

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY  
COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006**

**PRESENT**

Councillor P. Collins (Mayor)  
Mrs. P. Desorgher  
D. Isham  
G. Loftus  
H. Mordue (Chairman)  
Ms. R. Newell  
Mrs. H. Saul  
R. Stuchbury

Co-optee Mr. M. Gadd

Guest Cllr. J. Barnett as a member of Buckingham Community Plan  
Mrs. S. Moore Member of Buckingham Community Plan

Town Clerk Ms. P. J. Heath

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark.

**2006/215 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda except Cllr. P. Collins in respect of agenda item no. 15 "Parking at Church Hill".

*Proposed by Cllr Mordue, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** to move agenda item no 14 "Presentation by the Community Plan Group" to be heard next.*

*Proposed by Cllr Mordue, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mrs. Moore and Cllr. Barnett, as a representative from the Community Plan Group, to address the meeting.*

**2006/216 PRESENTATION FROM BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY PLAN GROUP RE FUNDING PROJECT RIVERSIDE/CIRCULAR WALK.**

Mrs. Moore gave a brief update on the current situation of the Community Plan and the project to complete the Riverside/Circular walk. Through SEEDA funding the Community Plan Group have the ability to obtain up to £250k of matched funding. Part of the matched funding would be in kind with land being donated to the project, but there would also be a requirement for cash. The Project to complete the walk would see the addition of 3 sections. 1) The riverside path in the Heartlands with the inclusion of a bridge to Bourton Park. 2) Creation of a footpath at the rear

of Badgers and alongside the school playing field with a fence between the footpath and the school. 3) Creation of a footpath from Fishers Field to Tingewick Road.

The Group is seeking funding from a variety of sources including AVDC, BCC, and Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust; the Group was looking to achieve £50k in cash.

*Cllr. Barnett and Mrs. Moore left the meeting*

*Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** to reinstate Standing Orders.*

Members discussed the presentation and the aspirations of the Community Plan group.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to include £20k in the budget request for the Community Plan Group Project.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gadd to the Environment & Property Committee.

## **2006/217 THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received and noted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005 which had been ratified on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006.

## **2006/218 ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

### 218.1 (195.1) Risk Assessments

Members were informed that the Risk Assessments had not been done as the office work load at this time meant the Clerk had not been able to draw up the assessments for the designated Councillors.

### 218.2 (214.1) Bus Shelter

The Clerk has not had the time to follow up the non response from Bucks. County Council.

### 218.3 (214.2) Chris Nichols Walk

Members were informed that AVDC were aware of the condition of Chris Nichols Walk and were not intending to do any further work to the area.

### 218.4 (199.2) Bourton Meadow Play Area

Members expressed their pleasure at seeing the new play area and looked forward to the arrival of the "Rock and Cross" shortly.

## **2006/219 REPORT, IF REQUIRED, ON CEMETERY LODGE REFURBISHMENT**

Members were informed that the building work had started at the Cemetery Lodge; the Clerk and the Chairman would visit the site regularly.

## **2006/220 REPORTS ON THE OPERATION OF BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY**

### 220.1 Purchase of a new Burial Register at a cost of £190.00

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** that the Clerk is given authority to purchase a new burial register at a cost of £190.

### 220.2 Creation of a woodland cemetery

Cllr. Newell reported on her investigation into woodland cemeteries. The ashes are buried in a biodegradable unit with a tree planted as a marker. Sometimes a small plaque or marker is put near to the base of the tree. The area being considered is too shallow for burials and as a result may be too shallow to sustain the trees. There is a soil heap at the northern boundary of cemetery which could be spread to raise the available depth but is not, possibly, sufficient enough to support the trees. The Members discussed the use of the area as a rose garden/memorial garden with ashes being buried in the garden and markers being placed around the edge.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** to put in a small memorial garden with the ability to place small plaques around the edge at the northern edge of the Cemetery Extension.

## **2006/221 REPORTS ON CHANDOS PARK**

### Notification of public hire charges for Tennis Club

Copies of the proposed price rises had been circulated to all Members; these were agreed and accepted.

## **2006/222 REPORTS ON BOURTON PARK**

### 222.1 Repair work undertaken to street lights in Bourton Park

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** to ratify the actions taken by the Clerk to repair/replace the damaged and missing lights in Bourton Park by the toddler and junior play areas; these actions had been taken by the Clerk on safety grounds.

### 222.2 Work on the back stream at Bourton Park following the dredging work by the Environment Agency and advice from the EA and AVDC

The Clerk explained to Members that following meetings with the Wildlife and Fisheries officer at the Environment Agency and the Biodiversity Officer at AVDC a natural plan of maintenance of the back stream had been developed. There are 4 ponds between the river and the 'otters' pool. Both officers agreed that the most natural system to provide a variety of habitats for different fish, insects and wildlife would be:-

Pond 1 – silt bed – with use of hazel and brush walls channelling the water down the main stream and a large proportion of the silt to settle in the pond.

Pond 2 – deep channel – this is currently part silted so would need dredging to create a deeper channel.

Pond 3 – wildlife – this is currently choked with bull rushes and water grass and would need some clearing but the extensive vegetation would be retained .

Pond 4 – Otters Pond – the formal aspect of this pond should be enhanced.

The main stream should be part cleared of vegetation to form a clear flow through the centre but cleared in such a way as the stream is not straight. Part of the main management of the stream system is a full working penstock at the upper reach of the back stream. The penstock is rusty, the key is missing and vegetation blocks the inflow channel, which the EA have offered to clear when they are doing the dredging.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** that a key for the penstock is acquired or made and that the penstock is renovated.

It was further **AGREED** to have 2 flood flows through the back stream before commencement of any work to ascertain its affect.

### **2006/223 BUCKINGHAM TOWN AUDIT AND ANY ACTION REQUIRED**

The Town Clerk explained in detail to Members the role and workings of the NAGS (Neighbourhood Action Groups) which are a partnership of the Police, local authorities and the community, looking at ways of improving the community and the quality of life for residents. This is part of the "together we can" agenda of central government which also includes the Cleaner Neighbourhood Act.

The Police have to carry out EVAs which are similar to the Town Audits carried out by the Council. The Police have requested that the Town Clerk or Councillors accompany the officers when carrying out the EVAs. Members felt the Clerk did not have the time; Cllr. Isham and Cllr. Mordue agreed to accompany the PCSO and PC Mark Stanley respectively on the next evaluation checks at the end of January.

The Clerk was asked to request that the Town Audit is placed on the Buckingham Partnership agenda and to chase the outstanding items detailed to AVDC.

### **2006/224 THE 2006/2007 COSTS FROM COMPLETE GROUND MANAGEMENT**

A copy of the costs from Complete Ground Management had been circulated with the agenda for Members' information, along with a report from the company identifying areas of differential and explaining these.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** that Members accept the report and the costs as detailed.

**2006/225 2006/2007 COST FROM WYEVALE'S AND CONFIRM CONTRACT FOR THE ROUNDABOUTS, CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND BURIALS**

A copy of the costs from Wyevalles had been circulated with the agenda for Members information, along with a report from the company.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham, and **AGREED** that Members accept the report and the costs as detailed.

**2006/226 ANNUAL INSPECTION OF ALL PLAY AREAS BY RoSPA AT £60+ PER SITE, OR INSPECTIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS AT £80+ PER SITE.**

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that RoSPA be asked to undertake the inspections and risk assessments of all the Town Council's play areas at a cost of £80 per site.

**2006/227 LETTER FROM LAND REGISTRY IN RESPECT OF FEE REDUCTION FOR THE REGISTERING OF TOWN COUNCIL LAND.**

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that the land registration status of all of the Town Council land be checked and details obtained of registering any area not already on the register; the work to be undertaken as and when the Clerk is able.

**2006/228 REQUEST FROM REV. K. ASHBY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PARKING AT BUCKINGHAM CHURCH**

Members discussed at length the request by Rev. Ashby to be allowed to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss the problems with vehicles parking around the church, particularly when the Church is in use and causing problems for those users. It was noted that the road around the Church is public highway and therefore can not be blocked off by the closing of the gates. Members discussed the placing of parking restrictions around the church but this would also prevent church users parking. It was noted and reported by some Members that the Church does place a notice up requesting people not to park due to a wedding or funeral, which Members were told appears to work well. Members were informed that the holiday club which is held in August uses the University Car Park and it was felt that a more permanent arrangement could be sought for church users. Members did not feel

that Rev. Ashby's presence could add to the discussion as several of the Town Councillors were members of the congregation.

### **2006/229 LETTER FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RE THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL.**

The Town Clerk read the letter of request from the Royal British Legion to have the war memorial cleaned. Members noted that this would require a specialist clean due to the stone and the requirement not to obliterate the names; the Clerk is to obtain the costs.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

### **2006/230 LETTER FROM BCC RE USE OF OFFENDERS TEAMS**

Members noted the letter from Bucks. County Council to say that they will be using Youth Offenders teams on some of the Right of Way marking and clearance.

### **2006/231 2005/2006 AND 2006/2007 BUDGETS**

Members noted the budget and agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would make any adjustments prior to the Precept meeting required by additional information being received and bearing in mind the Chairmen's Strategy Group request of 4% increase.

**ACTION THE CLERK and THE CHAIRMAN**

### **2006/232 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### 232.1 Memorial Bench

The Town Clerk reported that a request had been received to place a memorial bench either in the Cemetery or the Town. Members agreed that a Memorial bench could be purchased provided it was within the style adopted by the Town Council and that the location was agreed by the Town Clerk.

#### 232.2 1960 architecture enhancement

Cllr Newell raised a request from the Community Plan Environment Group who would like the Council to investigate the camouflaging of the 1960 architecture of Woolworths, to the Kings Head with panels of climbing plants. Members felt the Council was not in a position to investigate this, concern having been expressed as to the location of the roots, maintenance and possible damage to the walls.

*The following item was heard under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 which excludes Members of the Public due to the confidential and financial nature of the business to be discussed.*

**2006/233 THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE COUNCIL OFFICES**

Meeting closed at 9.58pm

CHAIRMAN .....H. Mordue.... DATE .....20th February 2006