

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN BUCKINGHAM
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 28TH MARCH 2006 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT

Chairman	P. Collins – Chairman of Buckingham Town Council
Councillors	J. Barnett, H. Cadd, P. Desorgher, D. Isham, R. Lehmann, H. Lewis, H. Mordue, R. Newell, C. Strain-Clark, P. Strain-Clark, R. Stuchbury
Town Clerk	Ms. P. J. Heath
Parishioners	23

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. P Stevens, Cllr. Saul, Cllr. Loftus and Mr E. Grimsdale.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 30th March 2005 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman as such.

2. REPORT BY THE MAYOR OF BUCKINGHAM

The Mayor, Cllr. Collins, thanked everyone for attending and gave an account of the Council's work in the preceding year. This included the fight to retain the Embleton Day Unit and improvements in the health provision for the area. The welcoming of the Mayor of Mouvaux for the formal twinning visit was just one of the more pleasant aspects of the Council life.

3. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

3.1 Environment & Property

Cllr. H. Mordue, Chairman of the Environment & Property Committee, spoke of the work of the Committee in the previous year. The Committee had continued the work started in 2005 to improve the Parks and Cemetery. The Committee's budget of £170875 included £69750 spent on the parks and £46113 spent on the Cemetery.

3.2 Planning

Cllr. H. Lewis, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke of the work of the Committee and its role within the larger planning decision process both locally and nationally. During the year the Council considered over 180 applications. The forthcoming year would see a major challenge to Buckingham with the South East and Milton Keynes Plan.

3.3 Finance and Administration

Cllr. Lehmann, Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, spoke of the processes the Committee goes through when scrutinising the finances of the Council and their application of funds. The Committee also deals with the general administration of the Council and the staff consisting of 1 full time (the Town Clerk) and 3 part time. The 2007 local government election would see Buckingham Town Council increase from 15 to 17 Members.

3.4 Events

Cllr. Stuchbury, Chairman of the Events Committee, spoke of the events organised directly by the Town Council as well as those for which the Town Council has more of a sponsorship role. These included the Spring Music Festival, Charter Fair, Community Fair, Christmas Parade, and - this year - a French Market. The Committee would look to build on each event's success, improving year on year.

4 REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS OF 2004/2005 GRANTS

4.1 The Fremantle Trust

The Fremantle Trust is a 'not for profit' organisation operating 49 care homes, including that in Bourton Road which has 7 residents. The Grant was used towards the purchase of a people carrier to enable residents to travel around and improve their quality of life.

4.2 Buckingham Centre for the Arts

The grant was used to establish a part time cinema in Buckingham in response to the Community Plan questionnaire. The Cinema is located in the University of Buckingham's building; although only 4 months old it is proving popular and there are plans to increase the frequency of shows.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

5.1 Christmas Lights - Mrs Collins

In response to Mrs. Collins' question, Cllr. Stuchbury confirmed that the Christmas lights in Market Hill would be removed. Due to the limited budget the lights had been installed with the intention that the infrastructure would remain but as a result of complaints it would be removed. The installation and removal of the lights was the main part of the Christmas Lights budget; their removal would restrict the purchase of new displays.

5.2 Heartland - Mr. D. Peevers - Buckingham Society

In response to Mr Peevers' question, Cllr. Mordue explained that the Heartland was still in the ownership of AVDC although it was hoped that this would be transferred over to Buckingham Town Council.

5.3 Verney Close – Mr. G. Shaw

In response to Mr Shaw's question, Cllr. Mordue confirmed that Verney Close was still owned by Bucks. County Council despite the Town Council seeking its purchase for the last 4 years. There appeared to be problems with the County Council legal team which were holding up the transfer.

5.4 Gawcott Fields – Mrs. Rawlings

Concern was expressed at the speed limit in this area of town after the recent speed review, and the lack of suitable footpaths and crossing points. Members were urged to lobby Bucks County Council which is the highways authority.

5.5 Buckingham Community Pantomime – Mrs. Matthewman

Concern was expressed as to the facilities being provided by the Community Centre and their response to requests to install additional lighting bars. It was explained that this was the responsibility of the Community Centre Management Committee and not the Town Council; Council representatives on the Management Committee took note of the concerns.

5.6 Twinning Association – Mr. G. Shaw

In response to a question, Cllr. Stuchbury informed the meeting that a further 3 “Welcome to Buckingham” signs would be erected by the County Council Contractor.

5.7 Councillors – Mr. D. Granville

In response to a question, the Town Clerk explained that the Annual Town Meeting was a meeting for the parishioners and not the Council therefore legally only the Chairman should sit on the top table although the Chairmen of Committees were there for ease of reporting.

5.8 Litter - Mr D. Peevers – Buckingham Society

Concern was expressed as to the amount of litter in sections of the parks particularly the fast food containers. It is hoped to increase the amount of bins in the forthcoming year.

5.9 Green Bin, Church Hill – Mrs. Matthewman

Concern was expressed at the placing of a large commercial green bin by the entrance to the Church. It was explained that this area of land was maintained by the County Council but did not appear to be in their ownership. Bucks. County Council legal department had been asked to look into clarifying the land ownership.

5.10 Public Toilets

In response to a question, it was explained that Moreton Road toilets were owned by AVDC and maintained by them. The Town Council would be looking at improving the facilities in the forthcoming year.

MAYOR’S POINTS OF INTEREST

There were no Mayor’s items

There being no more questions or comments the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Chairman of Buckingham Town Council Date