

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 22nd October 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:	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:	Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
	Mr P. Hodson	Town Clerk
	Mrs N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

438/18 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Town Councillor P. Collins, District Councillor T. Mills and County Councillor Clare.

439/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest on this agenda.

440/18 Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 3rd September 2018.

AGREED

441/18 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Access awareness - The Estates Manager confirmed that he was seeking quotations from contractors.

Dog Bin Stickers - The stickers will be installed once the bins have received their annual clean by AVDC.

Green Flag Award – The Estates Manager confirmed that sections of the Bourton Park Management plan were in draft and hoped to be presenting the report to Full Council in February 2019.

Benches – Cllr. Hirons suggested a new bench along Candleford Walk and Cllr. Strain-Clark suggested a bench outside of The Centre at Verney Close and inside of the Cattle Pens.

Rights of Way – Members were in agreement to allow the Planning Committee to lead on the establishment of a formal right of way along scenic walk. Cllr. Harvey clarified that the Planning Clerk was writing to the University

of Buckingham seeking clarification of their offer. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write a report on the process of establishing a formal right of way and on the progress made so far so the Council can move forward legally on establishing a right of way.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Finger Posts – The replacement arms are to be in place by mid-November 2018.

Benches – Cllr. Isham reported complaints on the absence of the bench outside of Gyre and Gimble. The Estates Manager confirmed that he was pursuing the matter with the landowner. Cllr. Stuchbury suggested recycling any of the Town Council's existing benches or investigating costs of purchasing new street furniture.

442/18 Budgets

442.1/18 To receive the latest figures

442.2/18 To receive and discuss proposed budgets for 2019/20

Members discussed the fact that Resources would be modelling the new cemetery budget. The Town Clerk confirmed that this report was Councillors' first viewing of the precept budget and the new cemetery's budget would be incorporated following the next meeting of Resources Committee.

443/18 Buckingham District Angling Association

Members received correspondence from The Chairman of The Buckingham District Angling Association 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 leasing of the fishing rights along The Great River Ouse.

Members **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to liaise and investigate all avenues with the BDAA and other parties with a vested interest in the Great River Ouse and its fishing right and reported back to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

444/18 Access Awareness

Cllr. Strain-Clark reported a proliferation of open refuse sacks outside of Dominos Pizza causing a public health concern. The Estates Manager confirmed that the landlords had been contacted and commercial refuse bins should be installed.

445/18 Water Bottle Refill Station

Members received a written report from the Estates Manager.

Cllr Mahi said he did not feel the installation of a bottle refill station was necessary in the parks when the #Refill campaign was encouraging people to refill their bottles in pubs, restaurants and shops in the town centre.

Cllr .Stuchbury spoke in favour of installing a dual system to allow people to drink directly from the water fountain as well as refilling their bottle. Cllr. Harvey said he did not believe the general public wanted to drink directly from a water fountain.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to accept the report recommendations.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for his objections to a single system bottle refill unit to be noted.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

ACTION TOWN CLERK

446/18 Environment Agency Stakeholder Engagement Day

The Estates Manager explained he was arranging a sub-group meeting on the 31st October 2018 to see if any local groups were willing to assist in the formation of a partnership to assist in the recovery of the Great River Ouse. This meeting would ensure partners were informed and able to work together constructively by the time of the public meeting arranged by the EA.

447/18 Brackley Road Cemetery

Members received a written report from the Estate Manager and accepted the report recommendations that a Tier 1 risk assessment in regards to ground water is carried out by a specialist cemetery company to establish if the area could potentially be used for burials and that £1,000 to be taken from 4112/201.

448/18 Devolved Services (TfB)

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. Members discussed the political and financial risks to the Town Council taking on the delivery of any additional highway services. Cllr. Newell spoke in favour of any additional funding, as the Town Council could target local priorities.

The Town Clerk highlighted that the offer to take on additional services was for a one year rolling contract with an "easy out" if it did not work as expected. Accepting the offer would enable the Town Council to undertake minor works on the highway without the responsibility of maintaining a statutory defence. Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Newell to accept the report recommendations to:

Continue with the current devolved services agreement for the next 4 years with Buckinghamshire County Council and agree to accept funding for one year initially to arrange for minor works on the highway, conditional on a contractor being found who can carry out works within the available budget to the Town Council's requirements.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Smith to accept the report recommendations and issue a press release on the Town Council's current devolved services agreement.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: unanimous

The amended motion became the substantive motion and a further vote was taken.

In favour 9
 Abstentions 2
 The substantive motion was carried.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

449/18 Bench on the Moreton Road

Members received a written report from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** to the Lions purchasing the replacement bench with the style as per the report and that the Town Council assists with the installation.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

450/18 Homelessness Strategy

Members received a written report from Cllr. Stuchbury. Cllr. Stuchbury spoke in favour of nominating a representative from the Town Council to attend the next meeting in December 2018.

Proposed by Cllr. Gateley, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and unanimously **AGREED** for Cllr. Gateley to attend the next meeting of the Aylesbury Homelessness Prevention Forum and to report back to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

ACTION CLLR GATELEY

451/18 Motion – Cllr. Strain-Clark

Due to the current perceived threat to Buckingham Hospital in the light of the proposed new Medical Centre at Lace Hill, this committee recommends that Buckingham Town Council organise a public meeting to discuss residents' concerns and invite the Swan Practice, the CCG and other interested parties to attend. Cllr. Stuchbury seconded the motion. Cllr. Harvey said The Bucks Healthcare Trust, BCC, Trade Unions and Staff Unions and other interested parties should be included on the formal list of invitees. Cllr. Stuchbury suggested inviting the Chairman of The HASC.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the motion. Members **AGREED** for the meeting to take place in the Buckingham Community Centre and for a press release to follow.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

452/18 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Cllr. Newell reported that the minutes from Buckingham Community Wildlife Project would be circulated in due course.

453/18 News Releases

Members **AGREED** the following press releases:

Devolved Services

Medical Centre at Lace Hill - Facilitating a meeting and organising dates and a list of invitees.

454/18 Chair's Announcements

None.

455/18 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th December 2018.

Meeting closed at: 20.43

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

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