

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2006 at 7 pm .

PRESENT: Councillors J. Barnett
P. Collins (Mayor)
Mrs P. Desorgher
D. Isham
R. Lehmann
H. Lewis
H. Mordue
Ms. R. Newell
Mrs C. Strain-Clark
P. Strain-Clark
R. Stuchbury
Town Clerk Ms. P. J. Heath
In Attendance Cllr. D. Polhill – Bucks County Councillor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors H. Cadd, G. Loftus, Ms. H. Saul and Mrs. P. Stevens.

2718 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

*Proposed by Cllr Mordue, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** to move item 24 “Tree works on Wharf Place” to be heard next.*

2719 TREE WORKS ON WHARFSIDE PLACE

Following the comments during the Public Session the Members discussed the current works to trees on an area of land adjacent to Wharfside Place. The District Council had undertaken works without due notification or consultation with local residents: felling of a conifer hedge and a 150 year old walnut tree. Complaints were made to the Arboriculturalist at AVDC from a variety of sources, including town councillors, causing the work to be suspended. A copy of AVDC’s subsequent letter to residents after the work was stopped had been circulated with the agenda; this indicated that the walnut tree was dying and the conifer hedge was causing damage to the wall of a nearby business; Members queried the origin of this statement. It was felt that this council may need to seek an independent assessment. It was agreed that the matter could not wait until the next Council meeting, therefore E & P Committee should have the authority to decide and that they be asked to find the budget to pay for the assessment.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and **RESOLVED** by 11 votes to 0 that this Council 1) seek a report from AVDC on the condition of the tree and reasons for the proposed work; 2) that the response be reported to the E & P Committee meeting on 6th March 2006; 3) that the E & P Committee be given the designated authority

to obtain an independent assessment, from within its budget, up to £300; 4) subject to that report ask that the proposed works are reconsidered and a Tree Preservation Order be put on the tree.

2720 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2006, the interim meeting held on 30th January 2006, and the Precept meeting held on 23rd January 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following items:

2720.1 3rd Jan 2006

Minute 2698.4: Cllr Stuchbury ask to be recorded that he had requested a recorded vote supported by 3 other members but was denied. The Clerk's notes do not reflect this nor did the supporters stand in their places as per standing order no 12.a; no amendment was agreed.

2720.2 23rd Jan 2006

Cllr. P. Strain-Clark read a statement on the validity and conduct of the Precept meeting, stating that he could not support the approval of the minutes. In his opinion the minutes were incorrect as they record that Cllr. P. and Cllr. C. Strain-Clark left after the vote on the precept amount instead of before. He felt that the minutes should record the tone of the meeting, the way in which the meeting was conducted and the attitude of Councillors, and also that the Vote on the precept increase was taken before all the budget decisions had been made and that the Councillors did not have the up-to-date current year figures. Members discussed at great length and in detail the statements by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark. Members noted that the minutes of the Precept meeting could not be changed unless incorrect and that Councillor's post-meeting thoughts could not be added to the minutes which were a legal document. Members agreed that these minutes should record Cllr. P. Strain-Clark's opinions along with the information that the Chairman had explained the format at the start of the meeting, that there were amendments to a couple of figures and new sheets (on white paper) had been produced to assist those who did not want to alter their agenda copy (on gold paper) and that once a proposition had been made and duly seconded the vote had been taken with the agreement of all members there. Members were informed that the Clerk's notes record Cllrs. P. & C. Strain-Clark left after the vote had been taken and that there was no record of Cllr. Isham abstaining Members were also reminded that the precept figures had already been submitted to AVDC.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that this Council not approve the minutes of the precept meeting.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. Lehmann, and **AGREED** by 11 votes to 0 to amend the 23rd January precept minutes to show Cllrs. P. & C. Strain-Clark leaving the meeting prior to the precept vote and that Cllr. D. Isham abstained from voting.

Members **RESOLVED** by 7 votes to 4 to accept the 23rd January precept minutes as amended.

It was **AGREED** that the Finance and Administration Committee discuss and formulate a recommendation on the future format and procedure of the Precept meeting and Budget preparation.

2721 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Members were informed of the following items

2721.1 NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES – WHICH ARE AVIALABLE IN THE OFFICE

CLERKS & COUNCILLORS DIRECT ISSUE NO 43

MATTERS ARISING ISSUE NO 16

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS ISSUE NO 10

COMMUNITY CARE GUIDE

ANONYMOUS BUCKS ISSUE NO 13

2721.2 INVITATIONS AND NOTICES OF DIARY DATES (COPIES OF NOTICES ALREADY DISTRIBUTED)

22ND MARCH 2006 BUCKINGHAM HERITAGE TRUST

9TH FEBRUARY 2006 CLLR CADD CLUSTER MEETING

2721.3 DIS

ISSUES NO.622, 623, 624,

2721.4 ROAD CLOSURES

28.02.06 BUCKINGHAM PANCAKE RACE NORTH HIGH STREET

2722 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES.

2722.1 PLANNING - 03.01.06 & 30.01.06

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

4884.1 Cllr. Lehmann was informed by the Chairman of Planning that the Town Council's response had been emailed and posted to AVDC, and was unable to explain why they did not include it in the Moreton Development Brief consultation responses. Cllr. Lehmann asked the Chairman to request that information from the Cabinet Member responsible.

ACTION CLLR. LEWIS

Cllr Stuchbury queried why the consultation responses in minute number 4890 were a recommendation to the Council; Member's attention was drawn to the committee's terms of reference n^o. 3 as both items were felt to be of major interest.

2722.2 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 09.01.06

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

2006/216 the 3 sections details should be amended to read "1) The riverside path in the Heartlands...." 2) "... rear of Badgers and alongside the school playing field" removing the words "and Meadway" 3) Radclive Road should be amended to Tingewick Road; these amendments were agreed.

2722.3 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 16.01.06

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

2722.4 EVENTS 06.02.06

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

(2006/209 Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the date of the 2006 'Big Bash' event be brought forward to follow immediately after the Buckingham Summer Festival to form a two-week event from Saturday 8th July to the weekend of 22/23 July (as the programme dictated), with the finale of the Summer Festival scheduled for Saturday 15th July.)

AGREED

(2006/216 Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that Cllr. Newell be designated the Town Council representative on the Fair Trade Group.)

AGREED

2723 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|----------|
| T V POLICE | CONFIDENTIAL CRIME FIGURES | JANUARY |
| T V POLICE | CONFIDENTIAL CRIME FIGURES | FEBRUARY |
| BALC | GARDEN PARTY | 02.02.06 |

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann and **AGREED** that either Cllr. Mordue or Cllr. Loftus should be nominated; the Members to agree between themselves which name should be put forward.

EMAIL – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DE SILTING WORK AT BUCKINGHAM

BCC - CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION AT GAWCOTT INFANT SCHOOL & TINGEWICK INFANT SCHOOL

2724 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

2724.1 Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group

Cllr. Barnett reported on the Community Plan Steering Group meetings. The Electric notice-board had been acquired and it was hoped that following a favourable decision later in the meeting this would be replaced as soon as possible. The consultation on the one-way system around Castle Street, School Lane and West Street had shown support from local residents and this had been passed to Bucks. County Council traffic management. In response to a query it was pointed out that the consultation had included all residents on the streets named, a wider consultation in the local paper and all councillors had been emailed with a link to the web site of the Parish Plan and were able to make an individual response.

2724.2 Buckingham Partnership

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that they had had an interesting meeting at the Old Gaol at which he had raised the issue of the bus shelter.

2724.3 Buckingham Twinning Association

Cllr Mordue reported there was nothing further to add to the circulated minutes

Cllr Polhill left.

2725 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

2726 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

2727 CREATION OF A CIVIL AWARD FOR M. BERNARD RUSSELL

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

2728 THE PARAMETERS AND FORMAT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** that this item be deferred pending the public meeting on the 8th March 2006.

2729 RESPONSE FROM BCC IN RESPECT OF MORETON HALL.

The Members discussed the information provided in the letter which had originally been circulated with 3rd January meeting agenda. Members were concerned at the way in which the figures had been presented and the reference to use of other counties' provision to supplement the apparent under provision in Buckinghamshire. It was noted that the County Council were going to look at provision of public transport in the north of the County, but Members felt this should form part of the basic infrastructure of the proposals.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 that this Council writes to Bucks. County Council 1) to seek clarification on the number of residents between 55 and 65 and how they affect the County Council's calculations 2) to express concern at the use of neighbouring counties' provision for elderly care. 3) Request that the transportation and road infrastructure forms a fundamental part of the future plans for elderly care.

It was **AGREED** to send a copy of the letter to Maids Moreton Parish Council.

2730 FUTURE OF THE PURCHASE OF VERNEY CLOSE

Members discussed the future of Verney Close following the Council decision to withdraw the budget for the purchase and maintenance of Verney Close. In response to a query Members were told that the County Council, having agreed to sell, placed a provision for the road and then not co-operated with the solicitors in getting the legal papers complete. Cllr. Cadd, and prior to that Cllr. Liverseidge, had chased the legal department in order to facilitate the completion of the deal. Members discussed the possibility of working in partnership with the District Council to purchase the land and part extend the car park (the area that would include the County Council's access road) and part landscaped amenity land. Members were reluctant to go down this route without a final push to obtain the land. Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RESOLVED** that this Council writes to Bucks. County Council under the Freedom of Information Act requesting copies of the minutes pertaining to the Council's purchase of Verney Close and subsequent discussions/decisions.

2731 COSTING FOR THE SECURING OF THE PLASMA SCREEN

Members were told that the cost of securing the plasma screen in the format previously discussed would be £100 - £120. Members **AGREED** by 7 votes to 3 to secure the plasma screen in the bay window. Cllr. Lehmann requested his opposition to be recorded.

2732 REQUEST BY BCCL FOR CONTRIBUTION TO DROP KERBS.

Members discussed the letter from the County Council re funding towards the provision of dropped kerbs. Members stated that this was a Highways duty and the Town Council could not provide the funding.

2733 RESPONSE ON THE NHS "CONFIGURATION OF NHS AMBULANCE TRUSTS

Members noted the consultation and accepted the proposed changes to the ambulance service.

2734 REQUEST FROM THE TOWN CRIER TO HOLD A COMPETITION IN RESPECT OF THE TOWN CRIER'S SUMMER OUTFIT

This was originally raised at the Events committee under minute no 218. Members felt that as the Council had already provided an outfit suitable for the Council events an additional one was not required. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman of Events and the Clerk should meet with the Town Crier to discuss any issues she may have with the role.

ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY & TOWN CLERK

2735 BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR A MEETING.

Members discussed the request for a meeting by the Community Centre to discuss the use of the centre's toilets by members of the public. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. Lehmann and Cllr. Barnett act as the Council's representatives.

ACTION CLLRS. STUCHBURY, LEHMANN, BARNETT.

Cllr Lehmann left the meeting

2736 LAND TO THE REAR OF WOOLWORTHS AND AN UPDATE FROM AVDC

Members were informed that discussions had been held on the development of the land to the rear of Woolworths between West Street and Moreton Road; these had been reported on at the Buckingham Partnership Meeting. Members **AGREED** to invite AVDC to bring the Council up-to-date on the proposals at either a public or confidential meeting.

2737 MOTION BY CLLR. STUCHBURY –

“To propose that Buckingham Town Council takes part in the new consultation from the Strategic Health Authority, as it will have long term effects on the health of Buckingham’s community in its outcome.”

Members discussed the above motion by Cllr Stuchbury. Members had been invited to and would attend the consultation meeting due to be held on 8th March 2006. It was **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 to accept the motion.

2738 MOTION FROM CLLR. STUCHBURY –

“To propose that this council seeks a meeting with Jonathan Horbury of Bucks. Mental Health Trust to seek an update on the Embleton Ward long term viability and how he sees the unit’s accessibility being broadened out to the wider hinterland of Buckingham catchment area.”

It was **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 to accept the above motion.

2739 DETAILS OF TRAINING COURSE FOR THE CLERK

24th & 25th March SLCC cost £61 and 27th & 28th April SLCC LLC cost £305

Members discussed the request by the Town Clerk to attend the above training sessions. The Clerk expressed a preference for the SLCC LLG conference which is aimed at Councils in band C or rising band C accounts; Buckingham is a rising band C Council. The Clerk explained the benefits of attending.

Members discussed the need for the Conference and although appreciating that it was important for the Clerk to attend they did not feel that with the current office work load the Clerk had time to attend.

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that the Council should send the Clerk to both training events.

Amendment proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RESOLVED** by 6 votes to 3 that the Clerk not be allowed to attend either of the training courses this year, but be allowed to attend next year when the staffing situation had been resolved.

2740 MEMBERS WISHED TO APPOINT 3 SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE BUCKINGHAM PARTNERSHIP

Following a discussion concerning the Town Council representatives on the Buckingham Partnership - who are currently Cllr. Stevens, Cllr. Collins, and Cllr. Stuchbury - it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Mordue and Cllr. Newell would act as deputies should any of the above not be able to attend.

2741 RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no comments by District or County Councillors present at the meeting

2742 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

2742.1 Civic Service

Members were reminded that the Mayor's Civic Service would be held on the forthcoming Sunday.

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

2743 THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

2743.1 Buckingham Town Council Meeting Dated 03.06.06

2744 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES.

2744.1 Environment & Property Committee Dated 09.01.06

CHAIRMAN DATE