

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
BUCKINGHAM COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2006 AT 7 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors	J. Barnett	
	H. Cadd	
	P. Collins	(Mayor)
	Mrs. P. Desorgher	
	D. Isham	
	R. Lehmann	
	G. Loftus	
	H. Mordue	
	P. Strain-Clark	
	R. Stuchbury	
Town Clerk	Mrs. P. J. Heath	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. P. Stevens, Mrs. C. Strain-Clark and Mrs. H. Saul.

2850 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

2851 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2006, and Interim meeting held 25th September 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2838 – Public Meeting re NHS Cut in Services

Cllr. Stuchbury raised concerns that this was not on the meeting's agenda. Members agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health also to ask the Buckinghamshire PCT to attend a meeting to explain the future of health provision in Buckingham.

The Chairman was advised, during the above, by the Clerk that the item was for the approval of the minutes and not for discussion; the Chairman allowed the Members to continue the discussion.

2836.14 Events minutes of 21.08.2006 which were ratified on 4th September 2006:

Cllr. Isham objected to the wording of the recommendation 281/2006 from the 21.08.06 meeting stating that Cllrs. Collins, Cadd, Desorgher and Isham had not abstained as they had left the room.

(Clerk's note: the records from that meeting showed that all Members had remained in the room and had contributed to the discussion)

2852 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were informed of the following items

NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

THE FOLLOWING BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS ARE IN THE OFFICE

AVDC COMMUNITY PLAN – AUGUST 2006

CLERKS AND COUNCIL DIRECT – SEPT 2006

TRAVEL PLANNING TEAM

ICCM QUARTERLY JOURNAL – AUTUMN 2006

LCR ISSUE SEPTEMBER 2006

DEFRA RURAL SERVICES REVIEW

GC2C – SEPTEMBER 2006

AVDC - AVLDF – CORE STRATEGY AND AYLESBURY ALLOCATED SITES ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION:

REPORT ON COMMENTS RECEIVED

OPTIONS OCTOBER 2006

BCA – IN FOCUS – SEPT 2006

DIS

ISSUE NUMBER 640

DIARY DATES – DETAILS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

18TH OCTOBER LICENSING BOARD RE SUBWAY

19TH OCTOBER AVNSC AT PADBURY

28TH OCTOBER AVALC AGM AYLESBURY

31ST OCTOBER WYCOMBE DISTRICT ALC – A COUNCILLORS BRIEFING (COPY EMAILED TO MEMBERS)

25TH OCTOBER BALC CHAIRMANSHIP SKILLS BRIEFING SESSION WINSLOW

12TH NOVEMBER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE PARADE

2853 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2853.1 PLANNING – 11.09.06 & 25.09.06.

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

2853.2 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 18.09.06

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

314.1 Notification of broken gate at Ken Tagg Play Area and detail of quote

*Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the replacement gate for the Ken Tagg play area be purchased from contingency budget of 4500/132 due to the repair cost being unforeseen at precept and above the amount included in the 'Meadway Repair' budget.*

314.3 Notification and estimates for tree work in the Ken Tagg Play Area

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council accepts the quotation from the Contractors to undertake work to the Willow and Cherry trees at Ken Tagg play area and that this be funded from the Contingency fund 4500/132 due to the restrictions placed on the E & P budget at the Precept meeting.*

Following a discussion an amendment was proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and agreed by 4 votes to 3 and 8 votes to 1 as the substantive motion that the above recommendations are altered to be funded from the Environment and Property Budget code 4610.

318 Staff Accommodation

A query was raised as to what provisions had been made by the Chairman of E & P to find suitable accommodation for the office staff. The Chairman explained that currently there was no budget to pay for additional accommodation.

319 Verney Close

Although supporting the Environment & Property Committee decision it was felt this item should have been discussed at a Council Meeting.

324 Cleaner Neighbourhood Act

It was agreed that acronyms should be avoided in the interest of clarity for those not present at the meeting.

236.1/270.2 Bus Shelter

Members were informed that the MK Metro will be taking over the 32 service to Milton Keynes.

2853.3 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION 02.10.06

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

228.1 To discuss and confirm the allocation of Committees

*Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk clerks the Finance and Administration Committee; the Deputy Town Clerk clerks the Environment & Property and Events Committees and that the Clerical Assistant clerks the Planning Committee.*

AGREED

2853.4 EVENTS 09.10.06

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

305 Cinema Project

*Proposed by Cllr. Cadd, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **RECOMMENDED** that £1000 from the Youth Budget be allocated to The Film Place to subsidise young person's ticket prices.*

Following a discussion an amendment was proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that the request for 2 years funding be considered sympathetically at the appropriate time; this was **AGREED** by 6 votes to 5 with the Chairman's casting vote and by 8 votes to 2 as the substantive motion.

2854 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

BCC Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

BCC Getting Closer to Communities

BCC 32 & Buckingham Town Service

BCC ref. Gawcott Fields speed limit review

Members felt it was unfortunate that the speed limit at Gawcott Fields was set at 50mph when further along the road it was set at 40mph; Members agreed to continue to argue for a 40mph limit outside the houses on Gawcott Fields.

TV Police Confidential figures

AVDC News for parishes

2855 REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group – Cllr. Collins

Cllr. Barnett gave a report on behalf of the Community Plan Steering Group informing Members of the work being done with the Transport Section of the County Council on improving the road system in Buckingham. The Group expressed concern that the Focus crossing had not been consulted on. A brief comment was made on the work being done with the Rights of Way department at the County Council to undertake the Circular Walk project.

It was **AGREED** to ask the County Council the background to the decisions re the Focus crossing.

Buckingham Partnership minutes dated 20.07.06 – Cllr. Collins

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham Partnership meeting held on 20.07.2006

Buckingham Twinning Association minutes dated 06.09.06 & 04.10.06

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham Twinning meeting circulated prior to the meeting. There will be a civic visit to Mouvaux in April 2007: the return visit will need to be discussed by the Council prior to the precept meeting as it will have budgetary implications for 2007/2008 financial year.

AV Local Committee notes on 12/10/06 – Cllr. Isham

Cllr. Isham spoke to the report which had been circulated with the agenda; he asked that as the Local Committee format had been changed and questions are now required in writing, could Members please tell him well in advance.

2856 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

2857 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

The Clerk explained the problems that had arisen with the crashing of the hard drive on the laptop which holds the accounts package. The laptop had now been repaired and the accounts company has re-loaded the accounts package and the backed up information entered. This had been done during the SLCC Conference in Plymouth therefore the cash book sheets were not available to be circulated.

2858 NOTES ON THE MEETING WITH BCC HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER, TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND CONFIRM ITS ACCEPTANCE, TO AGREE THE START DATE FOR DEVOLVED SERVICES.

Members discussed at length the notes and the agreement which had been circulated with the agenda. Members were supportive of the direct control this would give the Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Mordue, and **AGREED** by 10 votes to 0 to sign the agreement with Bucks. County Council as circulated for an initial 1 year, to be

reviewed after 6 months, with a start date on 13th November 2006 and with an hourly cost of £35; the agreement and costs to be monitored by the Environment & Property Committee.

2859 REQUEST FROM BCC FOR THE CLERK TO ATTEND A PROMOTION OF DEVOLVED SERVICES ON 27TH OR 30TH NOVEMBER, TO AGREE COVERING THE CLERK'S COSTS AND OVERTIME HOURS

Following a discussion it was **AGREED** by 8 votes to 0 that the Town Clerk should attend the event on the 27th and Members agreed to cover the expenses.

2860 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE NOTES ON THE MEETING WITH AVDC, TO RECEIVE THE LISTING OF LAND OWNED BY AVDC AND DETAILS OF COMMUTED SUMS, TO AGREE THE PREFERRED OPTION AND AREAS OF DISCUSSION.

At the request of the Clerk this item was deferred to the next meeting on 11th December 2006 as the paperwork had not been received from the District Council.

2861 TO RECEIVE A RESOLUTION FROM CLLR. MORDUE

Cllr. J. Barnett declared a personal interest as a member of the Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group but reserved the right to speak and address the meeting.

"That Buckingham Town Council appoints its co-partner in the Buckingham Circular Walk Project, Bucks. County Council, to act on its behalf in order to select a suitable project manager using its selection procedure. This is done in the interest of Best Value since the County Council has the necessary expertise and infrastructure."

It was agreed that the word 'resolution' should be amended to 'motion'; this was discussed at length. Members noted the speech made by Mrs. Moore, the Chairman of the Buckingham Community Plan Steering Group, in the public session. It was confirmed that the agreement is made between Buckingham Town Council and Buckinghamshire County Council on behalf of SEEDA. Concern was raised as to whether there would be a conflict of interest in appointing the County Council.

The Clerk advised that the appointment of the County Council still required the obtaining of 3 quotations in order to comply with the Town Council's financial regulations and that their appointment did not over-ride this. The Clerk drew to Member's attention the wording of the agreement which had been circulated to all Members with the 4th September Council meeting agenda, in particular clauses:-

1.9 Comply with Buckingham Town Council's procurement guidelines when purchasing any goods and services procured for the purposes of the project. The Project Manager should be able to demonstrate that Best Value has been achieved.

1.11 Sub-Contractors may be appointed by the "BCV" to deliver the Project, provided that a written contract is imposed on each of its sub-contractors on the same terms as this agreement. The "BCV" will remain liable as set out in this agreement.

1.12 Either party may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect if, in the reasonable opinion of the relevant party, the other party is in material breach of the agreement and that breach is not capable of remedy or the conduct of the other Party in performing its obligations under this Agreement amounts to fraud, dishonesty, wilful concealment, gross misconduct or incompetence.

The Clerk read an email from Mrs. T. Aldworth on behalf of AVDC confirming their agreement of the proposal for Bucks. County Council to act on the Town Council's behalf.

Members discussed again the wording of the financial regulations and the interpretation placed on those words by the Members; no agreement to the interpretation could be reached.

An amendment to the wording was proposed by Cllr. Mordue and seconded by Cllr. Isham that the word 'appoint' be changed to 'ask' and the words 'project manager' changed to 'project consultant'.

Therefore the motion read "*That Buckingham Town Council asks its co-partner in the Buckingham Circular Walk Project, Bucks. County Council, to act on its behalf in order to select a suitable project consultant using its selection procedure. This is done in the interest of Best Value since the County Council has the necessary expertise and infrastructure.*"

This was **AGREED** by 8 votes to 0 with Cllr. Lehmann abstaining.

2862 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Isham as a District Councillor informed Members that the Winslow Area office would be moving location and would increase the days it is open from 2 to 5; he was seeking the same for the Buckingham Area Office when it moves.

Cllr. Cadd as a County Councillor informed Members that the area technicians in their new vans will be in place by mid November. He reminded Members that his cluster meeting would be on 9th November 2006.

2863 TOWN MAYOR'S ITEMS

Christmas Dinner

The Chairman informed Members that there would be an informal meeting following to discuss the Christmas Dinner.

Meeting Closed at 9.05 pm

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