

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Property Committee of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.**

**Present:** Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. Mrs. P. Desorgher  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try  
Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Christopher Wayman Deputy Town Clerk  
Jane Craven BTCV

**237/09 Election of Chairman for the Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Collins as the Chairman for the meeting

**238/09 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies were received from Cllr. Ms Newell, Cllr. Mrs Collins, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Stevens, Cllr. Loftus and Cllr. H Cadd. Cllrs. Whyte and Mordue apologised as they would have to leave the meeting early.

**239/09 Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the following declarations be received:

Cllr. W Whyte – agenda item 8 – Chandos Park – Club Sessions and Public Access to the Bowls Club and Tennis Club as he is a Trustee for the Old Gaol (if he is still present at that point).

**240/09 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and approved at Full Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

**RESOLVED** to take agenda item 9 – Bourton Park and agenda item 21 – BCTV next.

## **241/09 Bourton Park**

- **Friends of Bourton and Heartlands BTCV Group**

The possibility of turning one of the paddocks in Bourton Park into a Wildflower Meadow was discussed, as were the processes for doing this.

**RESOLVED** to pass to BTCV the questionnaire composed by the Parks Policy Group.

Members discussed the fact that the project funding is coming to an end in March 2010, current volunteer numbers are low and some of the groups may not have enough people to continue once the funding is finished.

**RESOLVED** to write to the original stakeholders and contributors to the project to see if other organisations would be willing to help with funding for the project.

BTCV are looking at a number of sites to plant trees during the Tree Council's Tree Week. Sites which are being looked into are to join the coppices in the Heartlands, areas in Bourton Park and an area at Holloway Spinney. Members wished to make sure that there would be a tree management plan in place no matter where the tree planting took place.

## **242/09 BTCV Report**

Members noted the BTCV report

*Jane Craven left the meeting*

## **243/09 Action Report**

Members felt that as the Chairman of the Committee was not present that many of the action points could not be discussed as they needed his input. However, members did discuss:

- 663 Penstock

Cllrs. Stuchbury and Hirons have looked at the Penstock and felt that there was a brass assembly which appears to be the problem; this is situated in the river and would need specialist expertise to remove it.

**RESOLVED** to contact a specialist to ascertain costs for removal and to bring those costs back to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **244/09 Town Audit**

Cllr. Bloomfield volunteered to take over Cllr. Stevens' Town Audit area. Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. Bloomfield for taking on another Town Audit area.

*Cllr. Whyte left the meeting*

## **PARKS AND PARKS POLICY**

### **245/09 Parks Policy**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Parks Policy Group meetings on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009.

### **246/09 Chandos Park**

- ***Toilets***

**RESOLVED** to contact Access for All to see what type of closing mechanism they would recommend for the disabled toilet's door in Chandos Park

- ***Chandos Park Path***

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman could make a decision on hiring a consultant so long as the budget is not exceeded.

- ***Club Sessions and Public Access to the Bowls Club and Tennis Club Facilities***

Members wished to thank the Tennis Club for their in depth information regarding their opening to members of the public.

Members asked that the Town Clerk look into if the bowls club are meeting the terms of their lease.

- ***Lamp posts in Chandos Park***

**RESOLVED** to carry out the work outlined.

### **247/09 Bourton Park**

- ***Bourton Park Junior Play Area***

Members noted that not all the responses have been received.

### **248/09 Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Members noted the information and look forward to receiving the report at the next meeting.

### **249/09 Allotments**

- ***Bourton Road Allotment Holders Society***

Members noted that no response had been received.

*Cllr. Mordue left the meeting*

## **250/09 Cemetery**

- ***Cemetery Rules and Regulations***

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Cemetery Rules and Regulations subject to the removal of mention of the price of seats on the price list (paragraph 2.7.) and remove the first line of 3.2. Interments as it now contradicted 3.8. Hours of Interment.

**RESOLVED** by 5 votes to 1 to accept the proposed price increases subject to the correction of a mis-type. Members wished to express their regret at having to increasing the prices for the cemetery, but with increasing maintenance costs it was agreed that it was needed. Members also noted that the Council was still subsidising the cost of burial for residents of the town.

Members discussed the document definitions of “residents” and “non residents”. Members felt that the document should mention that this is in relation to the deceased and not the person making the application. Members also felt that there should not be a definition of a non-resident, that in fact people would be non-residents until proven otherwise. Members discussed using the electoral roll to decide whether people have been residents or not. The Deputy Clerk raised the point in relation to cremations that the burial does not always take place immediately after death and it could be a number of years before they are buried and this would make it difficult to check the electoral register from that time.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk brings to the next meeting criteria that other authorities use for determining residents and non-residents.

- ***Update on the Cemetery***

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief verbal report stating that there has been a number of burials since the last meeting and that there have been no problems with these.

- ***Memorial Safety***

Members noted the letter regarding the guidance from the Ministry of Justice regarding memorial safety.

- ***Erection of a Bench***

Following from the adoption of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations Members agreed that the Town Clerk should compile a selection of benches which could be purchased for the Cemetery, taking into account the existing benches and spaces for dedication plaques. A decision on the benches would then be made at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** to send a letter to the applicant explaining the situation

## **251/09 Trees**

- ***Tree Survey***

Members discussed in great detail the previous tree survey and if there was a need to have another conducted after only 2 years. Members were unsure where the money for the tree survey would come from as no budget had been given for the work. Councillors felt that the 2007 report should be looked at and then the trees inspected and see if the work had been carried out. Members thought that there may already be a management plan in place for the trees in Railway Walk from the Friends of Railway Walk Group.

## **252/09 Buckingham Traders Association**

**RESOLVED** to write to the Traders Association wishing them luck in obtaining the noticeboards and explain that as the three proposed sites are not on Town Council land that there was little else that the Town Council could do and that it would be best to talk with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council.

## **253/09 Buckingham County Council (BCC) Resilience Team**

**RESOLVED** that due to the small attendance at the meeting and the fact that this matter deals with a number of possible problems, not just flooding, that the item should be referred to Full Council.

## **254/09 Buckingham Flood Protection Grant**

Members noted the information.

## **255/09 Local Safety Schemes**

Members noted the information; however clarification should be sought as to which section of the A413 is mentioned.

## **256/09 S106 Monies**

Members felt that they did not have enough knowledge of the discussion and that this should be referred to Full Council with the recommendations of the Chairman of the Committee.

## **257/09 Transfer of Public Open Space at Overn Crescent, Buckingham**

Members noted the information.

## **258/09 DEFRA Consultation on the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill**

**RESOLVED** that Members respond to the consultation individually if they wish to respond.

**259/09 Environment and Property Committee Budgets**

Members noted a number of possible areas where money might have been coded to the wrong account number.

**260/09 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

**261/09 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009

**262/09 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that In accordance with Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters. It is therefore **RESOLVED**, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded.

Chairman ..... Date .....