

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 19th October 2009** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. Mrs. P. Desorgher
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. R. Lehmann
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. M. Smith Chairman
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

In attendance: Christopher Wayman Deputy Town Clerk

513/09 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Councillor G. Loftus and Cllr. P. Hirons.

514/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

515/09 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2009 which were approved at Full Council on the 5th October 2009 with agreed changes and then re-issued. Cllrs. Bloomfield and Mordue noted that they had put apologies in for the meeting but these had been excluded from the minutes.

Cllrs. Try, Newell and Lehmann arrived during the next item.

516/09 Action Reports

385.6/09 – Penstock. Members **AGREED** that the manufacturers of the penstock be contacted to see if they could fix the problem.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

670 – Embleton Way. Members discussed the situation with the field at Embleton Way and **AGREED** that a meeting be arranged with AVDC to resolve the issues.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

494 – Chandos Park Path. Members were made aware that Transport for Buckinghamshire are looking to carry out work of this nature. Cllr. Whyte would find contact details.

ACTION CLLR. WHYTE

385.7 – Himalayan Balsam. The Balsam is being treated and work started on the 12th October, with a further treatment in the spring.

517/09 Parks Policy Group

A meeting had taken place on the 14th of October and the minutes would be circulated when finalised.

518/09 Chandos Park

518.1 Chandos Park Toilet

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **AGREED** to accept the quotation and progress the work for a replacement lock to the disabled toilet.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

518.2 Progress with play area reinstatement

A large amount of information had been received by the office from AVDC on progressing the play area. Members **AGREED** that Cllr. Smith and the Deputy Town Clerk would meet, draw up proposals, contact suppliers and bring the information back to Committee at the earliest opportunity.

ACTION CLLR. SMITH AND DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** to contact AVDC and ascertain their plans for replacing their play areas in the town.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

519/09 Bourton Park

519.1 Friends of Bourton Park and Heartlands BTCV Group

Members noted the report which was circulated at the meeting. Members felt one idea for an activity would be to spread Beemix in Bourton Park; this would help increase the number of bees in the park.

Members **AGREED** to invite Matt Dodds to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

ACTION CLLR. NEWELL

The issue of the interpretation boards was then discussed. Member **AGREED** that they would like to see the designs for the interpretation boards before they are installed.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

519.2 Himalayan Balsam

Members noted that this had been dealt with under Action Reports above.

520/09 Fruit Trees in Parks

Members agreed that the planting of a variety of fruit trees should be supported.

521/09 Cemetery

521.1 CGM Cemetery Contract

Members noted the improved service received from CGM.

521.2 Kerbing

Following a number of complaints about proposals to remove kerbing and planting etc, there was a long and detailed discussion on various solutions to the problem in the Cemetery Extension. Members considered a range of options proposed by the Chairman and weighed their benefits and disadvantages, including maintenance and the wishes of the deceased's family

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that kerbing be allowed in the cemetery extension, although if graves showed signs of neglect then the owners be written to and grave returned to turf.

Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Try, that the following amendment be considered: that the current rules and regulations be enforced in the future; the graves which currently have kerbing be allowed to keep it; but if graves have obviously been neglected, that the owners be written to and the area to be turfed over.

The amendment was **REJECTED** by 5 votes to 6, with the substantive motion being **AGREED** by 8 votes to 2.

Further **AGREED** that Cllr. Smith and the Deputy Town Clerk review the current paperwork for the cemetery to reflect this decision and the owners of graves which have kerbs around them be written to informing them of the revised decision.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Further **AGREED** to place a copy of the rules and regulations and a map of the cemetery in the notice board by the entrance.

521.3 Extension

Members discussed the proposed extension to the Cemetery and whether the Town Council should remain as a burial authority once the existing ground was full. Members looked at the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to be a burial authority and the idea of creating a new burial site.

Members **AGREED** that currently the costs to extend the Cemetery were too high, and further **AGREED** to draw up a policy for the future of the Cemetery and burial provision.

522/09 S106 Monies

Members noted the report from Councillor Smith. Councillors discussed previous section 106 agreements and where money was spent from them.

Members **AGREED** all the recommendations in the report attached to the agenda, as well as to investigate the interest on monies held by AVDC.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

523/09 Chris Nichols Walk

We are still awaiting a response following the meeting with AVDC in which they received a copy of the Town Council's Acquisitions Policy.

524/09 Devolved Services

Members noted the correspondence attached to the agenda.

525/09 War Memorial

Members discussed the current situation with the war memorial and noted that ownership must still be clarified.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting.

526/09 Sports Leaders UK

Members **AGREED** that it was not for the Town Council to organise a course in Buckingham.

527/09 Salt Bin Request

Salt bin provision in the town was discussed in great detail. Funding may possibly be available from BCC which could be used for salt bins. Members discussed who was responsible for the provision of salt bins in the town.

Members **AGREED** that funding should be sought from BCC to help procure salt bins; a reply would be sent to the person requesting the bin to inform them of the decision.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Mordue left the meeting

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that if no funding from BCC is available then the Committee would look at purchasing some bins from this year's budget.

528/09 Town Audit

Members noted that AVDC and BCC are currently dealing with the identified priorities and they will report back at the Buckingham Partnership Meeting.

529/09 Environment and Property Committee Budgets

Members noted the budgets circulated with the agenda.

530/09 2010/11 Environment and Property Committee Budgets

Members noted the proposed budget for the next financial year.

531/09 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's Announcements

532/09 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th December 2009.

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