

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL INTERIM MEETING HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2005 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CORNWALLS MEADOW, BUCKINGHAM, AT 7PM

PRESENT	Councillors	J. Barnett	
		H. Cadd	
		P. Collins	(Mayor)
		Mrs. P. Desorgher	
		D. Isham	
		H. Lewis	
		G. Loftus	
		H. Mordue	
		Ms. R. Newell	
		Mrs. P. Stevens	
		Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
		P. Strain-Clark	
		R. Stuchbury	
	Town Clerk	Ms. P. J. Heath	
	Guests	Cllr. Mike Colston	Bucks. County Council
		Mr. B. Sherwood	Bucks. County Council
		Mr. P. Hatch	Housing Solutions Group
		Cllr. D. Polhill	Bucks. County Council
		Cllr. Dungate	Chairman, Maids Moreton PC
		Cllr. Beck	Maids Moreton Parish Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. R. Lehmann, and Mrs. H. Saul

2665 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Cadd declared he may have a possible interest to declare on agenda item 5 but would reserve his right dependant on the content of the discussion. Cllr. Loftus declared a personal interest in agenda item 3.5 as an employee of the company.

*Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** to move item 4 to be heard next.
Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow the guests of the Town Council to address the meeting.*

2666 MAIDS MORETON HALL AND THE FUTURE OF ADULT CARE PROVISIONS IN BUCKINGHAM

Cllr. M. Colston, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, introduced himself and Mr. Sherwood, an officer from BCC. He explained the history behind the County Council's decision to close Maids Moreton Hall along with 12 other Fremantle Trust homes on the grounds of financial viability and the need for modernisation to fit current standards. The County Council intends, through a non profit making company, Housing Solutions Group, to build 8 new homes; the nearest to Buckingham being Wing. Cllr. Colston explained that the figures for the North of the County show that even without Maids Moreton Hall there would be sufficient beds available for the elderly population of the area. The County Council, via social services, would be putting more emphasis and resources into keeping people in their own home rather than nursing homes. They are currently committed to provide up to 10 hours of home care per day, with a possibility of 24 hour live-in carers.

The Fremantle Trust is not the only care provider used in Buckinghamshire, although it is one of the main ones.

With the loss of Maids Moreton Hall there will still be 85 beds available in Buckingham and Maids Moreton. There are 5 other units in and around Buckingham - the Red House, Maids Moreton; Hamilton House, Buckingham; Swan House, Winslow; Shaftsbury Court, Winslow, and Lime Tree Court, Milton Keynes; this it was felt was adequate for the area's needs. As a Cabinet Member he had a responsibility to look at the big picture and consider the needs and benefits of all the County, and not just the Buckingham area, ensuring that the best conditions are available for the old, frail and those within the community that need the extra support and care.

Mr Sherwood, Head of Commissioning, Policy and Performance, explained about the demographics of the area. In the 8 wards in and around Buckingham there are approximately 4000 people over 65 which represents 4.8% of the population; Mr Sherwood agreed to provide a full breakdown of the demographics used to justify the siting of the new homes.

ACTION MR SHERWOOD

Mr Hatch from Housing Solutions Group explained they were a non-profit-making company who would be developing on the site of Maids Moreton Hall. The site had a considerable number of Tree Preservation Orders which limits the development potential of the site such that they could only build within the footprint of the current building.

During the following question and answer session the Members made the following points: where appropriate the response from Mr. Sherwood and Cllr. Colston is indicated.

- The move to Wing would cause emotional stress to the patients, their families and friends in this close knit rural community. This could possibly result in fewer visits to the patients which is detrimental to their wellbeing.

- There is no direct public transport link to Wing, road links are primarily via B and C category roads.

BCC – Agreed to look at a provision of a bus service between the North of the County and Wing.

- When faced with a similar problem at Winslow's Swan House the County pulled it down and rebuilt a new modern facility, why can that not be done at Buckingham?

- What consideration had been taken of the new development at Maids Moreton Road, possible development on Tingewick Road, and the proposed additional houses under the SM & MK Study?

BCC – felt they could make a reasonable judgement on the figures but appreciate that in the future they may have to review the provision when the houses had been built.

- What would be the differential cost to the Bucks. County Council patients in the various homes in and around Buckingham?

BCC – there would be no differential as all residents pay the same price as their care is being purchased by the County Council.

- If Maids Moreton Hall had failed to reach the new standards, what was the position of the other 5 homes in the area, would they have the same problem?

BCC – the standards are set by Central Government and are the same for all residential care homes.

- Would any profit made from the sale of Maids Moreton Hall for development be spent in Buckingham?

BCC – There is no intention of ring-fencing the money for Buckingham, as this facility had been paid for by the entire County therefore any monies would be used for the County's benefit

- In view of the points made about the current provision for beds in the area what provisions or guarantees did the County Council have that the providers would not withdraw their homes?

BCC – the County seeks long term contracts with each of the providers who are in regular contact with the County Council officers.

The Maids Moreton Parish Councillors highlighted the fact that in a recent planning application by the Red House the need for more beds to meet local requirements was cited as the reason.

BCC- explained that as a commercial enterprise the Red House did not have to justify the wider needs only their commercial requirements.

Members were urged to use their County Councillors to express their views at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Mordue arrived during the above discussion.

The Guests were thanked and they left the meeting accompanied by the Mayor; there was a short break of 5 minutes.

*Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **AGREED** to reinstate standing orders.*

2667 TRANSFER OR NEW LICENCES

2667.1 Esso on the Run – Transfer

Members noted the transfer of licence to Prakash Sonigara from Gareth Hankin

2667.2 Villier Hotel – Transfer

Members noted the transfer of licence to Jean Rush, Henry Scrase from Henry Scrase

2667.3 Tesco Stores, Market Hill – Variation of hours

Members discussed the proposed hours with concern being expressed as to the noise and antisocial behaviour in the town late at night.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Loftus, and **AGREED** Members would ask for amendment of the hours to 8 – 11pm.

A setting of a policy by Buckingham Town Council on licensing matters would be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

2667.4 Wine Rack, Market Square – Variation of hours

Members noted the variation of the hours.

2667.5 University of Buckingham – Entertainment Licence

Members noted the application for an entertainment licence in respect of the Community Cinema.

2668 (PL 4800.3) THE FUNDING HELD BY AVDC RE LINDEN VILLAGE ESTATE

(Members discussed the BBDC monies used by AVDC to cover the cost of maintaining the grass areas as a public service in the absence of any other responsible entity, whether these monies could be recouped, and how AVDC could meet the shortfall subsequent to the Appeal Inspector's decision.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that these matters were best discussed by the whole Council.)

Members discussed the history behind this item, both factual and surmised; it was confirmed that the money held by AVDC was to cover part of the maintenance of this piece of land, which is not in their ownership, as a duty of care for the residents.

2669 (PL 4800.1) SE PLAN CONSULTATION ON DISTRICT LEVEL HOUSING FIGURES DEFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL

Members discussed the information issued by the County Council on the district level housing figures. While appreciating the numbers would not alter much, Members reiterated their earlier comments that jobs and infrastructure were needed before any development.

2670 TO AGREE THE CIVIC GIFT FOR TWINNING VISIT

Copies of the proposed ideas were circulated at the meeting; following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **AGREED** that the Council purchase from Seahawks a glass decanter on a wooden stand (catalogue number CR004), the wording for the engraving to be agreed by the Events Committee.

ACTION THE CLERK

2671 MAYOR'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

2671.1 Hospital Visit

Members were reminded of the invitation to Buckingham Hospital on 19th October 2005.

2671.2 Youth Centre Visit

Members were asked to note the invitation in their folders to the Youth Centre on 19th October 2005.

2671.3 Transport Meeting

Members were reminded of the Transport meeting to be held on 25th October 2005.

2671.4 Neighbourhood Police Meeting

Members were informed that the police were organising a public meeting on 15th November 2005 to discuss neighbourhood policing and the action groups. The police had asked if the Council were minded to support the meeting by paying for the hire of the room.

Proposed by Cllr Lewis seconded by Cllr Isham and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council supports the Police by paying for the hire of the room for the Neighbourhood Policing public meeting at a cost of £20.63p

2671.5 Welcome to Buckingham Signs

Members were asked to express their preference, Green or White as the background colour of the Welcome to Buckingham signs as a guide to the Events Committee; 10 members expressed a preference for the green background.

Meeting closed 8.55 pm

CHAIRMAN DATE