

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Property Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010** in Room MB1, Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham at 7pm.

**Present:** Cllr. H. Cadd Mayor  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. G. Collins  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. R Lehman  
 Cllr. G. Loftus  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
 Cllr. M. Smith Chairman  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try  
 Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Christopher Wayman Town Clerk  
 Anita Simonds Deputy Town Clerk

Before the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the new Councillor Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue and the Members present introduced themselves.

#### **978/09 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Councillors Bloomfield and Stevens, Cllr Newell would arrive late.

#### **979/09 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Lehmann declared a personal interest in item 11.

#### **980/09 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, which had been approved at Full Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### **981/09 Action Reports**

Members were briefed on the Action Report by the Town Clerk

692.4/09 Cemetery Lodge, this property will not be needed for office accommodation and the company chosen to install the curtains and blinds had been instructed.

*Cllr Try joined the meeting*

670 Embleton Way Pavillion, it was noted that the building was not in a good state of repair and will deteriorate if it remains unused. It is recognised as an asset and its future use has been discussed with Jon McGinty of AVDC.

Members **AGREED** to discuss Item 5 on the Agenda when Cllr. Newell arrived.

## **982/09 Chandos Park**

### 982.1 Chandos Park Play Area

Members were informed that work had begun on preparing the area so that the play equipment could be installed. Turfing had been ordered and Green Spaces Manager (GSM) and the Maintenance team had prepared the area for the turf. The Pumphouse lid was corroded and the lock broken, but the GSM had sought quotations for replacements.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

### 982.2 Toilets

Members received a letter from AVDC regarding the increased charge for maintaining the toilets and the contract itself. Members heard that AVDC consider the agreement to be informal, but would continue to maintain the toilets until otherwise instructed by the Town Council and as the contract expired in 2003, the Town Council is not bound by it.

## **983/09 Cemetery**

### 983.1 Burials

Mr. Heath Copas had approached the Town Council with a view to becoming a regular grave digger. Subsequently Mr. Copas had dug two test graves, which were undertaken to a good standard. Although not a qualified grave digger it was noted that he is willing to gain a qualification. Members noted that if Mr. Copas was not available for work, as he is also a building contractor, the Town Council had made arrangements with a grave digger in Bicester, who is willing to help, and that Mr. Graham Hodges would act as a further back up.

**AGREED** that Mr. Copas be encouraged to gain appropriate qualifications and that the Town Council would consider financial assistance for this.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

## **984/09 St Rumbold's Well**

Members discussed the history of the Well (a listed Ancient Monument), and its current poor state due to vandalism.

Members discussed the options of frames for mounting the existing St Rumbold's Well interpretation board, but would like to know where the Buckingham Wildlife Community Project signs were obtained from and their costs, as it would be desirable to match them.

Concerns were raised as to the original artwork for the board to ensure that it can be reproduced. Members noted that Mr. Rodney Shirley had the original artwork and that it is accessible to the Town Council should there need to be a copy.

A meeting took place on the 12th February 2010 with Cllr. Isham, Rodney Shirley, Kathy Robins (Buckingham Society) and the Town Clerk. At this meeting more information came to light. The well is a scheduled Ancient Monument (no. SM29442 designated 27/07/1999) and that the conduit house constructed in 1623 appears to have been destroyed in the 1920's.

Following this meeting a further meeting was arranged with Sandy Kidd the BCC archaeologist who explained that the field adjacent would need an archaeological dig if homes were to be built on it as it may contain items of historical importance from the time of the pilgrimages to the well.

Members **AGREED** to arrange a meeting between New College Oxford and English Heritage to discuss the site.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**985/09          Salt Bins**

Cllrs. G. Collins, Whyte and Newell declared personal interests due to the closeness of the sites requested to their homes.

Members discussed letters received requesting to have salt bins placed at certain locations around the town at the following locations:

- Fishers Field/Tingewick Road
- Church Hill
- Lenborough Road
- Moreton Road/ Moreton Drive
- Ford Street Bridge
- McKenzie Close
- Page Hill
- Gawcott Road
- Chandos Close

Members heard that at some of these location bins had been in place previously, but had been removed for reasons unknown.

Councillors also discussed the fact that some of the existing bins were in a state of poor repair and salt was getting wet and being dissolved, the water was freezing and rendered the bin useless in icy weather.

*Cllr. Newell joined the meeting.*

It was also noted that BCC was replacing salt with sandy grit which also froze in icy weather and was less effective than salt.

**AGREED** that the following locations should be nominated for salt bins to be placed:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Fishers Field/Tingewick Road | BCC to replace the bin that has been removed |
| • Church Hill                  | BCC to replace the bin that has been removed |
| • Lenborough Road              | BCC to replace the bin that has been removed |
| • Moreton Road/Moreton Drive   | Agreed Next to Police Station                |
| • Ford Street Bridge           | replace the bin that has been removed        |
| • McKenzie Close               | Move the existing bin                        |
| • Page Hill                    | Agreed                                       |
| • Gawcott Road                 | Agreed                                       |
| • Chandos Close                | Agreed                                       |

Members **AGREED** to pursue BCC to replace bins previously removed and to ensure that current broken bins are repaired and that the appropriate material is in the bin.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members AGREED to hear item 5 next which had been suspended to wait for Cllr. Newell's arrival.

**986/09 BCWP**

Cllr. Newell gave an update on BCWP project and stated that, although the project had reached its end, it had been a valuable experience and the opinion of the group is that they would like it continue.

Members heard that if the group continued, it would not be able to use the current name or logo, therefore the name of Green Spaces Group had been suggested. It was noted that as BTC was the sponsor of the project, using the name may be acceptable. A new logo would need to be sought.

It was suggested that the Green Spaces Manager take an active role in the group and would be approached to attend meetings.

Cllr. Newell reported a problem with tool storage, as at the moment tools belonging to the project are stored in the AVDC store in the Moreton Road. Members agreed that the Town Council would look at options to accommodate the BCWP tools.

*Agenda resumed.*

**987/09 Gritting**

Members noted that the BCC response had been positive.

**988/09 Devolved Services**

A Map had been received from Bellcross Homes to seek permission to erect their signs (AA yellow signs advertising their development) at the locations corresponding with Bellway's Hedge Row signs.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk verbally reported on the meeting with Mr. Jon McGinty of AVDC to discuss services in the town such as Dog Wardens, Dog Bin emptying and other services that can be carried out at a Town Council Level. A response is expected from Mr. McGinty soon.

**989/09 Page Hill MUGA**

Members discussed the correspondence received from Lesley Davies and expressed their disappointment. There had been no further correspondence, although Jon McGinty (AVDC) had offered to enquire further. Without AVDC permission, the project could not continue.

The Chairman would report any future progress.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK AND CHAIRMAN**

**990/09 Overn Crescent Garage**

Notice had been received from Devon Solicitors to end the Overn Crescent Garage tenancy on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Whilst there is an option to renew the lease, it was noted that the rental of this property would incur an increase of approximately 45%, bringing the yearly rent to £3000, and would tie the Town Council in to a contract of three years.

Members were reminded that the garage was in state of disrepair, and to leave the property once the new lease was agreed would invoke a section in The Landlord and Tenancy Act 1954, requiring the Town Council to leave the property in good order, which may mean carrying out works that could cost a substantial amount.

Other options could be investigated, such as a unit on the industrial estate. It was suggested that a summary of storage needed should be compiled with a view to finding a more permanent and suitable storage facility such as a yard.

Noted that the summary should be presented to this committee at the next meeting.

**ACTION GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

#### **991/09 Land Registry**

Members have received an invitation to have land at Castle Hill, Gawcott Village Green and Railway Walk registered as Buckingham Town Council Land.

Members noted that there were issues regarding the land at Gawcott which Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council wish to own.

Members enquired as to the exact boundary of the Railway Walk.

**AGREED** that a full report would be brought to the next meeting.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **992/09 Winter Maintenance Consultation**

**AGREED** that the Chairman and Town Clerk should proceed with discussing the Winter Maintenance Consultation with BCC.

#### **993/09 Training**

**AGREED** that the Green Spaces Manager attend the Sexton Duties Course at a cost of £60 + VAT plus travel; and the Granting, Exercising and Transferring Exclusive Rights of Burial Course at a cost of £120+VAT.

Members expressed the view that staff should have a long term development plan in order to prevent ad hoc courses, and **AGREED** that this should be discussed by the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee.

Members enquired about the probation period payback terms and **AGREED** that this should be applied to the above courses.

#### **994/09 Canal Society Interpretation Board**

The draft interpretation board contained references to Milton Keynes Council which would need to be removed before placement in Buckingham, which was outside the Milton Keynes Council area.

The overall appearance of the board and its mounting would also need to be scrutinised, in order for it's suitability to fit in with existing street furniture.

**AGREED** that details will need to be confirmed by the Canal Society.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**995/09 Environment and Property Committee Budgets**

Members noted the attached budget information for codes relevant to the Environment and Property Committee.

Members also noted the budget for 2010/11.

**996/09 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**997/09 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

**Chairman..... Date.....**