

MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MB1, MASONS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM, HUNTER
STREET, ON MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2009 at 7.10 pm following the Public
Session.

PRESENT: Councillors T. Bloomfield
H. Cadd
Mrs. G. Collins
P. Collins
Mrs. P. Desorgher
P. Hirons
D. Isham
R. Lehmann
A. Mahi
H. Mordue (Mayor)
Ms. R. Newell
M. Smith
Mrs. P. Stevens
R. Stuchbury
M. Try
W. Whyte

Deputy Town Clerk Mr. C. Wayman
Clerical Assistant Mrs. K. McElligott

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Loftus and Mr A. Tusting, Operation Manager (Local Delivery), BCC Education (invited guest).

3237 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Collins declared a prejudicial interest in Item 20: To receive and discuss a letter from Bucks. Fire Brigades Union regarding proposed cuts in service

(3212) Cllr. Lehmann raised a point of order that the questions he had submitted to the Mayor did not appear on the agenda. It was agreed to send the answers to the questions out to all Councillors.

ACTION THE MAYOR

3238 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to removing the line "Members felt that a spilt would not be beneficial to the Council at this time." in minute number 3234.

3218.4 Ref Events minute 646: Cllr. Stuchbury asked if a meeting had yet been set and if the matter could be expedited now the holiday period was over.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

It was noted that the confidential minutes from the Full Council meeting on the 15th December were not listed on the Agenda. These would be added to the next meeting's agenda.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3239 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Members were informed of the following items

3239.1 NEWSLETTERS/BROCHURES

OPTIONS NEWSLETTER; DECEMBER 08

LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW; JANUARY 2009

CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT; JANUARY 2009

BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT NEWS WINTER 2008/2009

BUCKINGHAM AREA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

AVDC STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECEMBER 2008

PLANNING AID SOUTH

BALC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

3239.2 DIARY DATES – DETAILS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

“CHANGING LANDSCAPES” 2009 VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONFERENCE AND FUNDING FAIR 18TH MARCH 9:30AM – 4.00PM, GREEN PARK, ASTON CLINTON

3239.3 DIS

ISSUES 699, 700 & 701

3240 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES.

3240.1 PLANNING – 22.12.08 & 12.01.09

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

3240.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – 19.01.09

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

481 Members **AGREED** the grant recommendations as per the minutes.

(492) Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, and **RECOMMENDED** that subject to satisfactory supervision assurances the Council would recruit inmates from HMP Springhill Prison to work in the cemetery.

Cllr. Smith informed the Members that the Prison had been back in touch to confirm only limited supervision was needed. Cllr. Stuchbury asked at that a meeting involving the relevant staff members and the prison be set up, which was **AGREED**.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3240.3 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY – 5.01.09

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed subject to changing "Cllr. Stuchbury took no part in the discussion of the next item" to "Cllr. Stuchbury left the meeting and took no part in the discussion of the next item" above Minute number 649.

3240.4 EVENTS – 29.09.08 & 12.01.09

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

(604) Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Charity Collection be donated to the Mayor's Charities (League of Friends of Buckingham Hospital, Red Cross Day Centre, Verney Close, and BACAB).

AGREED

(657) Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council or the Events Committee arrange a meeting with the Economic Development Officers of AVDC and BCC, Aylesbury Vale Advantage, the Buckingham Traders Association, the Buckingham Business Club and the Economy Group to discuss action and support for existing traders and the promotion of the town centre shopping facilities.

Cllr. Smith informed Members that there is a meeting of traders due to take place at 6.00pm on Thursday 5th February 2009 at the Villiers Hotel. It was **AGREED** to arrange this meeting as a matter of urgency.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3240.5 PRECEPT – 26.01.09

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** - that the above minutes, and any recommendation contained within, be confirmed, subject to noting Cllr. Try's declaration of interest for Account Code 4215 and to include "Amounts to be ring fenced in the Environment & Property Committee budget to be agreed by the Chairman of the Environment & Property Committee and the Clerk."

Members thanked the members of staff for attending such a late meeting.

3241 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- 3241.1 BCC Speed Limit Review Gawcott Road
- 3241.2 Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board Co-option of Representative (Min No. 3228)
- 3241.3 Bucks. NHS Trust Consultation
- 3241.4 AVDC Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Min No. 3224)

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and **AGREED** to defer this item to a future agenda.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3241.5 BCC Aylesbury Area Plan (Min No. 3226)
3241.6 TV Police Opening Times
3241.7 AVDC Commercial and Income Producing Assets (Min.No.3219.2)
Cllr. Hirons enquired whether the new lease including the extension would be agreed before the date outlined in the letter. The Mayor said that AVDC would only sign the lease once the building work was completed, which will not be before the June 2009 date. It was **AGREED** to write to AVDC to clarify the dates in respect of the extension.

It was **AGREED** to write to AVDC to obtain written assurances that the Swan Pool, the Slade Indoor Bowls Club and the Scout Hut would not be included as Commercial and Income Producing Assets.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3241.8 BCC Local Area Forum Delegated Budget (Min No. 3230)
3241.9 BCC Sign Application for Villiers
3241.10 BCC Response Energy from Waste Initiative (Min No. 3227)
Members were unhappy that it appeared that no consultation had taken place on the transfer station and **AGREED** to write to Bucks. County Council indicating that the consultation was not full enough.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3241.11 BCC Bridge weight restrictions order
3241.12 AVDC Removal of Public Payphone
It was **AGREED** to write to AVDC to say that we would like the payphone to be replaced as it is important for that area of town and would be most beneficial in cases of breakdown and emergency due to its location, being clearly visible from the road.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3241.13 DEFRA/Hilary Benn MP Flood Alleviation Scheme (Min No. 3195)
Members were pleased that the MP had responded. Members discussed the content of the letter and the attached Environment Agency Briefing in great detail. Concern was expressed that there was no pledge of maintenance beyond that already notified.

3241.14 Buckingham Palace Garden Party
BALC had requested nominations.
Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield and **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. Loftus for attendance at the Garden Party.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3241.15 Bucks. Community Action Briefing note Sustainable Community Strategy (Response sent through Planning 5288.2)

3242 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

3243 ACCOUNTS FOR RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT

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

Cllr. Lehmann questioned the payment to Rosettes Direct; Cllr. Stuchbury said that it was a payment for the Christmas Parade.
Cllr. Whyte raised the question of ownership of the domain name for the Christmas Parade. The Mayor hoped that the name would revert to the Town Council.

3244 TO RECEIVE ACTION REPORTS AND UPDATES PER ATTACHED LIST

Members noted the action list circulated with the Agenda.

3245 (3231) TO RECEIVE A 10 MINUTE PRESENTATION FROM THE 3RD BUCKINGHAM SCOUT GROUP ON THE PROPOSED USAGE OF EMBLETON WAY PAVILION.

The 3rd Buckingham Scout Group gave a short presentation on their proposal to lease Embleton Way Pavilion as a dedicated meeting place for all agegroups of Scouts. This would involve 170 – 190 meetings per year and the building could also be used by other groups. Their present premises were coming to the end of their useful life, were in a residential area and had limited parking; Embleton Way had no such problems. A building dedicated to Scout use would mean that they could recruit and train more leaders and extend Scouting to more boys than could currently be catered for.

The Scout Group were informed that the Town Council did not own the pavilion and could not therefore grant them a lease.

Members asked a series of questions based on the presentation, and indicated that there were other community premises such as the Youth Centre and the Bourton Centre.

Councillors were pleased that there were now no plans to alter the internal layout of the pavilion, so that sports use could still be made of it, and that it might now be put into use after so long empty. Details of whether the Scouts would have sole use via the new lease and sublet the building to other organisations, or whether the Scouts would lease only for the times they required and the owners – whether AVDC or BTC – would book other times out, could be resolved when the lease was being negotiated. Any lease arrangements would be transferred with ownership of the building.

Members decided to support the Scouts proposal to AVDC.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Whyte and **AGREED** that any future dealings be delegated to the Environment & Property Committee.

3246 (3226) TO RECEIVE EXPLANATION ON THE AYLESBURY PLAN (SCHOOLS) CONSULTATION – MR. A. TUSTING OPERATIONS MANAGER (CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES)

Members **AGREED** to invite Mr Tusting to a later meeting of the Council

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllrs. P. Collins and Lehmann left the meeting at this point.

It was **AGREED** to take Agenda Item 21 next.

3247 TO RECEIVE NOTES OF FLOOD MEETING ON 21ST JANUARY 2009 AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

It was **AGREED** to do a press release on the meeting.

ACTION CLLR. STUCHBURY AND DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. P. Collins and Cllr. Lehmann returned to the meeting

Members were pleased that the meeting had gone ahead. Members were, however, very concerned that the Environment Agency was still only using 1 in 25 year for the frequency of flooding when in recent times we have had major flooding at approximately 10 year intervals. Concern was expressed by Members that the Town Council which has the least resources would have to shoulder the most responsibility while AVDC and Bucks. CC have dedicated units. Member also referred to the questions that were asked in Public Session before the meeting.

It was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting with Gary Dawson regarding the funding for individual flood prevention.

ACTION DEPUTY CLERK

3248 (3226) TO RECEIVE A REVIEW FROM CLLRS. MORDUE AND STUCHBURY ON THE AYLESBURY AREA PLAN (SCHOOLS) CONSULTATION AND TO AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION.

Cllr. Stuchbury outlined the draft response to the Secondary Schools consultation; the Primary Schools consultation did not affect Buckingham. It was agreed that due to the short period left for response that Cllrs. Mordue and Stuchbury and the Deputy Town Clerk will finalise the response and send it in.

ACTION CLLRS. MORDUE AND STUCHBURY/DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3249 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TO HOLD A TOWN COUNCIL DINNER AND SUGGEST POSSIBLE DATES

Cllr. Isham proposed holding a Town Council dinner at the White Hart for Councillors and staff members and their partners; everyone would pay for their own meals. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Isham would arrange a date.

ACTION CLLR. ISHAM

3250 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER TO INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES TO TALK ON 'KEEP TRADE LOCAL' – MAYOR

Members **AGREED** to invite a representative from the Federation of Small Businesses.

ACTION CLLR. MORDUE

3251 TO AWARD A SCROLL TO THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (THE RIFLES) ARMY CADET FORCE

It was **AGREED** to award a scroll to the Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force in recognition of their participation in the Freedom Parade.

ACTION CLLR. MORDUE

3252 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. Stuchbury outlined his reasons for advocating an elected Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council. These included automatically taking the Chair at meetings when the Mayor was not present, and authority to represent the Council at external meetings.

Members discussed the position of the Deputy Mayor in great detail including how the Deputy Mayor is appointed. It was **AGREED** that Standing Orders should be reviewed at the next meeting to allow for possible changes in the appointment of the Deputy Mayor.

ACTION DEPUTY CLERK

3253 TO DISCUSS THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF TOWN MAYOR AND THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Isham explained why he had placed the motion on the agenda; Members discussed the respective roles of the Town Mayor and the Deputy Mayor. It was **AGREED** to review this at the next meeting in light of the Minute Number 3253 above. It was **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk contact BALC to make sure that any change would be legal.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Bloomfield left the room briefly during the next item.

3254 (3225) TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ATTENDANCE AT NALC – STEPPING STONES CONFERENCE COVENTRY

Cllr. Whyte informed Members that the date for this conference had changed to the 22nd of April 2009, Cllr. Whyte also gave brief details of the sessions on

offer and expressed an interest in attending. The Deputy Town Clerk also expressed an interest in attending.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Try and **AGREED** that Cllr. Whyte and the Deputy Town Clerk would attend the conference.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3255 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ATTENDANCE AT BALC FINANCE TRAINING

Cllr. Hirons expressed a wish to attend, as did the Deputy Town Clerk. The Accounts Assistant had also indicated she would find it of use.

It was **AGREED** that they should attend the training session.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. P. Collins left the meeting.

Cllr Cadd declared a personal interest in the following item..

3256 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A LETTER FROM BUCKS. FIRE BRIGADES UNION REGARDING PROPOSED CUTS IN SERVICE

It was **AGREED** to invite a representative to speak to the Council. Members did note however, that the date for responses had passed.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting and Cllr. P. Collins returned to the meeting.

3257 TO RECEIVE THE CONSULTATION ON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY AND APPOINT A WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A RESPONSE (DATE DUE 6TH MARCH 2009)

It was **AGREED** that Cllrs. Smith, Whyte and Hirons would formulate a response to this consultation.

ACTION CLLRS. SMITH/WHYTE/ HIRONS

Cllr. Lehmann returned to the meeting.

3258 TO RECEIVE THE CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: REAL PEOPLE, REAL POWER: CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY AND APPOINT A WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A RESPONSE (DATE DUE 12TH MARCH 2009)

It was **AGREED** that no response was needed.

3259 TO RECEIVE THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON SATISFACTION WITH THE STANDARDS BOARD ADVICE AND GUIDANCE RESEARCH 2009 AND APPOINT A WORKING GROUP TO COMPLETE. (DATE DUE 16TH FEBRUARY 2009)

It was **AGREED** Cllr. Hirons would fill in the questionnaire.

ACTION CLLR. HIRONS

3260 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

Member **AGREED** to continue with the membership.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

3261 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

Members noted the listed reports received, which had been circulated.

3262 TO RECEIVE, IF REQUIRED, COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

No comments were received.

3263 MAYOR'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.

The Mayor informed Members that due to a mix up of dates with the Church that the Mayor's service would take place either on the 15th or the 22nd of February 2009; Members would be informed when the date was settled.

Meeting closed at 9.38pm.

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