

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7.10pm following the Public Session on **Monday 31st October 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. T. Chan
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. M. Smith (Mayor)
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott

483/11 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors T. Bloomfield , J. Harvey and R. Lehman.

484/11 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. P. and Mrs. G. Collins declared an interest in item 3, public toilets, as members of the management committee of the Community Centre. Cllr. Isham declared an interest during the discussion of item 3 as indicated.

485/11 Public Toilets – motion from Cllr. Stuchbury

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue:

- a) That Buckingham Town Council undertakes a feasibility study on placing new additional public toilets within the town centre. This is due to the current toilets being in such a poor state and the large amount of public complaints received about the toilets, and that a report is brought back to Full Council with costs, funding ideas and areas identified for new public toilets.
- b) Once the full cost of new toilets has been placed before the Council, Members be asked to agree to provide new toilets within the shortest possible timescale, but no longer than 2 years.
- c) To ask the Town Clerk to meet with Buckingham Community Centre to see if they would consider making their toilets available during the day for the public of Buckingham to use.

Cllr. Stuchbury outlined the reasoning behind his motion, and why a time period was recommended. Members felt there was a distinction to be made between 'toilets for public use' and 'Public Toilets' which implied a dedicated building. It was suggested that the time period should be set when the requested report was presented and agreed. It was pointed out that public toilets were used by visitors and residents of surrounding areas, not just by Buckingham people, and thus a matter for the District Council, and also that the proposed extension to the Council Chamber eventually rejected by the Council had included public toilets.

Cllr. Isham, declaring an interest as a District Councillor, pointed out that Local Authorities were not obliged to provide public toilet facilities.

Cllr. Mordue left the meeting.

Concern was expressed at the short time scale and the committing of the Town Clerk's time, but Cllr. Stuchbury felt that the office was now adequately staffed, and the work done on the Chamber extension would provide some of the data requested. He added that there had been nothing but complaints since Moreton Road toilets had been refurbished, and the young and the elderly in particular needed clean accessible facilities. There were possible sources of funding the Town Clerk could investigate. He asked the Council to support his motion so the town could move forward.

12 Members voted for the motion; Cllr. Isham abstained.

486/11 Recommendations from Planning Committee 10th October 2011

423/11 Planning Applications

The following applications were considered together; Members voted on each response separately and the result was unanimous. The responses were **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Council for ratification.

11/01529/ADP

OPPOSE

Phase 1F & 1G, Land to South of A421 and East of A413 London Rd.

Creation of 83 dwellings for residential purposes along with garages, roads, sewers and all ancillary matters – Reserved matters of 09/01035/AOP

The lack of scale bars on some drawings was noted; there was no accommodation for bins/recycling containers; the footpath link to London Road was quite narrow, and should be widened to cycleway standard.

There were no affordable houses scheduled for this phase; Members looked to have affordable housing spread pro rata throughout the estate and this was a large block to have none.

Concern was also expressed about the 'Almshouses' (plots 31-34); these were apparently for sale, and Members pointed out that Almshouses per se were recognised by DCLG legislation and subject to higher building standards than other housing. Members would like to know if these plots are to be a charitable foundation, and if not, why they were termed Almshouses.

11/01531/ADP

OPPOSE

Phase 1H, Land to South of A421 and East of A413 London Rd.

Erection of 54 dwellings for residential purposes along with garages, roads, sewers and all ancillary details – Reserved matters of 09/01035/AOP

Again there was no accommodation for bins/recycling containers; the landscaping was felt to be underwhelming, especially around the main entrance. However, the proportion of affordable housing was correct for this phase.

11/01961/ADP

OPPOSE

Land to South of A421 and East of A413 London Road

Approval of reserved matters for the site infrastructure including the creation of detention basin, pumping station, roads, sewer routes, landscaping and all ancillary works

The issue of Bridleway 13 must be resolved before work starts. Members queried whether fixing the road layout of the business area was appropriate when the building layout was not yet decided. Connectivity with the town had still not been addressed. The soft landscaping was criticised, both in the choice of species and the quality of the trees, as not meeting the aspirations of the original intentions. Members felt the new residents deserved better.

Cllr. Whyte outlined the reasons for the Planning Committee's opposition to the three applications. Members **AGREED** the recommendation, with Cllr. Isham abstaining.

487/11 Correspondence

Letter from BCC: 2012/13 Budget Consultation: Members noted the content and agreed that the poster be displayed. However, it was felt that the County Council should take political responsibility for its actions and policies rather than seek the

views of the small section of the community interested in form-filling and use the responses as justification, and asked that a letter be sent to this effect.

ACTION THE CLERK

488/11 Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members that the following Saturday, 5th November, there would be the Best-dressed Guy completion at 1pm outside the Old Gaol, and the Bonfire and Fireworks from 6.30pm in Bourton Park.

489/11 Dates of next meetings

Full Council - Monday 21st November 2011
Interim Council - to be agreed

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed **Date**