

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

**Present:**

- Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley Vice-Chair
- Cllr. J. Harvey
- Cllr. P. Hirons
- Cllr. D. Isham
- Cllr. A. Mahi
- Cllr. Ms. R. Newell 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

**610/19 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**611/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**612/19 Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and received at Full Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**613/19 Action Report**

Members received the report and Cllr. Smith asked for the Cattle Pen Finger Posts to be reinstated on the Action Report **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

Sports Pitch Provision (208/18) – Cllr. Stuchbury said he was disappointed the issue had not been progressed and asked for the historical correspondence and agreements to be reviewed by the Town Clerk. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Crowd Funding (432/19) Cllr. Strain-Clark suggested adding further description to the accessible roundabout. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

TPO on Yew Tree – Cllr. Ralph asked for the Estates Manager to investigate reported unauthorised tree works on a Yew tree bordering one of Western Avenue's residents' car parks. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

106 Wish list (428/19) – Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to produce a report on Section 106 for discussion at the next meeting of Environment Committee. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Harvey had shared best practice ideas with the Town Clerk from Dunstable Town Council's BMX Track. Cllrs. O'Donoghue and Stuchbury reminded Members of Committee's previous suggestion to locate a BMX Track on either the rough ground at Lace Hill Sport Pitches or the site near Bourton Park and adjacent to the electricity substation.

**614/19 Budgets**

Members received the latest figures. The Town Clerk explained that Committee would meet again on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (after precept but before the end of the financial year) and Members could take a decision then on how to deal with any forecasted underspends.

**615/19 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Cllr. Newell **AGREED** to work with the Estates Manager and Committee Clerk to assign target dates to each action.

**ACTION CLLR NEWELL/COMMITTEE CLERK/ESTATES MANAGER**

Cllr. Gateley said the Action Plan had been incorrectly referenced on the agenda and should always be titled as The Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that, wherever possible, the Town Council should look to improve habitat for wildlife by reviewing and relaxing hedge cutting regimes in the parks.

Cllr. Harvey called for more than one annual tree planting event and suggested adding photovoltaic panels onto the action list.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested working with BCC and the New Unitary Authority to partner any local environmental projects.

Cllr. Gateley questioned whether it would be possible to plant more trees in Maids Moreton Avenue. The Estates Manager recommended working on preserving the existing canopy cover and weeding out seedling sycamore from the woodland floor to try and encourage existing saplings to establish.

Members **AGREED** that Full council would be invited to take part in any future tree planting events.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**616/19 Bourton Park Bridges**

The Estates Manager said he was obtaining costs for the repairs indicated in the structural survey to include detailed instruction from a structural engineer on how the repairs are to be carried out. As well as investigate what options there are for Bridge 2. Members **AGREED** for the Estates Manager to bring a report back to a future meeting of Environment Committee.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

Cllr. Stuchbury said that as the bridges were inherited from AVDC the Town Council should ask for a contribution from Section 106 to fund the replacement/repairs. Cllr. Harvey suggested turning the 'un-repairable' bridge into an art installation and seek funding from the Arts Council.

**617/19 Town Centre Audit 2020**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** that once a list of participants has been identified, the town would be divided between those taking part. Those involved would be asked to complete their surveys during January and February 2020.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

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**618/19 S106 Requirements**

Members received a verbal report on the Town Clerk's negotiations with AVDC regarding Section 106 funding. Members discussed and **AGREED** for the cost of play area replacements to be included within the Council's Section 106 wish list and for the Town Clerk to bring back a report to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**619/19 Update on The Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Members received and noted a written report from the Estates Manager.

**620/19 Healthcare Public Meeting**

The Town Clerk said representatives from the Swan Medical Practice were due to present at the last meeting of Full Council but rescheduled (due to purdah) for the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Town Clerk said there was a provisional meeting date for a public meeting in February 2020 said it was positive that the Practice want to engage with Councillors in a public meeting.

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed concern over meeting representatives before the public meeting. Cllr. Gateley reminded Committee that all Council meetings were open to the public. Cllr. Strain-Clark said it was important the Council had the opportunity to speak to the Swan Practice and provide input as to what issues need addressing at the public meeting. Cllr. Stuchbury stressed the importance of inviting Community Health Care, The Trust and HASC.

**621/19 Dogs on the Lace Hill Sports Pitches**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk. Cllr. Newell observed a similar problem was present at Maids Moreton rugby club fields and said it is hard to change people's behaviours with publicity campaigns alone. Members spoke in favour of hard hitting publicity campaigns.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to:

- Erect two signs instructing dog owners not to allow their dogs on the sports pitches, and to clean up after their dogs.
- To move one dog bin to be positioned between the pitches and the Lace Hill Centre.
- To use social media to encourage dog-owners to keep their dogs under control at Lace Hill and off the sports pitches.
- Promote alternative green spaces for dog walking near to Lace Hill.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**622/19 News Releases**

Members **AGREED** to a press release regarding dogs on the Lace Hill sports pitches.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**623/19 Access Awareness**

Cllr. Strain-Clark said the future Town Centre Audit needed wheelchair users to note any accessibility issues around the Town Centre. Cllr. Harvey said it was important to introduce play area equipment for children with a range of aptitudes

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and abilities. Cllr. Isham spoke about the AccessAble website and suggested distributing the AccessforAll minutes to Environment Committee. Cllr. Strain-Clark said the AccessforAll group needed someone to take the Minutes.

**624/19 Draft Precept**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. Cllr. Stuchbury called for a recorded vote and Members unanimously voted in favour of agreeing the proposed budget for 20/21 to be submitted to Full Council for consideration at the Precept Meeting on 13th January 2019. Members recommended that the Committee agree the proposed forecast budget for 2021 to 2025 to be submitted to Full Council for consideration at the Precept Meeting on 13th January 2019. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**625/19 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

Members received and noted the minutes from the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

**626/19 Chair's Announcements**

There were none.

**627/19 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Meeting closed at: 20.23

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