# MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2005 at 7 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors P. Collins (Mayor)

Mrs P. Desorgher

D. Isham
R. Lehmann
H. Lewis
G. Loftus
H. Mordue
Ms. R. Newell
Ms. H. Saul

Mrs. P. Stevens Mrs C. Strain-Clark

P. Strain-Clark

R. Stuchbury

Town Clerk Mrs P. J. Heath

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J. Barnett and H. Cadd.

# 2596 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Collins declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 "the waste bin on Castle Street/Nelson Street".

# 2597 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the interim meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 and the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr. Stuchbury requested that the Annual Statutory Meeting minutes be amended to remove the amount raised by the Mayor's Charity and subsequently paid to the Buckingham Hospital League of Friends; this was agreed.

#### **2598 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were informed of the following items

#### **NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES**

THE PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION – MAY 2005

BUCKINGHAM WILDLIFE EVENTS – FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2005

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL – ISSUE SUMMER TERM

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT - ISSUE 39 MAY 2005

LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW - ISSUE 57/1 MAY 2005

NATIONAL TRUST - STOWE ISSUE SUMMER 2005

BTCV - ISSUE SPRING 2005

BALC - MATTERS ARISING MAY 2005

INVITATIONS AND NOTICES OF DIARY DATES (COPIES OF NOTICES ALREADY DISTRIBUTED)

CAB - AGM 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005

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Buckingham Community Plan – Meeting with traders  $22^{\tiny{ND}}$  June and AGM on  $29^{\tiny{TH}}$  June 2005 DIS

ISSUE NO 605, 606, 607, AND 608

ROAD CLOSURES

#### NEW LICENCES/TRANSFER OF LICENCES

BP CONNECT, STRATFORD ROAD – KELLY WALKER, ANDREW AISTON, AMANDA MORTON FROM AMANDA MORTON, CHRISTOPHER WOODCOCK, ANDREW AISTON.

KINGS HEAD – EXTENSION OF HOURS

The Clerk explained that AVDC were no longer informing Councils of applications to extend hours under the new licensing laws, therefore this had been added as an emergency item following the notice in the "Advertiser" on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Members expressed concern that the local representatives were not informed and that in future it would rely on Councillors and the Staff seeing either announcements in the newspaper or a notice on the premises. The Licensing Department at AVDC stated they do check that the notice is displayed and that the announcement appears in a 'local' newspaper which may not be the "Advertiser". Members opposed the extended hours on the grounds of noise pollution for local residents and the extending of the time youths are in the town centre causing a disturbance. Members did not wish to set a precedent for all town centre licensed premises to be open until 2 am.

Proposed by Cllr. Stevens, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RESOLVED** by 8 votes to 1 that the Town Council opposes the application to extend the Kings Head opening hours to 2 am.

# 2599 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

# 2599.1 PLANNING - .03.05.05 & 23.05.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

Cllr. Stevens sought assurance that the opposition to 05/01063 included the trolley park in front of the shop.

#### **2599.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 16.05.05**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

(94/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that any additional under spend between expectation at precept and year end actual for the 2004/2005 budget for the E & P Committee would be carried forward for their use in 2005/2006. All other budget under spend greater than that expected at Precept would be allocated to reserves.)

Cllr. Collins requested that this be referred back to the Committee following further information received since the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **RESOLVED** by 11 votes to 1 that the recommendation contained in F & A Minute no 94/2005 be referred back to the Committee.

(97/2005 **RECOMMENDED** that the Council adopt the Risk Assessments with adjustments)

#### **AGREED**

(98/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and AGREED that the Council should adopt the draft Equal Opportunities policy with Cllr Newell's amendment.)

**AGREED** 

# **2599.3 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 09.05.05**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

(127/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council accept the Quotation from Astro Sections Ltd to replace the rotten bay window from contingencies at a cost of £1250 inc. VAT.)

Members discussed at length the placing of the screen in the window and the possible blocks created by the window frame. Cllr Newell asked if options other than replacing like for like had been considered, and whether a 2 pane or single pane option might work better. The Clerk reminded Members of the differential in price between keeping it at 4 window panes, 2 window panes and a single window pane. Members queried the security if a single pane was installed.

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Lewis, that a single pane window be installed instead of the 4 pane window. This was defeated by a vote of 7 to 6 with the Chairman's casting vote.

(128/2005 It was **AGREED** to update the survey on litter bins and arrange a phased replacement of missing bins, repair damaged ones, and install new bins where needed)

#### AGREED

(130/2005 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council purchases two new Town Council flags at a cost of £379 from contingencies.)

**AGREED** and an amendment to replace the Union Flag stolen from the flag pole at a cost of £60 was also **AGREED**.

#### 2599.4 EVENTS 31.05.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

The Chairman responded to the following issues relating to the Events Committee minutes.

## 122.2 Christmas Lights

Concern was expressed at the removal of the infrastructure for the pea lights in the Old Cattle Market area. Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Lehmann, who had arranged for the installation, confirmed that they had not instructed anyone to remove the lights. It was agreed to confirm the location of the cables and transformers and to seek the reinstallation of the lights; the Mayor, Chairman of Events and the Clerk to inform the police if they felt it necessary.

#### ACTION THE CLERK, CLLR STUCHBURY, THE MAYOR

#### 125.2 Fireworks

Cllr. Lehmann questioned if the Committee had the delegated authority to decide who the money went to from the firework donations. Members ask that this be decided at the next Council Meeting; all members were asked to bring suggestions to the meeting.

#### **ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS**

#### 126 Hanging Baskets

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked all members who assisted in the installation of the hanging baskets. It was felt that a more detailed specification for quotations would be required in future years.

#### **127 SAVE**

Cllr. Newell reported that Buckingham had won a SAVE award for our work with recycling, and the River Rinse; Katharine McElligott was thanked for all her hard work coordinating the recycling.

Members were informed that the District Council would be at the next farmers' market promoting the composting bins.

#### 2599.5 CHAIRMEN'S STRATEGY GROUP 31.05.05

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed.

Members agreed the response to the Standards Board consultation and asked that an additional comment be added "Members hoped that the Standards Board would keep, where possible, to its 6 months deadline for determining complaints"

## 2600 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

TV POLICE NOMINATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER OF THE YEAR

It was agreed to nominate Buckingham Beat Officers

AVDC NOTIFICATION OF NEW CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY

TV POLICE CRIME REPORTS CONFIDENTIAL AVDC INVITE TO CIVIC SERVICE

Members wishing to attend should notify the Clerk by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005

SLCC SUMMER SCHOOL 13<sup>TH</sup>/14<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and AGREED that the Clerk can attend the SLCC Summer School at a cost of £105 plus accommodation. No Member wished to attend.

AVDC NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING TRANSFER OF HEARTLANDS

Members were pleased to note the forthcoming transfer and confirmed that it is the intention of the Council to enter into negotiations with AVDC to take over the adopted areas of land in the town

MR J BERCOW MP CONSERVATION AREA

Members were pleased to note the letter from Mr Bercow.

The Clerk informed members that the Churches Together had written to the Council asking for permission to use Church Hill for the Summer Holiday Club, undertaking to make good any damage; this was given.

# 2601 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

# 2601.1 Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group

Cllr. Newell reported on the Community Plan Steering Group and invited all Members to the AGM and Public Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

## 2601.2 Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes

Members noted the minutes of the Twinning Association dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

#### 2601.3 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project Minutes

Members noted the minutes of the Community Wildlife Project dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005.

# 2601.4 Youngsters Cinema minutes

Members noted the minutes of the Youth Cinema group dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 & 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Cllr. Stuchbury informed Members that the June show had been cancelled as it is uncertain if the correct insurance is held for the event.

# 2601.5 Representatives on outside bodies

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, that the representatives should be confirmed in total was defeated by 8 votes to 3.

AV Associations of Local Councils	representative agreed	Cllr. Isham
AV Local Committees	-11-	Cllr. Isham
AV North Sports Council	-11-	Cllr. Isham
BALC	-11-	The Mayor
Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust	-11-	The Mayor
	-11-	Cllr. Lehmann
	-11-	Cllr. P. Strain-Clark
	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury

Cllr. Collins was already a member of the Trust so it was proposed by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Lewis, and AGREED that Cllr. Stuchbury should continue to make up the 4<sup>th</sup> place on the Trust.

Buckingham Arts Steering Group	representative agreed	Cllr. Cadd
Buckingham Community Centre	-11-	Cllr. Desorgher
	-11-	Cllr. P. Strain-Clark
	-11-	Vacant

The Council has the ability to nominate 3 representatives on the Committee, as no member wished to take up the 3<sup>rd</sup> place it will stand as vacant.

Buckingham Partnership	representative agreed The Mayor	
	-11-	Cllr. Stevens
	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury
<b>Buckingham General Charities</b>	-11-	The Mayor
	-11-	Cllr. Isham
	-11-	Cllr. Newell
	-11-	Cllr. Desorgher
Buckingham Youth Centre	-11-	Cllr. Barnett
	-11-	Cllr. Desorgher
	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury
CAB	-11-	The Mayor
Public Transport Consultative	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury
Tree Wardens	-11-	Cllr. Newell
	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury
	-11-	Cllr. P. Strain-Clark
	-11-	Cllr. H. Lewis
<b>Buckingham Twinning Association</b>	-11-	Cllr. Mordue
	-11-	Cllr. Stuchbury
Community Wildlife Project	-11-	Cllr. Newell

# 2602 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the invoices per attached list be approved.

## 2603 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the payments made per the attached list be approved.

It was agreed that the Income Sheets should not show any personal details of the burials.

# 2604 UPDATE FROM MR REES, OPERATIONS MANAGER, BUCKS. MENTAL HEALTH TRUST RE THE FUTURE OF EMBLETON WARD

A copy of Mr Rees' letter which had been received on 17<sup>th</sup> June stating that he would not be attending the Town Council meeting was circulated at the meeting. Members felt it was regrettable that Mr Rees, having stated at the Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> that he would keep this council informed as to the decisions taken on Embleton Day Unit (EDU), was not now keeping his word. The Clerk informed Members that the invitation made and accepted at the meeting had been reinforced both in the thank you letter sent after the meeting and the former Mayor's letter to the Chairman of the PCT, Mr Harris. Papers on the PCT decision to close the EDU were circulated to Members who were asked to respect their confidential nature. Members queried why the League of Friends, a body set up to protect and provide for the future of Buckingham Hospital, had not been present at such an important meeting. Many Councillors felt that the closing of the unit would indicate the slow dissolving of the facilities offered by Buckingham Hospital to the eventual closing of the Hospital itself.

It was **AGREED** that the Mayor, Cllr Stuchbury, and the Clerk would invite the League of Friends to attend the Interim Council Meeting to discuss the future of Buckingham Hospital and to formally invite Mr Rees or a representative of the NHS Mental Health Trust to attend the next Council Meeting to explain the decision taken to close the EDU. Buckingham Hospital and the EDU would form a standing part of the Council's agenda for the foreseeable future.

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting during the above item.

# 2605 TERMS OF APPOINTMENT FROM MR BATEMAN

Members discussed the terms of appointment and fees; some concern was expressed as to the percentages quoted by Mr Bateman. It was agreed to authorise the Committee to negotiate the terms; it would be discussed by the Committee at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr. Lewis would act as advisor on this item.

ACTION CHAIRMAN OF E & P, CLLR. LEWIS

# 2606 UPDATE ON MORETON ROAD TOILETS

Members were read an email received from AVDC which stated that the survey of the drains, which had been requested by this Council and which AVDC undertook to do, has not in fact

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been done. Members understood that this had been agreed as a cost for which the Town Council would pay.

Some of the Councillors had witnessed the cleaning on Sunday whilst hanging the baskets; the operative had used the same water to wash both floors and they believed had not washed any of the internal surfaces. It was agreed that the Clerk write to AVDC concerning the lack of cleaning and to Mr Carr re the non survey of the drains. Members confirmed that the Town Council would not pay for the toilets in their current state.

Cllr. P. Collins declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the building. With the agreement of all present Cllr. H. Mordue took the chair for the following item.

# 2607 INVESTIGATIONS FOLLOWING THE COMMENTS MADE AT THE PUBLIC SESSION ON 23/05/05 AND LETTERS RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE ON THE WASTE BIN AT CASTLE STREET.

The Clerk informed Members that investigations with AVDC and BCC had established that neither authority owned the land or had a record of an owner. The outside edge of the land is the responsibility of the highways department. It appears that no planning permission was required for the bin and there had been no response as to conservation area requirements. Land Registry requires £4 to undertake a land search to establish if an area has been registered. If the land is without registry then the Council could apply for 1) Adverse Possession – whereby the applicant would need to demonstrate they have had use of the land and maintained it for 12 years without challenge or 2) Caution against 1<sup>st</sup> registration – whereby the applicant is notified if anyone tries to register the land. In respect of the piece of land at Nelson Street and Castle Street the County Council could go for Adverse Possession on the grounds that the outside edge is their responsibility and the internal sector is maintained in the same regime.

Members discussed the information and comments of the Clerk and the general issue this dispute between neighbours had highlighted in that there is land within the parish which is unregistered and appears to be 'no mans land'.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and **RESOLVED** by 9 votes to 0 that this council should make an application to the Land Registry Office to establish if the land at the junction of Nelson Street and Castle Street is registered; if not, then the Council registers an interest and to have the land formally registered in an authority's name. This process to be used for all parcels of land in the parish which are unregistered as and when the Council comes aware of them.

Cllr. Collins returned to the meeting and retook the Chair; he was informed of the resolution.

#### 2608 THE "SOUTH EAST 2005 MARKET TOWN AWARDS"

Following a discussion on the criteria for the award it was agreed that the Mayor and Mark Gadd complete the application form for the Market Town Award.

# 2609 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Isham as AVDC Councillor informed the Members that the District were actively seeking to increase the amount of recycling in the district. The "Transfer of housing" ballot will be held in the autumn. The ticket machines in the car park were now set to the correct day and time.

Cllr. Lewis as an AVDC Councillor informed the members that the "one stop shop" was progressing but that there was no provision for the Town Council nor would the Town Council be asked to contribute.

Concerns were expressed by some Councillors as to the method and format of the ballot re the transfer of housing stock to a housing association. They were assured that all aspects were monitored by a specific Government department, and that full information would be available from advice services in the town such as CAB.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and AGREED to suspend standing orders to enable County Councillor David Polhill to address the Council.

Cllr Polhill thanked the Council for allowing him to speak; he would attend as many of the meetings as he could. He was currently looking at the Moreton Road Development, Addington Road traffic calming, and Bourton Meadow School.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Stevens, and AGREED to reinstate standing orders.

# 2610 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

#### 2610.1 COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

The Mayor proposed introducing a Councillors' Surgery for the first Saturday in the month. This will be held in the Council Chamber from 10 - 11.30 am. It is planned to publicise the event via a press release, the web site and a notice board in the market.

#### 2610.2 LETTERS - NOT ON CORRESPONDENCE LIST

The Mayor raised two letters which had been allocated to planning – Rotary Club requesting a road to be named after Mr. Whitehead, a former councillor at Chackmore, and Mr. Waterman in respect of the Moreton Road development. – Members agreed this should be passed to planning for action.

Meeting	closed	at	10.02	pm.
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CHAIRMAN DAT	E
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