

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 3rd September 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. Ms. R. Newell	Vice-Chair
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:	Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
	Ms. N. Villa	Interim Town Clerk
	Mr. P Hodgson	BCC Communities Manager

The Chair welcomed Cllr. Ralph and Paul Hodgson to the meeting.

330/18 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from County Councillors Whyte and Clare.

331/18 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.

332/818 Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16th July 2018 and approved at Full Council on the 13th August 2018.

AGREED

333/18 Action Report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

(216/18) Photovoltaic Panels – The Interim Town Clerk explained that The Town Council had previously agreed to obtain borrowing from the Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government to obtain an interest free loan from SALIX, with an estimated installation date in the spring of 2019. The Interim Town Clerk would be submitting a revised Business Case to Full Council on the 1st October 2018.

Cllr. P. Collins said he believed someone, either the Interim Town Clerk or Town Mayor, had acted beyond their legal power or authority by taking out a loan without the agreement of Full Council. The Interim Town Clerk confirmed that no

monies had been drawn down from the Public Works Board Loan and, should The Town Council wish, the loan agreement could be cancelled. Cllr. Harvey reminded Members that the previous Town Clerk had discovered elements of the Salix agreement meant that electricity exported back to the National Grid would not be eligible for funding and the Feed in Tariff could not be claimed. Both of these factors changed the whole Business Plan and so the previous Town Clerk investigated an alternative source of funding from the Public Works Board Loan. Cllr. Harvey said he strongly refuted Cllr. P. Collins's allegations that either he or the Interim Town Clerk had acted in an ultra vires manner and requested that Cllr. P. Collins retract his statement or apologise.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** that the Public Works Board loan application for Photo voltaic panels on Lace Hill and Buckingham Community Centres is not progressed until after a revised Business Case is reviewed by Full Council on the 1st October 2018.
ACTION INTERIM TOWN CLERK

(206/18) Access Awareness – Members requested that quotations be available for consideration at the next Environment Committee meeting.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

(212/18) Dog Bins – Cllr. Mahi asked for the press release to clarify that dog waste cannot be placed in residents' (blue) recycling bins.

(206/18) Sport Pitch provision – Member discussed and **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to circulate the minutes from the last partnership meeting on Verney Park and to enquire as to whether the partners were still interested in the project.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

(309.5/18) Access Awareness – Cllr. Strain-Clark asked if the Town Clerk could enquire as to why the bench outside of Gyre and Gimbles, Cornwalls Walk has been removed. Cllr. Harvey reported that the bench had been vandalised and deemed unsafe by the landowners.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested recycling any of the Town Council's existing benches or investigating costs of purchasing new street furniture.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Hirons to ask the Estates Manager to submit a report to a future meeting of Environment Committee identifying costings for the replacement of benches by the riverside at Cornwalls Meadow and outside of Gyre & Gimble.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 11

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

334/18 Budgets

To receive the latest figures

Members discussed and **AGREED** for a future agenda item to discuss and propose the Precept budget for 2019/20. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

(4612) Contractors Chandos Toilet' **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to report back on why the year to date figure was so high **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

335/18 Motion – Cllr. Harvey

In order to protect the health and well-being of the Town's children, we agree that the Town Council will endeavour to make sure that in the future all playgrounds newly installed or updated within the parish (whether under our control or not) will have a dog proof boundary fence and notices will be erected to ban dogs from playground areas. Cllr. Harvey's motion was seconded by Cllr. Mahi.

The Chair explained that the new play areas on the Tingewick Road development would be fenced.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. P. Collins to **AGREE**, in principle, to the motion and review the Parks Policy with any budgetary or financial liabilities that maybe incurred.

Cllr. Smith said that the Parks Policy had not been updated for 8-9 years during which time the town has seen a significant population increase and concern over dog fouling in the parks. Cllr. Smith said he could see no reason as to why the motion could not be agreed as it carried no immediate budgetary implications and the Parks Policy could be revised accordingly and whole thing written into the refresh of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr. Hirons spoke against the motion as he did not feel that fencing off large areas of park was proportionate to the problem of dog fouling.

Cllrs. Stuchbury and P. Collins withdrew their amendment to the motion. A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Against: 2

Motion carried

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

336/18 River Great Ouse Pollution Incident

336.1/18 Members noted the Environment Agency's Community Briefing dated 3rd August 2018.

336.2/18

Member discussed and **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to meet with the BDAA and the Environment Agency to discuss the formation of a partnership group to assist the recovery programme for the River Great Ouse and feedback to committee.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Cllr. Stuchbury reminded Members of the history of the pollution incident and expressed grave disappointment that the Town Council had not been informed until after preventative measures could have been taken.

[Clerk's note: correspondence from The Chairman of The Buckingham District Angling Association has been placed on the Environment Committee agenda for the 22nd October 2018)

337/18 Motion – Jon Harvey

To discuss whether the Council should obtain quotes (in preparation of next year's precept) on converting parts of the strewn horizontal tree trunks on

Moreton Avenue into embedded wood sculptures and decide on the scope of such a commission.

Cllr. Harvey spoke to the above motion, highlighting the number of fallen trees on Maids Moreton Avenue and suggesting the creation of a small sculpture trail to encourage children to explore the woodland and discover local wildlife. Cllr. Newell spoke against the motion explaining that Maids Moreton Avenue woodland was jointly owned by AVDC and Bucks County Council and a primary site for wildlife conservation supported by the Conservation Group. Cllr Harvey **AGREED** to withdraw his motion.

338/18 Cornwall Meadows Toilets

To receive a written report from the Estates Manager

Cllr. Mahi spoke in favour of implementing a small charge for using the toilets in order to deter vandalism.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** the report recommendation not to increase the number of daily cleans until it can be established if they are required and continue to monitor the situation closely. Members further **AGREED** not to have the charge for use facility implemented at this time but keep the cleaning and vandalism closely monitored with a view to implementing it if required in the future.

339/18 (Full Council 274/18): Councillor Training

To consider what training and development Members of this Committee feel is necessary.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith and **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to research options for a short training session on the structure of the heath services including adult social care.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 9

2 abstentions

Motion carried.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

340/18 Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2019-2022

To consider whether to nominate a representative to attend the AVDC Homelessness Prevention forum.

Members **AGREED** for Cllr. Stuchbury to attend on behalf of the Town Clerk and report back to the next Environment Committee. **ACTION CLLR STUCHBURY**

341/18 Devolved Services Contract

To receive a written report from the Estates Manger

Members discussed the report and possible implications to continuing with the agreement for a further four years.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously **AGREED** not to take a decision on whether to continue with the agreement until further financial information had been received and the new Town Clerk was in post.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

342/18 Access Awareness

Cllr. Strain-Clark highlighted that many of Bourton Park's footpaths were in poor condition and unsafe for residents on mobility scooter or assistance sticks.

343/18 News Releases

Members **AGREED** for a press release on the health of the River Great Ouse

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

344/18 Chair's Announcements

Cllr. Gateley explained the Estates Manager was investigating repair of the vandalised table tennis table.

345/18 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 22nd October 2018.

Meeting closed at: 20.38

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