

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm. on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. H. Cadd  
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. R. Lehmann  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 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

### **880/11 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. H. Mordue and D. Seabrook.

### **881/11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **882/11 (793/11) Community Chest Funding**

These items were considered together

882.1 Response from the Community Chest Officer

882.2 To receive additional correspondence from the University.

The officer had replied that match-funding is mentioned on p3 of the application form; that the application did not include any local fundraising or financial contribution; that a request for match-funding has not been made before, but requests have been made for a financial contribution from the Parish Council as confirmation of local support; that the request for match-funding was made to the University so they could make their own arrangements.

The University's letter indicated that considerable local fund-raising had been carried out as well as appeals to alumni and students.

Members felt that a response should be made, enquiring if this was to become standard policy applicable to all parish councils in the Vale, and that the University be reminded of the Town Council's grant application cycle..

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

*Cllr. Try arrived during the following discussion.*

### **883/11 Consultation: Allocation of Accommodation – Guidance for Local Housing Authorities**

Members discussed this document at the request of Cllr. Harvey.

It was felt that further information should be obtaining on the scoring system, as few Category B Buckingham residents seemed to progress to the Category A which made them eligible for housing. Without local allocation of housing, Buckingham

residents would look further afield to where housing was more easily available, to the long-term detriment of the town. Members would also like clarification of the extent of 'local' – did this mean the town or the district?

A letter would be sent to Aylesbury Vale with these views and queries.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

*Cllr. Newell left to attend another meeting during the following item.*

**884/11 Consultation: Areas of Focus for a Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Members felt that the consultation was shallow and leant towards blaming individuals for their poor health rather than considering that environmental factors, such as poor housing or fuel poverty, might contribute.

It was not clear how the division of health services between the NHS and the County would affect the strategy and little attention had been given to the importance of employment for mental health. Leisure facilities concentrated on sport – cultural aspects were equally important. The Community Health services would not be bound by 'free at the point of service' as the NHS is, and some areas might be charged for; more information was needed on this point.

Reference was made to the Buckingham Way, and it would be of interest to find out their views on the consultation, as well as that of AVALC in respect of the rural parishes.

A majority of Members were generally in favour of these views; a letter would also be sent about the Community Health question and how it was to be resourced

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**885/11 New Homes Bonus Scheme – Allocations**

To note the information for AVDC and BCC, circulated at Cllr. Harvey's request.

Noted. AVDC was one of the highest, after Metropolitan Boroughs. It was reported that MK were distributing a proportion of the NHB to individual parishes.

**886/11 Chairman's Announcements**

886.1 The status of Fair Trade Town had been renewed; the certificate would be displayed in the Chamber window. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

886.2 Members were reminded of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the Wednesday.

**887/11 Dates of next meetings**

Annual Town Meeting	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
Annual Statutory Meeting	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
Full Council	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
Interim Council	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2012

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

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