

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment, Property & Health Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 21st October 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:	Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
	Cllr. H. Cadd	
	Cllr. P. Hirons	
	Cllr. D. Isham	(Vice Chairman)
	Cllr. A. Mahi	
	Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Mayor
	Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
	Cllr. W. Whyte	
	In attendance:	Mr. L. Phillips
Mr. R. Robson		Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Bolton		Committee Clerk

Councillors observed a minute's silence before the meeting as a mark of respect for Mr Dennis Foote, previous Mayor of the town from 1994 to 1997; who had recently passed away.

456/13 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs Harvey, Collins and Smith.

457/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Hirons and Whyte declared a personal interest in item 6 – Church Hill Ownership.

458/13 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2013, ratified at Full Council on the 30th September 2013.

AGREED

459/13 Action Reports

Members received the Action reports.

223/13 Circular Walk Path repairs – the Green Spaces Manager reported that supplier pricing had been very high, therefore repairs would be carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Team.

856/12 War Memorial – The Mayor commented that works carried out to the new bollards and paving looked very good, and had made a big difference to the appearance of the memorial. The Green Spaces Manager reported that there may be funds remaining at the end of the works to complete further cleaning works required.

338/12 Cllr Stuchbury requested an update on the re-tendering of the Grounds Works Contract. The Green Spaces Manager reported he intended to re-new for the following year and then go to a full tender process for 2015.

Members briefly deviated from Agenda order

Cllr Stuchbury reported to Members that the Town Centre and Events Committee were looking at further projects to address some of the general maintenance items required about the town; and hoped that the TC&E and Environment, Property and Health Committee could work together to use some of the limited funds from both Committees to improve those areas in need around the town.

460/13 Budgets

Members received the budget reports for information, and held a brief discussion on whether the budgets were on course to be spent by the end of 2014. The Green Spaces Manager commented that the budgets should fulfil the expected spend.

Cllr Mahi questioned whether the grit and salt bins were all in place and ready for the winter season. The Green Spaces Manager reported that all requests had been fulfilled, and that one further bin was required on Western Avenue. Cllr Whyte commented that all bins should have a sign on them saying they were for public use. The Green Spaces Manager would check all bins.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

461/13 Church Hill Ownership

(222/13+337/13) Councillors received and discussed an email from Reverend Pearson-Gee and Sean Rooney at Bucks County Council regarding the conflicting opinions over the ownership of the land. Members **AGREED** that Cllrs Whyte and Stuchbury would progress with Anne Davis, Legal and Democratic Services at County to seek a resolution.

ACTION: CLLRS WHYTE AND STUCHBURY

462/13 Cemetery

462.1 (344/13) Members received a written report from the Green Spaces Manager; detailing pricing for a replacement path. The Green Spaces Manager advised Councillors that the pricing was subject to surveys and a full tender process. Members discussed that if they agreed the recommendation that the cost may have to be split over two financial years.

Proposed by Cllr Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr Newell and **AGREED** that all paths in the cemetery be replaced and that monies be set aside in earmarked reserves for the replacement footpath, as per the report recommendation.

462.2 (218/13) Members received a written report from the Green Spaces Manager regarding provision of a new cemetery. Councillors discussed the report and various options for a new provision, or that of re-use. Councillors also considered that although the proposed new site appeared a good option, a degree of caution should be urged and further research carried to look at the position of the site (on the extremity of the town), access from the main road, and how the site would fit with the emerging Buckingham

Neighbourhood Development Plan. Members also briefly discussed the allotment provision, both existing and proposed.

Proposed by Cllr Strain-Clark, seconded by Bloomfield and unanimously **AGREED** in principle that further burial provision will be needed and that the office does continue to investigate feasible options and the means of obtaining funding be looked into.

462.3 Members received a report from the Green Spaces Manager regarding repairs required at the cemetery lodge, and **AGREED** the recommendation therein.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

463/13 Chandos Park

(732/12+343/13) Councillors received and discussed a tender document detailing replacement footpath works. Members considered the advantages and disadvantages of both types of material quoted in relation to the use on a footpath where tree roots could grow through and disrupt the surfaces. Members unanimously **AGREED** to proceed with Company B, option 1, Paved.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

464/13 Roundabout Sponsorship

(345/13) Members received further information regarding Bucks County Council Sponsorships to roundabouts. Members discussed the current sponsors of the town's roundabouts and the companies on the waiting list; also that local companies on the waiting list should be given preference to sponsor roundabouts. It was further discussed that sponsorship fees on 2 of the town's roundabouts had been static since 2004, and a further 1 since 2008.

Members **AGREED** increases to be applied - Roundabouts 1 and 2 should be increased by 20%, Roundabout 7 a 10% increase and the remainder 5%; and then a % incremental yearly increase linked to the RPI thereafter.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

465/13 Buckingham Local Priorities Refresh Workshop – LAF

Councillors received an invitation and confirmed that Cllr Harvey was the local representative to attend. Councillors discussed a number of issues affecting the town that could be presented, and agreed the following be tabled –

1. Town Centre parking – on street.
2. To look at ways of supporting local trade as a key local priority.
3. Speeding and speed limits, particularly in the conservation area.

466/13 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

The Mayor reported from a meeting that had taken place immediately prior to the EP&H committee meeting. There had been good attendance at the meeting from the Railway Walk Conservation Group, Maids Moreton Conservation Group, The Buckingham Society and the Buckingham Canal Society. The Mayor reported that the Festival of Ecology Event had been

very successful and varied in theme. An Owl event had been very popular, attended by up to 130 visitors – it was hoped to repeat a similar event.

The Railway Walk Conservation Group had reported pond levels up and they were currently working on the Orchard's Trees. They had appealed for more volunteers.

The Green Spaces Manager reported that a survey carried out on the ponds and streams in Bourton Park and the Heartlands had revealed 9 different species of fish; there was also a proposal to refurbish the otter pool with stepping stones and a pond dipping platform.

467/13 News releases

None

468/13 Chair's Announcements

None

469/13 Date of Next Meeting.

9th December 2013.

Meeting closed at: 8.20pm

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