

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 23rd November 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Christopher Wayman Deputy Town Clerk
Jon McGinty Aylesbury Vale District Council

As the Mayor was not present Cllr. Mordue – Deputy Mayor chaired the meeting.

623/09 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllr. Blake (AVDC), Cllr. Polhill (BCC), Cllr. Cadd, Cllr. Bloomfield and Cllr. Mrs. Stevens.

624/09 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended for Mr. Jon McGinty from AVDC to address the Council on AVDC budget proposals.

Mr. McGinty outlined the proposals, which are officer recommendations to be discussed at the AVDC cabinet meeting on the 1st December 2009. Out of a budget of £20m AVDC are looking to make £1m worth of savings mainly by cutting non-statutory functions. Mr. McGinty then went into more detail on four areas which will affect Buckingham directly.

1. Car Parking charges: not all proposals had been released and more would be released on Friday 27th November. However, it is expected that tariffs will be introduced in Buckingham and would go up across the Vale.
2. Tourist Information Centre (TIC): the proposal is to cut all of the funding to the Tourist Information Center in Buckingham. Six months notice would have to be given and this period would, if agreed, start in February 2010. Currently the

Wendover Town Council pays for its TIC and AVDC do not provide any funding. The lease for that area of the Old Gaol would be terminated rather than transferred to Aylesbury Vale Estates.

3. Public Toilets: it is hoped to save AVDC £28,000 a year by not renewing the cleaning schedule on public toilets in Buckingham (Moreton Road), Winslow and Wendover. AVDC would be willing to transfer the cost of cleaning to the Town Council or transfer the asset as a whole. The public toilets in Aylesbury would not be transferred at the moment.
4. Event Funding: AVDC will look to stop their funding of Aylesbury Park Life and Buckingham Festival Fortnight.

Mr. McGinty stated that this was a cost shunting exercise and the reason for this was that the Town Council was not capped and could increase the precept to accommodate the extra cost of providing these functions.

Cllr. Stuchbury voiced his disappointment with AVDC and Cllr. Thompson in particular for the cutting of funding to the Festival Fortnight when it is in a precarious financial situation at the moment and any cuts might result in the event being cancelled. Cllr. Stuchbury made the point that the Town Council's contract for cleaning the Chandos Park toilets is a part of the contract that AVDC have for cleaning Morton Road toilets and they would therefore be affected. The loss of the TIC would not just affect Buckingham but the whole of North Bucks.

Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Whyte declared an interest as a Trustee of the Heritage Trust.

Cllr. Smith pointed out that the total cost of AVDC funding is approximately £34,000 for the TIC and that the loss of this funding may result in redundancies. Concern was raised over the recent installation of toilets in Aylesbury, while looking to now cut services to these three.

Cllr. Whyte stated that these cuts hit social cohesion, accessibility and economic development and amounted to only a small percentage of the £1m saving needed. Cllr. Whyte asked what other services were being cut?

Cllr. P. Collins commented that it was not just a hit on Buckingham but also on the surrounding area as people from other parishes use the facilities, while Cllr. Hiron described it as a kick in the teeth.

Cllr. Loftus enquired about the cost of producing District Link. Cllr. Stuchbury felt that the proposed £58,000 of cuts, or money the Town Council would need to find, was disproportionate to the town. A discussion took place on whether the full cost should be borne by the Town Council or spread out among other parishes as they benefit from the current services. Comments were made on how desperate AVDC is for money.

Mr. McGinty then outlined where the other cost savings were coming from, including a pay freeze for staff, moving staff out of Friars Square, networking printing and income from car parking. AVDC is also investigating saving money on the District Link by providing a joint publication with BCC. He also stated that there may be the option of transferring ownership to the Town Council in due course and that if that was the case we should inform AVDC. There will be a consultation period to discuss the proposals when the Council will have

opportunity to comment.

Members thanked Mr. McGinty for coming and addressing the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell, and **AGREED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Members **AGREED** that a meeting should be set up for officers to discuss the proposals.

Mr. McGinty left the meeting

625/09 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2009 (**BTC/06/09**).

626/09 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2009 (**IM/04/09**).

627/09 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 12th October 2009 (**PL/07/09**) and Monday 2nd November 2009 (**PL/08/09**).

628/09 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on 19th October 2009 (**EP/04/09**).

Proposed by Cllr. Isham, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to allow AVDC to release the money to upgrade Stratford Fields play area.

629/09 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre Events Committee meeting held on Monday 26th October 2009 (**TCE/04/09**).

630/09 Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009 (**FAP/04/09**) with the date of the meeting being corrected to read 9th November.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to accept the draft Annual Investment Strategy (circulated with the Agenda) and to invest half of the precept money with Lloyds Bank for 3 months in a non-risk account, with a current return of 0.8%, once the precept money is received.

Members **AGREED** the recommendation.

631/09 Parks Policy Group Minutes

Members noted the minutes and that the minutes should be agreed by the Environment and Property Committee.

632/09 Council and Committee Meetings

Members expressed concern that Bourton Meadow School had not replied to the request when they have a community building for which they are responsible. Members discussed the different venues and the number of members of the public who may attend the meetings.

Members **AGREED** that for the moment meetings should continue to be at the university; however, the room at the Church would be investigated. **FURTHER AGREED** that a letter should be sent to Bourton Meadow School to enquire as to why there was no response and what the costs would be for a room at the Bourton Centre.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

633/09 Flooding

Members noted that the date on the meeting notes should in fact be the 22nd of October. Members discussed the repeated attempts to get the Environment Agency to change the flood maps.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **AGREED** that the information previously provided by Cllr. Whyte is forwarded to the Environment Agency.

634/09 Armed Forces Day

The three cadet forces in the area would like to take part in an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day. Various suggestions for celebrating the day included a parade

through the town and training exercises in Bourton Park were discussed. However, some Members were concerned that as the town is not a garrison town then there would not be the support in the town to hold an event, especially as the Freedom Parade was held this year and there is the Remembrance Parade as well. Many Members, while voicing respect for the work of the armed forces, were worried about the possible cost for the Armed Forces Day.

Members **AGREED** that due to the economic situation an Armed Forces event would not be held in 2010; however, the Town Council would look into the feasibility of holding an event in 2011.

635/09 Community Governance Review

Discussion took place on the present number of Councillors and if this was appropriate for the current and future size of the town. It was noted that a review had occurred in the last five years.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, that a Community Governance Review should not take place. An amendment to ask for a Community Governance Review and propose an extra two Councillors was proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Hirons. This was **REJECTED** by 11 votes to 2. The original motion was then **AGREED**.

636/09 Aylesbury Vale Estates (AVE)

Members noted the correspondence.

637/09 W.I. Banner

Members discussed the kind offer from the W.I.. However, due to the lack of space in the chamber it was **AGREED** that the Town Council would be unable to hang the banner, a letter would be written to so advise them and recommending asking the Heritage Trust if it could be displayed in the museum in the Old Gaol.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

638/09 Car Parking

Members discussed the possible outcomes of the parking changes including people walking back to their cars in the dark along poorly lit routes. Members were also mindful of the report currently being drawn up by Aylesbury Vale Advantage who are looking into car parking in the town.

Members then discussed the policy of keeping the car park free of charge. The feeling was that due to the cost savings AVDC is looking to make and the charges being discussed keeping the whole car park free would be uneconomic. Councillors debated whether the money currently used to keep car parking free should be

carried forward to subsidise the car parking in the town. It was also discussed if car parking charges would be beneficial to traders and whether it would provide a better flow of traffic in the town.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Loftus, and **AGREED** that some free car parking should be kept in the town centre if financially viable by 9 votes to 2 with Cllr. Whyte abstaining.

639/09 Functions attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor

Members noted the information.

640/09 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the information.

641/09 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr. Mordue announced that this was the first meeting of the Full Council since Cllr. Loftus passed the 25th anniversary of becoming a Councillor.

Proposed by Cllr. Mordue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that on the next agenda there should be a resolution to give the Honorary Freedom of Buckingham to Cllr. Loftus at the next Annual Town Meeting.

642/09 Date of next meeting

Interim Council – Monday 21st December 2009
Full Council – Monday 11th January 2010

Members discussed whether some matters should be taken out of confidential and put into the public domain. It was **AGREED** that Members should agree the minutes first and then decide if they should be put into the public domain.

643/09 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

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

Signed Date

Town Mayor

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~~COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION~~

~~Monday 23rd November 2009~~

~~Full Council Meeting~~

~~644/09 Confidential Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 5th October 2009.~~

~~RESOLVED to receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2009 (BTC/06/09).~~

~~FURTHER RESOLVED that these minutes should be made public.~~

~~645/09 Confidential Minutes of the Premises Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2009.~~

~~RESOLVED to receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Premises Committee held on Tuesday 1st September 2009.~~

~~646/09 Confidential Minutes of the Premises Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009~~

~~RESOLVED to receive and agree the confidential minutes of the Premises Committee held on Monday 9th November 2009~~

~~Cllr. Whyte asked for clarification on whether the tenderers had been approached to confirm the figure. It was confirmed that that action had not yet been progressed. Members AGREED to not follow this action until the issue over the Right of Access was resolved.~~

~~*Members AGREED to take agenda item 27 next*~~

~~647/09 Recommendation from the Premises Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009.~~

~~Members AGREED to RECOMMEND to Full Council that a Heads of Term Agreement be entered into with AVDC/AVE and ROM Capital regarding a new 99 year lease on a peppercorn rent and giving ROM Capital £20,000 to vary the right of way around the building for 7m on 3 sides (not the car park side).~~

~~It was clarified for Members that Aylesbury Vale Estates currently owns the building, AVDC owns the land which will be built on and that ROM Capital have a right of access over this land. A Heads of Term Agreement would bring the issues over the right of access and the extension of the lease together in one legal document which all four parties (the Town Council being the fourth) would sign. Once the all the signatures had been received~~

~~then it would be a legally binding agreement. This agreement would give £20,000 to ROM Capital to vary their right of access and the Town Council would have a new lease on the whole of the new building for 99 years. However, this would all be conditional on the extension being built. The variation of right of access would be for 7 metres around the existing community centre.~~

~~Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that Buckingham Town Council arrange for the Heads of Term Agreement to be drawn up. An amendment proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. P. Collins, that Buckingham Town Council sign the Heads of Term Agreement once it is drawn up, was AGREED by 12 votes to 0, the original proposal was then AGREED by 13 votes to 0.~~

~~648/09 Confidential Minutes of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee held on Monday 9th November 2009~~

~~RESOLVED to receive the confidential minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009 (FAP/04/09).~~

~~FURTHER RESOLVED to make minutes number 621/09 and 622.2/09 public.~~

~~649/09 Updated Extension Budget~~

~~Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and AGREED not to discuss the budget for the extension.~~

Signed Date

_____ Town Mayor