

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2007 at 7pm**

<u>PRESENT</u>	Councillor	T. Bloomfield Mrs G. Collins P. Collins Mrs P. Desorgher P. Hirons D. Isham (Chairman) A. Mahi H. Mordue (Mayor) M. Smith R. Stuchbury W. Whyte
	Town Clerk	Ms. P. Heath

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ms. R. Newell, G. Loftus, and M. Try.

472/2007 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

473/2007 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members accepted the minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd September 2007, which were ratified at the Council meeting held on 8th October 2007.

474/2007 RECEIVE ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES ON ITEMS NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA AS PER ATTACHED LIST

Members noted the action items on the list.

*Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to move agenda item 7 to be heard next.*

475/2007 REPORTS ON CHANDOS PARK

475.1 Discuss the Chandos Park Bowls Club lease and receive any response and update

A copy of the letter received from the Bowls Club had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members discussed at great length the contents of the letter and the current situation concerning the Bowls Club, the signing of the lease and the maintenance of

the green. Members felt it was regrettable that the Bowls Club had not signed the lease. It was agreed to proceed as per the Council's minute n^o: 2980.2 and formally inform the Club that they are required to leave the club house; the Clerk would seek legal advice as to the wording of the letter.

Members moved to the next item then returned to continue to discuss this item.

Members discussed the future of the Pavilion and the Green and ways in which it could be utilised for the benefit of the community.

It was **AGREED** that if required a small working group would discuss and negotiate future use of the Pavilion and Green; the group to be Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Mrs. Collins, Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. Stevens, Cllr. Isham and Cllr. Bloomfield.

Cllr Mordue left the meeting.

475.2 To receive the cost for consultants on the Green maintenance

The Clerk explained that no response had been received and that work load had prevented the Clerk chasing the companies for a reply.

475.3 To receive a quotation for hand dryer replacement due to the current unit being beyond repair

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **AGREED** to replace the wall-mounted dryer in the Ladies' as per the quotation received.

476/2007 REPORT ON CEMETERY LODGE

Members were informed that woodworm had been discovered in the main door – this would be treated.

477/2007 REPORTS ON THE OPERATION OF BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY

477.1 To discuss the grass cutting schedule, receive costs of any adjustments and amendments.

Members were given the estimated cost of cut and collect each time; this was felt to be not financially viable. The Council would investigate the feasibility of the Friends assisting on a regular basis with the collection of grass. The Clerk would also discuss the possibility of using the Probation Service on a regular basis.

477.2 To discuss the setting up of the area beyond the extension as additional burial area

Members were informed that 2 consultants had been contacted and indicated that their initial costs for the relevant inspections, test and survey that would be required before acceptance by the EA of the area for burials would be £2500+. It was **AGREED** to put £5000 in the Cemetery Budget to cover the legal and contractor's work needed to use the additional land for burials.

Members discussed other options such as reuse and reopening the closed church yard; the Town Clerk advised on the legal requirements for both options.

478/2007 REPORTS ON BOURTON PARK

There was no report on Bourton Park, although the Members noted that the park was being used and asked that the PCSO walk through on a regular basis.

**479/2007 RECEIVE THE WEEKLY SAFETY REPORTS ON PLAY AREAS AND
AGREE ACTION PROPOSED.**

Members noted the weekly forms and the issues raised by the contractors re graffiti, fences and benches.

480/2007 DISCUSS THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN AUDIT AND ALLOCATE AREAS

Members noted that the group had not completed the re alignments of the areas.

481/2007 RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY PLAN INITIATIVES

Members were informed that the benches, sign posts and bins had been installed; there had been an issue with the emptying of the bins but hopefully that had now been resolved.

**482/2007 RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PARKS POLICY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2007**

A copy of the Town Clerk's notes of the meeting and Cllr. Whyte's report on the fact finding report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members discussed at great length the lack of money and past investment into the parks. It was felt that the parks required a large injection of maintenance and infrastructure funding. The history of the take-over of the parks, the AVDC contracts and ownership/ responsibility was explained for the benefit of Members.

It was reported that a fence was unsafe by the weir; the Clerk to get the area made safe. *[Clerk's note: one fence post loose due to being rotten at the base, contractors given the order to replace the post.]*

Members discussed the future transfer of open spaces to the Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield, and **RECOMMENDED** by 10 votes to 0 that this Council suspends any future acquisition of open spaces until fully aware of all implications - this includes transfers of Heartlands, Holloway Spinney and Embleton Way.

**483/2007 RECEIVE REPORT ON THE WORK UNDER DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM
BUCKS. COUNTY COUNCIL**

Members noted that with the lack of Maintenance/Grounds person the work for the County Council was not being done on a regular basis. Cllr. P. Collins gave the Members information on the application, short listing and interviews for the position.

484/2007 REVIEW THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **RECOMMENDED** by 8 votes to 0 that the Council sets up a Standing Committee to deal with the Cemetery, burials and buildings within the Cemetery. Concern was expressed as to how this committee would operate within the current committee structure and meeting dates; it was **AGREED** that the Chairman of F & A should work with the Office to minimise the additional work load.

485/2007 RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Members noted the comments from the Royal British Legion in respect of the war memorial. Members discussed a proposed alteration to the memorial and surround tabled at the meeting. Concern was expressed that the flat kerbs would not prevent damage to the actual memorial instead of to the pillars as currently. It was agreed to repair the broken pillars as per the quotation received from a memorial mason out of the current budget.

486/2007 DISCUSS REQUEST FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE TO PUT SIGNS IN THE TOWN CENTRE RE THE ALCOHOL FREE AREA, AND FINE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Members discussed at length the by-law and the signage both in Chandos Park and as used in other towns. Concern was expressed as to the number of signs in the town centre. It was **AGREED** to place in all the new notice boards details of the alcohol-restricted areas and ask licensed premises to put one of the “stop drinking if requested” warning signs in their windows.

487/2007 RECEIVE A LETTER IN RESPECT OF THE BIN LOCATED OUTSIDE BADGERS WAY SHOP AND A REQUEST TO REMOVE THE BIN.

Members discussed the letter circulated with the agenda and the points made. It was **AGREED** that the bin would not be moved but that the Council investigate the installation of dog bins within the estate.

488/2007 RECEIVE A LETTER REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF THE SEAT AT JUNCTION OF LENBOROUGH ROAD AND MITRE STREET

Members discussed the letter circulated with the agenda and the points made. Members felt that a wider canvass of the neighbours was necessary to see if the problem is extensive or whether its effects are confined to a small area.

489/2007 RECEIVE A LETTER REQUESTING THE MOVING OF THE WASTE BIN LOCATED ON BRIDGE STREET OPPOSITE CHAPMAN'S PHOTOGRAPHERS

Members discussed the letter circulated with the agenda and the points made. Members did not feel that the removal of the bin would be beneficial but agreed that a different type of bin could solve the problem; the Town Clerk to investigate a suitable bin matching the existing Town Council style.

490/2007 RECEIVE REPORT ON THE CURRENT BUDGETS AND FUTURE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS, TO DISCUSS AND AGREE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2008/2009 BUDGET

Members went through the proposed budget and agreed the following:-

ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY			
201	PROPERTY PURCHASE		
4112	EQUIPMENT	1250	
4101	SEATS AND BINS	1050	
1060	MINK PROJECT		
202	ROUNDBABOUTS		
1051	ROUNDBABOUT NO 1		1500
1052	ROUNDBABOUT NO 2		800
1053	ROUNDBABOUT NO 3		1500
1054	ROUNDBABOUT NO 4		2000
1056	ROUNDBABOUT NO 6		2000
1057	ROUNDBABOUT NO 7		1000
4108	MAINTENANCE	6090	
203	MAINTENANCE		
4057	WAR MEMORIAL	10000	
4058	CAR PARK	26250	
4062	VERNEY CLOSE MAINT	0	
4063	VEHICLE HIRE & RUNNING COSTS	2500	
4082	ALLOTMENTS R & R	525	
4102	DOG BINS	6000	
4117	FRIENDS MAIDS MORETON AVE	0	
4064	CLEANER NEIGHBOURHOOD ACT	0	
204	DEVOLVED SERVICES		
	WAGES	0	
4050	MATERIALS	0	
401	CHANDOS PARK		
1030	BOWLS INCOME		1800
1035	TENNIS CLUB RENT		750

4225	RATES	1533	
4601	REPAIRS & MAINT FUND	10000	
	PLAY AREAS MAINTENANCE	2000	
4602	ELECTRICITY	1050	
4603	WATER	1050	
	CHANDOS PAVILLION	5000	
4616	BOWLS GREEN	5000	
4610	REPAIR OF FOOTPATHS	20000	
4605	HORTICULTURAL CONTRACT	14280	
402	BOURTON PARK		
4601	REPAIRS & MAINT FUND	20000	
	PLAY AREAS MAINTENANCE	2000	
4604	RIVER & POND MAINT	4000	
4605	HORTICULTURAL CONTRACT	39375	
4112	NEW GATES SNR AREA	0	
4611	SIGNS FOR PARKS	0	
403	CEMETERY		
1041&42	BURIALS FEES & PLOT PURCHASE		10000
1043	CEMETERY CHAPEL HIRE etc		300
1044	MEMORIAL FUND	0	500
4225	RATES	1500	
4601	REPAIRS & MAINT FUND	2100	
4602	ELECTRICITY	1260	
4603	WATER	630	
4605	HORTICULTURAL CONTRACT	21000	
4609	REPAIRS/RUNNING EXPS LODGE	5250	
4620	BURIAL EXPENSES	6300	
4017	SUBSCRIPTION	0	
4617	MEMORIAL TESTING	5000	
4034/520	PWLB CAPITAL	2567	
4034/520	PWLB INTEREST	2137	
404	CHANDOS PARK TOILETS		
4612	TOILETS CHANDOS PARK	12600	
4079	CHANDOS PARK TOILETS HONORARIUM	600	
4225	RATES	1700	
	TOTAL CHANDOS PARK TOILETS	14900	0
405	GENERAL AREAS		
	PARKS POLICY GROUP	2000	
4618	TREE SURVEY		
407	OPEN SPACES		
4650	HEARTLANDS/HOLLOWAY SPINNEY/OTHER	10500	
408	RAILWAY WALK		
	BTCV GRANT PAYMENT	1000	
	TREE WORKS	1000	
4103	RAILWAY WALK	3890	
409	OVERN CRESCENT/GRENVILLE GARAGE		
4053	OVERN CRESCENT RENT	2000	
	GRENVILLE GARAGE RENT	400	
4603	WATER	100	
4602	ELECTRICITY	100	
4022	INSURANCE	100	

410	KEN TAGG PLAY AREA		
4105	MEADWAY REPAIRS RENEWALS	1000	
	COMMITTEE TOTAL	263687	22150

491/2007 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no Chairman's items for information

Meeting closed at 10.35 pm

CHAIRMAN DATE