

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 7 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors	H. Cadd	
	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	
Also attending Cllr.	D. Polhill, Bucks. County Council	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2823 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

2824 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2006, the Special Meeting on 17th July 2006 and Interim meeting held 7th August 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with the following adjustments Council Meeting on 17th July 2006 – Minute number 2804.2. Members agreed to remove the statement of fact in respect of the additional E & P minute No. 2006/283.3 “The Clerk’s notes from the meeting do not record the above item”

Interim Meeting on 7th August – remove Cllr. Loftus from the attendance list; his apologies were already recorded.

Cllr. Stuchbury queried whether there had been any response in respect of minute No. 2809 concerning the A421. The Clerk confirmed that there had only been a response from Milton Keynes MP which pointed out that the Town Council was not in her constituency and therefore could not comment.

2825 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were informed of the following items

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

THE FOLLOWING BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS WERE IN THE OFFICE

FREEMANTLE TRUST ANNUAL REVIEW 2006

CAB – ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

NEWS FOR PARISHES NUMBER 4/2006

OPTIONS – AUGUST 2006

BALC – MATTERS ARISING ISSUE NO 18

THE PLAYING FIELD NEWSLETTER

LONDON LUTON AIRPORT

COMMUNITY ACTION – BIG TIMES ISSUE NO 4

DIS

ISSUES NUMBER 636, 637, 638, AND 639

DIARY DATES – DETAILS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

11TH SEPTEMBER 2006 – BUCKINGHAM HERITAGE TRUST AGM AT THE OLD GAOL

12TH SEPTEMBER 2006 – AV TRANSPORT USERS GROUP AT TC OFFICES

23RD SEPTEMBER 2006 – SCOUTS PRESENTATION EVENING AND AGM

2826 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2826.1 PLANNING - 24.07.06 & 07.08.06

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

2826.2 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 31.07.06

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

*(2006/303 Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council support an approach to the owners of the premises in Market Hill North to gauge their reaction to the suggestion of improving the appearance of the front elevation with planting).*

AGREED

306 Bus Shelter

The Clerk informed Members that details had been circulated with the E & P Action list the previous week. Due to the proximity of the service pipes and cables to the site, as reported to the last meeting, companies were being asked to re-quote. A quotation for a hand-dug base only had been obtained; initial response shows the total for the shelter and installation still being above the £5000 agreed budget; the issue would be discussed at the next E & P meeting.

2826.3 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 14.08.06.

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

*(211/2006 It was agreed to **RECOMMEND** that the format for the Annual Town Meeting be changed to comply with the legislation being that the Mayor and Clerk to the meeting only be on the top table; that the Council asks representatives from Bucks. CC, AVDC, TV Police and the Health Authority to address the meeting and be available to answer questions.)*

AGREED by 6 votes to 0

2826.4 EVENTS 21.08.06.

Cllr. Isham declared a pecuniary interest as a Member of the Management Committee but wished to speak as the president of the Community Centre. (The Chairman and the meeting were advised, by the Clerk, that a Member declaring a pecuniary interest can not speak and should leave the room). Cllr. Isham started to speak but a point of order was called; Members discussed whether the meeting should hear Cllr. Isham. Several other Members of the Council were also Members of the Management Committee and it was discussed if they should remain or leave the room.

Cllr. H. Cadd and Cllr. P. Strain-Clark declared a pecuniary interest and left the room.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and **AGREED** that ratification of the minutes of the Events Committee meeting dated 21.08.06 be deferred to be considered with item 15 on the agenda “Notes on the meeting with the Community Centre, receive verbal report from the Town Council representative” and therefore members of the Management Committee would only need to leave the room once.

2827 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

SLCC One day Conference 28th September

It was agreed to allow the Deputy Town Clerk to attend; the Clerk would be attending as the County Representative of the SLCC.

Skills Council – Response to minute no 2785

BCC Changes in Capital programme

TV Police Crime Figures (confidential)

BCC Cluster Meeting Minutes – H. Cadd

AVDC News for the Parishes

2828 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

2828.1 Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group

Cllr. Collins reported that the paperwork for the successful bid had been received and was the subject of the motion on agenda item 11.

2828.2 Buckingham Partnership

Cllr. Collins reported on the last meeting of the Partnership held on 20th July 2006; Mr. N. Skedge had chaired the meeting as acting Chief Executive.

Town Forum – this is being dealt with by Tracey Aldworth and the Partnership awaits a report.

Mt. Pleasant s106 agreement funds: the Partnership was still awaiting information of where the funds were held, the amount and the date by when the funds have to be spent.

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that Mr. Skedge would be obtaining information and an application for river clean up funding from Anglia Water Authority.

Concern was expressed that the minutes of the meeting were still not available to the Members. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and **AGREED** that the Council write to AVDC asking that the minutes be circulated forthwith.

2829 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

2830 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

2831 RATIFY THE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** to ratify the appointment of the Deputy Town Clerk on spine point 23.

The Members were informed that Mr. Martin Skinner had been appointed as the Deputy Town Clerk and would be starting on 18th September 2006.

2832 THE MOTION

"Buckingham Town Council will facilitate the Buckingham Community Plan Circular Walk project and enter into a Project Agreement (materially the same as that circulated) along with Buckingham Community Plan and Buckinghamshire County Council". – Cllr. Collins

The above motion was agreed by 11 votes to 0.

It was noted that there was a requirement for the Circular Walk Project Group to work to the Town Council Financial Regulations. Cllr. Lehmann reminded all Members that the Council will have to work within our Financial Regulations.

2832.1 Ratify and confirm the signatories of the agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor should sign the document on behalf of the Council.

2833 RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE GROWTH OF MILTON KEYNES TO 2026

Members were reminded that the deadline date was 15th September 2006 if they wished to make a response; following a short discussion it was agreed to make no response to the Consultation.

2834 PROPOSAL FOR A SHOPMOBILITY IN BUCKINGHAM

Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** to encourage and support the placement of Shopmobility in Buckingham.

2835 RESPONSE FROM BCC IN RESPECT OF THE PROVISION OF A CROSSING IN NELSON STREET

Members discussed the letter from Bucks.CC in respect of the crossing and possible funding.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 0 that this Council supports in principle the crossing at Nelson Street but needs to look at requirements in the Town before deciding if any financial help can be offered. The Planning Committee was instructed to survey the town's crossing requirements.

ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

2836 NOTES ON THE MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE.

Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Cadd, Cllr. Desorgher, Cllr. Mordue and Cllr. P Strain-Clark declared a pecuniary interest as members of the Management Committee.

Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Cadd, and Cllr. P. Strain-Clark left the meeting.

Cllr. Desorgher and Cllr. Mordue remained in the meeting but did not speak.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** that Cllr. Lehmann should chair this item in the absence of the Cllr. Collins.

2836.14 EVENTS 21.08.06.

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

*281/2006 Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **RECOMMENDED** unanimously (Cllrs. Collins, Cadd, Desorgher and Isham abstaining) that this Council urge the Community Centre management to reconsider their decision to cease making their toilets available for public use in March 2007; and should an agreement to continue the arrangement not be forthcoming to note that this Council will have to consider the financial ramifications of that decision in the light of the need to consider an alternative solution.*

Members discussed at length the decision by the Community Centre Management Committee to cease allowing the public to use the toilets from March 2007, and the recent meetings with them leading up to this decision. Members noted that the Community Centre receive up to £2600 towards the cleaning of the toilets, toiletries and additional staff hours if the Centre Manager is not available. This money is in addition to the £10,000 for cash flow and £6,000 for repairs and renewals which is on a 3 year contract. Members were informed that the Community Centre had originally agreed, at the first meeting, to improved signage stating when the toilets would be open for public use; this idea had apparently been dropped by the second meeting with no explanation.

AGREED by 5 votes to 0

Member discussed in general the toilet provision in the town, especially with the Shopmobility unit being established. It was **AGREED** that E & P be tasked with establishing the viability of the Council sourcing, funding, building and maintaining additional toilets in the town.

ACTION E & P COMMITTEE

2837 INFORMATION ON THE ROADS IN AND AROUND BUCKINGHAM.

This item was deferred pending information from Bucks County Council.

2838 COMMENTS MADE BY THE PCT RE THE CUT IN SERVICES

Copies of the staff consultation for the cut in services had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting, along with press cuttings and the text of the press release issued by Aylesbury Vale PCT.

Members discussed at great length the document and the pending effect on the services in Buckingham which will have repercussions not only in the Town but the surrounding hinterland.

Buckingham Hospital will see it sharing a Matron with Thame- the two hospitals are 26 miles apart which equates to 45 minutes to an hour each trip pending on the traffic.

The Staff in Buckingham Hospital is to be reduced along with all departments by about 7% which will mean that during some parts of the day there would only be two Members of staff on duty; it's not clear if the matron would be classed as one of those staff Members even if she was in Thame.

The cuts in staff have resulted in some bed cuts with further cuts proposed taking the number of beds to 12; the minimum viability of a unit is 12 beds.

It was noted that although this was a staff consultation, with a threatened 7% cut across the board in staff numbers, there could be perceived pressure on the staff not to comment.

Many of the amendments to the services are to create a countywide service based in a central location, primarily at High Wycombe.

The document also talks of skill mix where by staff untrained in an area take on that responsibility in addition to the field they are trained in.

2838.1 MOTION FROM CLLR. COLLINS

"That Buckingham Town Council organises a public meeting to campaign against the proposed NHS cuts"

The above motion was **RESOLVED**

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury seconded by Cllr. Collins and **RESOLVED** by 11 votes to 0 that this Council in addition to organising the public meeting:

- 1) Makes known the Town Council's concerns to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Public Health Services at their meeting on Friday 8th September; a copy of which is to be sent to Mr. J. Bercow MP.
- 2) Asks the County Council through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Public Health Services to request that the PCT extend the consultation into public consultation.
- 3) Canvass the surrounding parishes in the north of the County, highlighting the report and encourage them to join the Town Council organised public meeting or hold their own.

It was proposed and agreed that the funding for the Public Meeting be made from the Contingency fund (4500/132)

2839 TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE

This item was deferred to the Events Committee meeting on 9th October 2006.

ACTION EVENTS COMMITTEE

2840 MOTION FROM CLLR. NEWELL

“I propose that, apart from about 40 Town Council Millennium mugs that we retain for Council use, that we give the remaining mugs to the Old Gaol shop, so that they can sell them in the shop at an appropriate price, and raise money for the Old Gaol funds’.”

Members discussed the above motion which was RESOLVED by 11 votes to 0.
Cllr. Newell to contact the Old Gaol and liaise with the Town Clerk to deliver the mugs to the shop.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL

2841 COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow Cllr. Polhill, Buckingham North County Councillor to speak.*

Health Cuts – Cllr. Polhill reminded Members that this meeting is open to the public although there is no opportunity to speak. He had written to the Mayor (a copy would be circulated to all Members).

Nelson Street – Cllr. Polhill reported that he was talking with Highways to establish if it is possible to put a crossing in Nelson Street.

Speaking at meetings – Cllr. Polhill asked if the Council could see fit to change its rules to allow him to take a more active part in the meetings.

Cllr. Polhill left.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham seconded by Cllr. Newell and **AGREED** to reinstate standing orders.*

2842 TOWN MAYOR’S ITEMS

There were no Mayor’s items for information.

The following item were 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 discussed.

2843 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2843.1 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 31.07.06

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

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

CHAIRMAN..... DATE.....