

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019** 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. 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
Ms C Molyneux	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

**874/18 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. O'Donoghue.

**875/18 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Newell declared an interest in agenda item 7 (AED Project).

**876/18 Minutes**

Members received and agree the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**877/18 Action Report**

Members received the report and discussed the updated information.

Church Street Steps (206/18) - Work was likely to be completed in the summer.

Rights of Way (561/18) Cllr. Stuchbury briefed Members that the University of Buckingham's planning application had been approved by District Council and would be discussed further at Planning Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Cllr. Harvey said the issue of establishing a Right of Way was now a matter for the Environment Committee and not the Planning Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk briefed Members that 77 statements had been received but she was appealing for more personal statement from cyclists.

Refill Bottle Station (445/18) - The Town Clerk explained that the original supplier was unable to fulfil the order and the office was investigating other suppliers.

River Wardens - The Estates Manager advised that a LAF grant had been received to fund a part-time officer and he would be meeting with Karen Paterson from the

Environment Agency, who was taking the lead to appoint an officer. The area covered would be from Brackley to Cosgrove and all the tributaries.

*Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order to allow Mrs Susan Tierney to address Members.*

Mrs Tierney explained that the AED Project managed a number of AED units and were hoping the Town Council would take on responsibility for the 5 public AED units in Buckingham.

*Members **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 7 for the benefit of Mrs Tierney.*

### **878/18 AED units in town**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and discussed the recommendations within. Cllr. Smith suggested that either the AED project or Town Council approach Jardines Chemist to see if they would take responsibility for the AED unit in the Bullring.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to accept the report recommendations. To confirm the decision to take on responsibility for maintaining and replacing the two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) which are attached to the Community Centre and the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre beginning in April 2020. It was also proposed that Councillors agree not to take on the three remaining devices at The Bullring, Badgers Way and Tingewick Road.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Stuchbury suggested that the Town Council continue discussions with the AED Project to investigate possible ways of supporting the remaining AED units in Buckingham. Cllr. Harvey said that was entirely in the remit of the AED Project to approach other organisations for support and assistance.

*Mrs Tierney left the chamber at 19.20*

### **879/18 Budgets**

Members received the latest figures and agreed to transfer any underspends into the Environment Committee reserves.

Cllr. Harvey questioned the overspend at budget line 4612. Cllr. Newell identified this was a late invoice from the contractors of Chandos Park toilets from the previous year.

### **880/18 Access Awareness**

AccessAble - Cllr. Smith reported on a contractual issue where a number of properties had been removed from the Disabled Go website and AccessAble were unclear as to why this had been done.

The Town Clerk explained he had discussed the matter in numerous meetings with AccessAble and it was apparent that some properties had been removed as the

surveys were being redesigned and the scoring was no longer relevant. The Town Clerk said the change was not clearly explained during the recent contract review and AccessAble would be providing a written statement of explanation to the next AccessAble workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The Town Clerk noted that Members may need retraining under the new format of surveying.

Cllr. Isham suggested remarking the parking bay outside of Bet Fred and The Verney Centre to disabled bays and asked the Town Clerk to consider further promotion of the Community Bus.

Members expressed their disappointment the issue had not been raised by AccessAble prior to the recent contract review.

The Town Clerk explained there was already an informal meeting arranged for the 20<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm for Members to meet with AccessAble.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and unanimously **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to arrange for a formal meeting for Members and the AccessAble Project. Members were also in agreement to postpone any additional meetings or training courses.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Harvey described the book 'Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men' by Caroline Criado Perez and explained to Members how it inspired him to question whether Transport for Bucks had ever completed an Equalities Impact Assessment on their chosen routes through Buckinghamshire to grit in icy weather.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury for the Town Clerk to write to Transport for Bucks asking if they had ever conducted an Equalities Impact Analysis on routes chosen to grit or not grit.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Against: 1

**Motion carried**

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **881/18      Grounds Maintenance update**

Members welcomed the newest members of the Greenspaces Team, Robin Taylor-Durr and Michael Spooner. The Estates Manager highlighted the following:

- The Grass cutting season commenced on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- There are now 5 employees from within the Buckingham Social Enterprise completing grass cutting around the town.
- New truck will be arriving soon
- Litter picking and bin emptying in the local parks is now being conducted in-house.
- The path along Railway Walk has received a number of repairs
- An additional wildflower area in the end paddock was being developed and winter seed flowers would be added under the trees.

Members discussed devolved services and the benefit of asking AVDC to indicate the land ownership of open green spaces in Buckingham.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to ask the Chair of the Gawcott Charitable Trust for a copy of historical maps

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**882/18 New Cemetery and Allotments**

The Town Clerk informed members he had received a copy of the deed of planning obligation under section 106 of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 and Other Enabling Powers between Aylesbury Vale District Council and The Warden and Scholars of St Mary College of Winchester in Oxford and Hallam Land Management Limited. The Town Clerk confirmed he would bring a report back to the next meeting of the Environment Committee outlining a plan for public consultation in support of a PWLB application, and a proposal for obtaining a building design and site layout.

Members **AGREED** to allow the Town Clerk to take forward and report back to the next meeting of the Environment Committee. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**883/18 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

Members received and noted the minutes of the BCWP meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**884/18 Greenspaces Complaints**

Members received and noted the log of complaints and responses. Members **AGREED** to amend the complaints log to redact any personal information. The Town Clerk said this is the first time the report had been presented to Committee and Members **AGREED** the report be brought back to future meetings in the same format.

**885/18 Homeless Strategy**

Members received a verbal report from Cllr. Gateley and noted the minutes from the Homeless Prevention Forum of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Cllr. Gateley spoke of the importance of knowing the relevant local contacts for an immediate response to assist a vulnerable individual.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to circulate the relevant contact information for homeless provision to all Councillors including details of relevant information required. **ACTION TOWN CLERK/Cllr GATELEY**

Cllr. Newell provided Members with the following contact details:

The website is [streetlink.org.uk](http://streetlink.org.uk)

In office hours local telephone number is 01296 585168

24 hour number 0300 500 0914

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and unanimously **AGREED** that the Town Clerk writes to the District Council seeking assurances that the sub-allocation policy will be maintained in the revised Home Allocation Policy being considered by AVDC. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**886/18 Correspondence**

Members received and discussed a resident's request to fund a new litter bin and dog waste bin along Tingewick Road. Councillors discussed and **AGREED** to fund a new litter bin and that the Town Clerk respond accordingly. Members further **AGREED** to delegate the exact size and location of the new bin to the Estates Manager.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER/TOWN CLERK**

Members discussed the size of Buckingham’s current litter bins and the Estates Manager explained there were 10 brown litter bins already in stock at the depot. The Estates Manager explained that the Greenspaces team had previously cleaned St Rumbolds Well (twice yearly) and it was now owned by Barretts there were plans to improve the area for the future use of the community.

**887/18 News Releases**  
None

**888/18 Chair’s Announcements**  
None

**889/18 Date of Next Meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Meeting closed at: 8.40pm

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

