** press releases on the following issues:

Opening of the Cotton End Steps

Devolved Services

Dog Bins

220/18 Chair's Announcements

None

221/18 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd September 2018.

180716 Env Minutes

Ratified 13th August 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

Meeting closed at:20.59

Chair..... Date.....