

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 26th October 2020 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	Vice-Chair
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Chair
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

The Town Clerk read a statement on behalf a resident concerning the Tree Warden scheme. The Estates Manager agreed to provide a formal response following consultation with the Chair.

753/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Harvey and Strain-Clark and received apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor T. Mills.

754/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

755/20 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020 and received at Full Council on the 5th October 2020.

314/20 (Action Report/HASC) Members **AGREED** to insert "Cllr. Stuchbury proposed that Committee send a representative to the next meeting of HASC on the 10th September 2020."

321/20 (Structural and Conditions Survey of Buckingham Community Centre) – Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Smith to amend minute 321/20 to read: "Cllr. Stuchbury proposed a reviewing the buildings lease to see if it was still fit for purpose now that the Town Council owns the building". A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 6

Abstentions: 2

The minutes were **AGREED** with these changes.

756/20 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

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Health Care Public Meeting (127/20) – Cllr. O’Donoghue asked if a meeting of the HASC took place and if questions from the public were submitted.

The Town Clerk explained that an online meeting between local GP surgeries and other health partners had not taken place and the Town Council had not submitted any resident’s questions to the September meeting of HASC. Cllr. Stuchbury reported that HASC were meeting again on the 5th November 2020 and 7th January 2021 and if Environment Committee wished to send a representative then it would be prudent to submit written questions in advance. Cllr. Stuchbury proposed a written question on plans for the provision of community health and adult social care in Buckingham. Cllr. Gateley offered to attend on behalf of the Environment Committee.

Members **AGREED** with Cllr. Smith’s proposal that written questions, regarding the Lace Hill Health Centre, be submitted to the November meeting if possible, or if there is not time then to the January meeting, and further submissions are to be agreed at the next meeting of Environment Committee on the 14th December 2020.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members **AGREED** to forward an invitation to all Town Councillors to attend future meetings of the HASC.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

757/20 Greenspaces Complaints/Compliments Log

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. O’Donoghue asked for future agenda items to be titled ‘Greenspaces Complaints and Compliments Log’.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

758/20 Bridges at Bourton Park

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager and **AGREED** for a written report, including the original structural survey, to come back to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

759/20 Potential BMX and Scooter Track Location

Members received and discussed a report regarding possible locations for a BMX and scooter track. The Chair reminded Members that Environment Committee had previously received a request from a member of the public to construct a skate park at Lace Hill and that Councillors have made repeated agreements to seek to construct a BMX track in the town.

Cllr O’Donoghue said young people in Buckingham had many fantastic ideas for reconfiguring the existing Skate Park and hoped they would be consulted with in the redevelopment on the Bridge Street location.

Members noted the Town Clerk’s comments to wait until devolution arrangements were in a more formal stage of negotiation.

Cllr. Smith proposed writing to the Buckinghamshire Council insisting that the refurbishment of the Bridge Street skate park contains a scooter track by removing the existing shelter. Cllr. Ralph asked about the size of official BMX tracks as recommended by British Cycling.

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Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the Cabinet Members were keen to see the skate park renovated in the New Year and cautioned against adding any additional requirements that may delay the delivery of the site's redevelopment.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to investigate the size of official BMX tracks as recommended by British Cycling. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

760/20 Wildflower Information Boards

Members received a written report from the Committee Clerk and were in agreement that a donation of £25 to the artist was insufficient to reflect the level of work involved.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to commission 9 individual water colouring paintings of wildflowers from artist Fiona Hancock and agree to a £100 donation towards to cost of art materials from cost centre 252 4601. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

The following report recommendations were **AGREED**:

- It is recommended that Members agree to make provision from the 2020/21 budget for the purchase 9 x A4 signs via company A and that one A3 interpretation board is purchased at a total cost of £910 (ex VAT), using funds to be transferred from cost centre 201 4068 (Community Service) to 252 4601 (Bourton Park Repairs and Maintenance).
- That Members agree for the Estates Manager and Greenspaces Assistant to decide on the final designs in liaison with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

761/20 Cattle Pens Finger Post

The Estates Manager explained that the tender documents were almost ready to be issued. **AGREED** to report back to the next meeting.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

762/20 Town Action Commission

Members received a written report from the Estates Manager.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Newell and unanimously **AGREED** to publicise the updated Town Action Commission's Action Plan with an accompanying article in the Spring newsletter on the identification of different tree species.

ACTION COMMUNICATIONS CLERK

Cllr Smith suggested writing to the Buckingham Society asking for an update on the Town Trails leaflet on trees. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury advised Members of correspondence offering 2,000 free trees to the Town Council and agreed to forward communication to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

The following report recommendations were **AGREED**:

- It is recommended that the Council set up an income budget line for potential tree planting donations or for any funding obtained and to Precept a budget

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for £1,000 in the 2021/22 budget for the Tree Wardens to fund any promotional material required. It is recommended that officers set up a meeting with the Tree Warden group to establish what support the volunteer tree wardens may require for the future and how to progress the group further.

- It is recommended that the Committee nominate two councillors to join this group as a representative of the Council.
- It is recommended that the Tree wardens are asked to carry out an initial survey to identify potential tree planting locations/opportunities around the town and any other opportunities for schemes i.e. hedgerow restoration work around the town.
- It is recommended that the planning and Neighbourhood Plan issues raised are referred to the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee for consideration.

763/20 HASC/Healthcare Centre

Discussed within minute 756/20.

734/20 Budgets

734.1/20 Members received and noted the latest budget figures.

734.2/20 Members received and noted the revised budget forecast (Covid-19 impact).

734.3/20 Members received and discussed a written report proposing the draft budget for 2021/22 and the revised draft five-year budget and supported the proposed approach.

765/20 Access Awareness

There were no updates.

766/20 Homeless Prevention Forum Meeting

Cllr. Gateley reported on a meeting on the Homeless Prevention Forum and spoke of the work being undertaken by the team to support rough sleepers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed that the Town Clerk write to the Homeless Prevention Forum expressing the Town Council's support and gratitude for the work being undertaken.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Cllr. Smith asked for more information on the use of empty office blocks for temporary accommodation. Members expressed a wish to define the actual numbers of rough sleepers in Buckingham.

Members **AGREED** for the minutes to be circulated to Full Council.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

767/20 News Releases

Members **AGREED** the following press releases:

- Trees species in Buckingham with key updates from the Town Action Commission's Action Report.
- Skate Park regeneration, including the Town Council's work and consultation towards the renovation.

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Ratified

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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial

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768/20 Chair's Announcements

769/20 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th December 2020.

770/20 Committee in Private Session

Exclusion of Public and Press

RECOMMENDED 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, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

771/20 Tingewick Road Green Spaces

Members received and discussed a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the future management of greenspaces at Tingewick Road. Members **AGREED** to allow the Town Clerk to progress matters with Barrett's and the Section 106 Officer at Buckinghamshire Council.

Members **AGREED** to add a standing item of Tingewick Road Green Spaces to all future Environment Committee agendas.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

Meeting closed at: 21.05

Chair

Date