

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment, Property & Health Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 15th July 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. H. Cadd	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	(Vice Chairman)
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	(Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. C. Bolton	Committee Clerk

214/13 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Whyte and late arrival from Cllr Stuchbury.

215/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Collins declared an interest in item 19.2 (Correspondence ref Church).

216/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2013 ratified at Full Council on 24th June 2013 were received and accepted. There were no matters arising.

217/13 Action Report

The Action report was noted. The Green Spaces Manager informed Members that work on the East Chapel (868/11) would start in approximately three weeks.

Cllr Stuchbury arrived during the following item

218/13 Strategic Direction for Cemetery Provision

A written report from the Green Spaces Manager was received. Councillors discussed that with the town growing in size, developers should be approached for assistance in funding future provision. Cllr Harvey commented that the public should be consulted on such a fundamental issue; the long term future of burial space in the town, expansion for which would be required in under 5 years' time.

Councillors **AGREED** that a decision should be postponed whilst a number of additional proposals were investigated, including funding from the New Homes Bonus project and land provision schemes.

Cllr Newell left during the following item

219/13 Reviewing the definition of ‘Rural Crime’ as formulated by Thames Valley Police.

A paper from Cllr Harvey was received. Councillors considered what the Committee felt the differences were between urban and rural policing and whether that had been formulated in the Police Crime Commissioner’s Plan. Councillors also discussed what may constitute a rural or urban area and how that should be interpreted in the policy’s definition.

The Environment, Property and Health Committee **RECOMMEND** that the Town Council express a view to the Police and Crime Commissioner to further consider the definition of rural crime and re-address the balance of living in isolated rural areas as opposed to a rural market town.

220/13 Budgets

The Budget reports were received. Cllr Stuchbury requested an update on account code 901/9026, Trim Trail. The Chairman advised that this amount was earmarked for parks enhancement. The Green Spaces Manager would provide a report to the next meeting on possible Trim Trail equipment.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER/SEPTEMBER AGENDA

221/13 Devolved Services

(82/13) A written report from the Green Spaces Manager was received. Councillors commented that the current charge rate for the Town Council’s grounds maintenance team was low and should be re-visited.

Councillors expressed concern that more services may be devolved to the responsibility of the Town Council, and that it should ensure that a reasonable charge for services were agreed and maintained.

Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk continue discussions with Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council; to consider and agree future devolved services that the Town Council may be expected to take on.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Councillors agreed to move item 19.2 to be included in the following item

222/13 Bristle Hill Land Ownership

222.1(734/12) Members received a reply from the Local Area Technician, who had confirmed the area in question remained the responsibility of the Highways for the purposes of maintenance.

Councillors expressed frustration that ownership of the land in question had still not been confirmed; though it did appear that a local resident had made an application to Land Registry.

Councillors also queried how Highways would maintain the tree, surround and bench on the land, and whether a tree preservation order should be requested; due to the historical significance of the tree.

The Green Spaces Manager would progress the queries with AVDC.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

222.2 An email with reference to the grassed area at the Church was received.

Councillors discussed the issue of the ownership of the land known as Church Green around the Church. It was pointed out that 2 different County Council departments had given conflicting information about the ownership of the land.

Reverend Pearson-Gee had also expressed concern at installing posts alongside the west road .

Councillors **AGREED** that further enquiries about the ownership of the land should be progressed, and that for the time being putting posts in to deter parking on the grass would be postponed.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

Agenda order was resumed

223/13 Circular Walk Path

A response from TfB was received. The Green Spaces Manager advised Members that he had not been able to find any documents held by the Town Council regarding ownership of the Circular Walk Path. Councillors discussed the continuing deterioration of the path and **AGREED** that temporary repairs should be made, utilising funds in account 901/9029 which had been earmarked for that purpose.

The Green Spaces Manager would continue to progress a substantive reply on the ownership.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

224/13 NHS Clinical Response

(83/13) Councillors received a written response from Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group and were pleased to note that the AVCG would be revising their policies.

Councillors **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write and thank the AVCG for their response and request the revised policies when available.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

225/13 Aylesbury Vale Youth Action Project in Bourton Park

The Green Spaces Manager informed Councillors of the forthcoming community project in Bourton Park where pupils from the Royal Latin School had been invited, with the assistance of Jeremy Turner (local wood carver) to carve some fence posts and a picnic bench in the park. A mural to the underside of the bridge was also being painted. The work would take place as part of the multi-agency projects on weeks commencing Monday 5th and 12th of August.

226/13 Buckingham Wildlife Project

Cllr Newell had left the meeting, but the Chairman passed on information about forthcoming events.

Guided tree walk on 17th July from 7-9pm

Underwater Safari on 20th July 10.30am – 12.30pm

Walk back in time Sunday 4th August 10.30am – 12.30pm

227/13 Property Walkabout II

Members received and thanked Cllr Smith for his report. The Green Spaces Manager would add the new items to the schedule of work.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

228/13 A-board – Flutter Buys

A written request was received. Councillors **AGREED** the request on the condition that the sign be positioned adjacent to the shop premises and not on the kerbside; and that the shop owner keep a log of any complaints received.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

229/13 Bowls Club Rent Review

(94/13) A written report from the Green Spaces Manager was received. Members **AGREED** an increase of 10% to the rent over the next 3 years.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

230/13 Environment Agency Consultation

A news release from the Environment Agency was noted.

231/13 Voluntary Green Space Wardens

To be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: SEPTEMBER AGENDA

232/13 Correspondence

232.1 An email for information from Buckingham Tennis Club was noted.

232.2 email re grassed area at Church - see minute 222.2.

233/13 News releases

1. Debate to be started about cemetery provision.
2. New signs out regarding dog bins and explanation.
3. Town asset inspections.

234/13 Chair’s Announcements

A report written by Sir Bruce Keogh on the high death rates in 14 NHS hospitals was due out on Tuesday 16th July and would highlight failings in Stoke Mandeville and High Wycombe hospitals. A full enquiry into emergency health care in the Wycombe area was due out in September 2013.

235/13 Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 2nd September 2013.

Meeting closed at: 8.35pm

Chairman..... Date.....