

R/06/19

Minutes of a meeting of the **Resources Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on
Monday 27th April 2020 at 7pm online via Zoom, Meeting ID 959 5910 1404

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	Town Mayor
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. A. Mahi	from minute 950/19
Cllr. Mrs. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	Chair
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

Also present: Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk
 Cllr. H. Mordue Town Councillor
 Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk
 Miss. B. Dowden Office Apprentice

944/19 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. G. Collins and Cllr. Newell

945/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

946/19 Minutes of last meeting

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 and received by Full Council on Monday 16th March 2020.

947/19 Minutes of Communications Strategy Group

Members received and noted the minutes of the Communications Strategy Group meeting held on the 12th March 2020.

948/19 Complaints, Compliments & FOI Requests (6 monthly report)

Members noted the report and asked for the title to be changed to 'compliments, complaints and FOI requests'. **AGREED**

The Town Clerk pointed out that the final complaint listed in agenda item 5 did not have the response provided against it. The response provided to the complainant is given below:

"Thank you for your email. You will appreciate that this is a difficult issue for everyone concerned. A representative from the Town Council is going to attend the Lace Hill Residents' Association Meeting on Thursday 20th February to talk things through in more detail; do come along if you are able. Buckingham United do pay a lease fee to the Town Council, but their agreement also includes them taking responsibility for maintaining the two sports pitches, even though other clubs also use them. This is working well so far, as clearly they have an interest in maintaining the pitches to the best possible standard."

200427 27th Resources April DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 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, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial.....

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Members discussed the ban of dogs from Town Council owned sports pitches and **AGREED** to reissue a press release on the subject. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**
Cllr. Stuchbury said it was nice to receive a compliment about the Bonfire and Fireworks event.

949/19 Investment Strategy

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and discussed the following report recommendations:

- It is recommended that the Resources Committee recommends to Full Council to adopt the proposed Investment Strategy
- It is recommended that the Council moves funds not immediately required from Lloyds TSB to the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities' (CCLA) Public Sector Development Fund

The Town Clerk informed Members that Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management Limited has a shareholding structure that reflects its client base of churches, charities and local authorities.

Cllr. Harvey asked if Premium Bonds had been considered as an investment product for the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that, on instruction from Full Council, he had investigated alternatives to the usual savings accounts options that allowed the Council easy access to its funds. Members noted that Bonds and alternative investments products could be considered at a future date.

Cllr O'Donoghue asked what assurances there were that the recommended scheme would spread the funds across a number of schemes. The Town Clerk confirmed that the CCLA Public Sector Development Fund would spread the funds across a range of banks, reducing the Council's exposure to just one institution.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** that the Resources Committee recommends that Full Council adopts the proposed Investment Strategy and that the Council moves funds not immediately required from Lloyds TSB to the CCLA's Public Sector Development Fund.

950/19 Earmarked Reserves

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. An amendment to the recommended earmarked reserves to include £3,000 for the Youth Project was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED**.

A copy of the **AGREED** earmarked reserves, including the above amendment, can be found in Appendix A of the minutes.

Cllr Mahi joined the meeting at this point in the agenda

951/19 Impact of Covid-19 Restrictions

951.1/19 Staffing and allocation of resources

The Town Clerk reported that during the current COVID19 emergency the Greenspaces Team was providing a slightly reduced service with reduced numbers of green space maintenance staff being deployed outside. Vehicles and machinery are only to be used by one member of staff and PPE equipment and strict health and Safety guidelines were in place for the safety of staff and members of the public. The Estates Manager was investigating the feasibility of leasing another works vehicle for an initial period of 6 months.

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The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre remained closed and was receiving a deep clean from the Centre Coordinator. The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre's caretaker has been furloughed as their salary was paid from the Centre's income. The Town Clerk confirmed that staff members who are funded by the precept could not be furloughed as this was only available for public sector workers whose salaries were paid from an external income.

Members noted their thanks to all Council staff for adapting their workload to comply with the current circumstances.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked if the Town Council systems were sufficiently robust to cope with the requirements of 7 day burials for the Islamic faith. The Town Clerk said that the different requirements for all faith groups would be considered within the planning for the new cemetery and that the Town Council would work hard to try and accommodate everyone's needs.

951.2/19 Budgetary Forecast

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk, noting a reduction in the income from the Street Market and Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the budgetary forecast updates would be taken to each of the Town Council Committees.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations:

- It is recommended that the Committee notes the report
 - It is recommended to provide the Tennis Club and Bowls Club with a six-month rental holiday, to be extended if the restrictions on their activities continue beyond that time
- ACTION TOWN CLERK**

952/19 Action Report

Members received the Action Report and noted the Town Clerk's verbal update on the Council Chamber Extension.

953/19 Accounts and Budgets

Members received and considered the Income and Expenditure reports. The Town Clerk said the Council had underspent by £100k with some of that underspend related to impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr. Hirons asked for any large underspend to be explained in a report to the next meeting. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to bring back a report to the next meeting of Resources Committee. **AGREED ACTION TOWN CLERK**

954/19 Chair's Announcements

None

955/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 29th June 2020

Meeting closed at: 19.57

R/06/19

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT

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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 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, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial.....

Appendix A

901	EARMARKED RESERVES	Proposed revised EMR
4094	YOUTH PROJECT	3,000
9001	YOUTH COUNCIL	1,000
9002	CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT	55,728
9004	SOLAR PANEL LACE HILL	28,076
9006	SPEED WATCH	598
9012	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	295
9015	CHARTER FAIRS	4,136
9025	PLAY AREA REPLACEMENT	30,121
9027	GREEN BUCKINGHAM GROUP	226
9029	CIRCULAR WALK MAINT	5,399
9030	TOURISM LEAFLETS	2,404
9033	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRP	-2,685
9035	PARKS DEVELOPMENT	1,405
9036	ELECTION COSTS	5,094
9037	FAIR TRADE	0
9040	PARK RUN	89
9041	BONFIRE AND FIREWORK	0
9045	ACCESS FOR ALL	251
9046	PLANNING DISPLAY EQUIPMENT	629
9048	BAG FUND	1,283
tba	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	20,000
tba	BRIDGE REPAIRS	15,000
tba	OFFICE DEVELOPMENT / FURNITURE	12,000
tba	DEPOT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	5,000
tba	AEDs	420
tba	LACE HILL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	5,000
tba	HERITAGE APP EXPENDITURE	4,306
TOTAL		198,775