

Minutes of an **Interim Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7.10pm following the Informal Meeting, on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. H. Cadd  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell (Mayor)  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue (Deputy Mayor)  
 Cllr. M. Smith  
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. W. Whyte  
 For the Town Clerk: Mrs. K. McElligott  
 Committee Clerk: Mrs.C. Bolton

#### **746/12 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. G. Collins and Try. 746.1 The Mayor reminded all Councillors of the need to treat other Councillors and our staff with dignity and respect, and amongst other things that means not speaking when another Councillor is speaking, and not to make derogatory comments in meetings even if as an aside.

#### **747/12 Declarations of Interest**

The Mayor declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5, Admissions Policy, Royal Latin School as a Governor, Trustee and Director. It was **AGREED** to move the item to the end of the meeting.

#### **748/12 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 had been ratified on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012; the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 meeting was not held due to lack of urgent business.

#### **749/12 Consultation: Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment**

Councillors discussed the consultation and **AGREED** that as the majority of the questions required a factual response, that the form be completed by the office and returned.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

#### **750/12 Chair's Announcements**

750.1 The Mayor notified Councillors that as a Christmas meal had not been arranged for the end of 2012, Cllr. Isham had proposed a gathering over the coming weeks. Councillors briefly discussed venues, including Beales Hotel which had good disabled access. The Mayor requested that suggestions for other venues be emailed to Councillor Isham who would then circulate Members with details.

**ACTION ALL MEMBERS/CLLR. ISHAM**

750.2 Rotary Swimathon. The Mayor appealed for volunteers to form part of a Town Council team. Cllr. Mordue explained that a relay team of 3 meant that each

Councillor would only have to swim one length in three and 50% of sponsorship money would go to the charity of their choice with the remaining 50% going to Rotary Swimathon Charities. He himself was participating and would appreciate help. Any Members wishing to take part should contact Cllr. Mordue.

**ACTION ALL MEMBERS**

**751/12 Dates of next meetings**

Full Council - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
 Interim Council - Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

*The Mayor left the meeting.  
 Cllr. O'Donoghue took the Chair*

**752/12 Consultation: Royal Latin School: Proposed Admissions Policy September 2014.**

Councillors held a long discussion over the proposed admissions policy, how Bucks. County Council currently handles admissions testing, and proposed changes from 2014. The admission test allows selection for all 13 Grammar School in the County. Cllr. Mordue reported that BCC's website said that the tests would be conducted by an independent body – the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University – though the RLS's own document maintained that BCC would be administering the test on its behalf.

Councillors also discussed the qualifying score for admission (121 points), and the effects of the selection process on children in the locality of Buckingham and surrounding villages. It was felt that this number was arbitrary.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith, that the Town Council wishes that the Royal Latin School ensures that implementation of the admissions policy at primary level is fully funded from the resources allocated to the school by the Department for Education and no other public resources (e.g. County Council resources) are used to enact this policy.

The motion was **AGREED** by vote.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Collins, that the entrance point score be lowered from 121 to 110 to ensure the Royal Latin School demonstrates an inclusive admissions policy for all local children.

An amendment proposed by Cllr. Whyte and seconded by Cllr Strain-Clark that the School explain the basis for the 121 score, and justify it as the optimum level to select children from Buckingham and the immediate area was carried.

An alternative motion proposed by Cllr. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury that a compromise admission points figure of 115 be set and incorporating Cllr. Whyte's amendment above in order to allow more local children access to the RLS was defeated by vote.

Councillor Stuchbury requested that the response advocate that point 6 of the proposed admission policy also include any child who is a registered carer.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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