

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 8.15pm following the Annual Statutory Meeting.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. H. Cadd  
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
 Cllr. P. Collins  
 Cllr. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. D. Isham  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue Town Mayor  
 Cllr. M. Smith  
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try  
 Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk  
 Mrs. K. McElligott for the Committee Clerk

**9/14 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**10/14 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs. Stuchbury & Whyte declared an interest in agenda item 10 (Min.18/14) as County Councillors, though neither had been consulted on the matter.

**11/14 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (**BTC/12/13**).

**AGREED**

**12/14 Extraordinary Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (**BTC/13/13**).

**AGREED**

**13/14 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (**PL/13/13**) and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (**PL/14/13**).

**AGREED**

828/13 Proposed by Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Smith and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to proceed with the BNDP once boundaries have been re-drawn and to proceed to pre-submission stage and submit to AVDC.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Mahi and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that in light of the ongoing work required on the BNDP Ms McMurtrie be

employed on a consultancy or ad hoc basis by Buckingham Town Council (budget 901/9032).

**AGREED**

Cllr. Mordue noted that if housing numbers in the VALP change, the Neighbourhood Plan could fail; Cllr. Stuchbury pointed out that VAP failed for lack of co-operation with neighbouring authorities, not on housing numbers. He asked for the relevant information sheet to be circulated.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

The latest edition of DIS had reported the Secretary of State as seeing no reason why Neighbourhood Plans should not go forward in the absence of a District Plan.

The Town Clerk then gave a short report on the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan hearing held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and his subsequent checking of housing numbers proposed in the BNDP. Cllr. Stuchbury from experience elsewhere in his Division warned that developers were exploiting the absence of the VAP.

887.3/13 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council discuss the principle of District Councillor representation, especially in cases where that Councillor's views differed from the Planning Committee's, and whether the drawing-up of a Protocol for such eventualities would be appropriate.

Members discarded the suggestion that a lay member of the community could be asked to represent the Town Council at DCC; even if the person was adequately briefed, there was not the accountability of an elected representative.

**AGREED**

A protocol would be drafted and brought to the Planning Committee.

**ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

*The meeting was suspended for five minutes at this point.*

**14/14 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (TCE/07/13).

**AGREED**

**15/14 Environment and Property Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 (EP/0713).

**AGREED**

873/13 Proposed by Cllr Isham, seconded by Cllr Harvey and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that all Councillors consider taking on an area of the town to audit quarterly and report back on.

Cllr. Whyte advocated individual reporting of faults, as the number of reports affected the priority for repair and the aim was to fix not monitor problems. Cllr. Stuchbury concurred, adding that a photo and an accurate description of the fault and its location was helpful. Cllr. Isham felt that it was better to collate the reports via the Town Audit for sending to the appropriate Authority.

The Recommendation was **AGREED**.

**16/14 Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meetings held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014. (FAP/07/13 & FAP/08/13).

**AGREED**

842.2 Proposed by Cllr Mahi, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **RECOMMENDED** that the full version of revised Standing Orders be reviewed and adopted at Full Council

**AGREED**

**17/14 Motions from Councillors:**

**17.1** Cllr. Newell: That an Action List be maintained for Full Council items so that results can be tracked and delays noted.

**AGREED**

**17.2** Cllr. Smith: That recent Mayors who have not provided a photograph for the Chamber wall be encouraged to do so.

Cllr. Smith withdrew his motion, as several of the recent Mayors had attended a photo session the previous Friday.

**17.3** Cllr. Stuchbury: That the Town Clerk provide an update on the installation of toilets at Cornwall's Meadow.

The Town Clerk described the discussions with AVDC resulting from concerns expressed by Cllrs. Mordue and Mills. BCC, who own the road as far as the pumping station have no objections to the layout but AVDC have raised many questions, despite Cllr. Roberts having backed the plan. Difficulties centred on the new path from the green bridge and the road crossing to the Community Centre side. The Deputy Town Clerk was currently looking into safe access for the disabled. District Councillors complained that they had not been kept informed; the Town Clerk understood that Mr. Szalay had circulated all. A meeting needed to be set up with District and County Councillors and representatives from AVDC and BCC's Place Service to move the matter along to planning application stage. Cllr. Whyte would like to see some plans and layouts and discuss the design. Cllr. Strain-Clark hoped that the disabled facilities would include provision for older children and adults, and noted that the website "Changing Places" listed no such provision anywhere in the Vale, a disgrace for the home of the Paralympics.

**17.4** Cllr. Stuchbury: That AVDC be contacted regarding the state of Buckingham Bus Station, as it is of inadequate size to accommodate all passengers in inclement weather; that Members agree to ask for a study to be carried out on the transport needs of Buckingham and its increasing population and number of bus routes now using the bus stop; why there has been no investment by the District Council in the facilities provided in the High Street area since the remodelling of the Cattle Pens area some twenty years ago when a considerable sum is being spent on Aylesbury Town Centre; and using the results of the study to seek an upgrade of the transport hub of the northern Vale using New Homes Bonus funds.

Members were informed that a larger shelter had been promised, but AVDC had decided that cleaning the existing one was all that was required. Cllr. Stuchbury said that the existing one was inadequate to the numbers of travellers, especially in bad weather.

Cllr. Whyte was investigating the use of s106 monies designated for bus improvements to fund a larger – or additional – bus shelter. He felt that increasing the frequency of the 60 to half-hourly was less of a priority (extending the 60's hours of operation was also being advocated).

**17.5** Cllr. Stuchbury: To ask for an update on the open space/playing fields on Lace Hill.

Members felt that the only way to ensure public access and use of the land was for the area containing the two playing pitches and pavilion (only; not any other green areas of the estate) to become an Asset of Community Value operated and maintained by the Town Council. Councillors had previously agreed to its registration as such; the Town Clerk asked for instructions to investigate purchase.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, that the Town Clerk be commissioned to carry on negotiations with the developer with the aim of retaining the land for community use, and bring a business case back to the Council for discussion.

Cllr. Collins proposed that the designation of Asset of Community Value also be pursued; Cllr. Harvey was happy to accept this addition to his proposal.

**AGREED**

#### **18/14 (899/13) Grenville School land**

Members had been circulated with the Board of Education's deed dated 1907 and other requested information.

It was felt that, as the original 19 Governors had been nominated by 5 different bodies, all of which still existed (the County Council, the Town Council, the General Charities) or had a successor body (the Rural District Council – AVDC – and the Hebdomadal Council of Oxford University – the University Council) the Trustees for the new Trust should have broader representation than just BCC nominees, though a smaller number was acceptable. Members were strongly of the opinion that at least one Trustee should be a Town Council representative.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **19/14 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan**

Following on from his brief report at 13/14, the Town Clerk said that he felt the housing figures in the Plan could be justified even if VALP increased the target. 8% of the total could be accommodated in Buckingham, taking into consideration current and approved applications.

He then further described the Inspection meeting at Winslow which he had found informative, especially as regards the process, and had met the Inspector. Two developers had employed barristers. The Examination Report was due before the end of the month, and then they could proceed to the referendum. This could be one of the first Plans to be tested against the lack of a Local Plan.

The re-consultation on the Plan area closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, and would be followed by a "health check" for two weeks. The Clerk and the Planning Clerk were meeting Forward Plans officers in Aylesbury on 12<sup>th</sup> June, part of the evidence base showing close working with the Planning Authority.

#### **20/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies 2014-15**

The following changes were agreed:

**20.1** AVALC: Cllr. Harvey with Cllr. Strain-Clark as deputy;

**20.2** AV Local Strategic Partnership; Cllr. Hirons queried whether this met. Cllr Whyte said it met twice a year, and was under threat of being subsumed into the LEP. Cllr. Harvey was a member via AVALC and would send contact details to Cllr Hirons.

**ACTION CLLR. HARVEY**

**20.3** Buckingham Partnership: this had not met for some time, and Members felt that it was a useful forum for Buckingham-centric ideas, including as it did the Buckingham Society, the Church, the University and the Police. The Clerk was asked to seek information from AVDC on why meetings had lapsed.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Whyte, and **AGREED** that the Town Council call a meeting, inviting the Chief Executives of the District and County Councils to attend.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**20.4** Buckingham Youth Centre: Cllr. Harvey to remain and Cllr. Mrs Collins to replace the Mayor.

**20.5** Christmas Parade Committee: add Cllr. Try

**20.6** Green Buckingham Group: remove Cllr. Smith

**20.7** Licensing Forum: no longer in this format. Remove from list.

20.8 Tree Wardens/Tree Sub-committee: add Cllr. Strain-Clark

20.9 Twinning Association: add Cllr. Strain-Clark

**21/14 Attendance Figures 2013-14**

Noted. Two Members reported errors.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

**22/14 Invitations**

22.1 SAVE: Eco-homes event - 31<sup>st</sup> May/1<sup>st</sup> June

22.2 AVDC: Meet the Cabinet: Cllr. Hirons agreed to represent the Town Council at this event – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 6.30pm in The Oculus

**TOWN CLERK TO BOOK PLACE**

**23/14 Correspondence**

23.1 Thames Valley Police: Community policing award: to discuss and agree any nomination

Members made no suggestions.

23.2 Rural Services Network: to discuss and agree a representative to the Sounding Board

Cllr. Harvey volunteered.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

23.3 AVDC: update on parking charges trial

Members criticised the lack of supporting data or evidence of consultation with, for example, the traders, and asked for details to be sought. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

A question was asked about free passes for the car parks; these were issued to District Councillors and officers according to job requirements.

23.4 The Prime Minister: tax cut

BALC had reported that this was not applicable to local councils and consequently were in correspondence with No.10.

23.5 Mrs. Robinson: a letter of appreciation

The Mayor would reply.

**ACTION THE MAYOR**

*The Mayor, having noted the proximity to 10.00pm, asked if Members were willing to continue past the hour; Members declined. The following items were therefore requested to be brief.*

**24/14 Reports from District & County Members**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported from BCC Education Scrutiny that details of *Narrowing the Gap* and *Young People, Ready for Work* were on County's website.

Cllr. Whyte advocated more use of the Library where many special events were held, noting particularly the recent display of archives and local history. These helped to maintain the service. Saturday afternoons were lightly used.

There was also a new enquiry into public transport in the County.

**25/14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

25.1 Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group

Minutes 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014

25.2 Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust

Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013

25.3 Buckingham Twinning Association

Winter Newsletter

and Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

25.4 Destination Buckingham Group

Meeting notes 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014

25.5 Neighbourhood Action Group

Minutes 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

Members noted the reports.

Cllr. Hirons asked for copies of the Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust's lists of grants made, and the 2013 accounts mentioned in the minutes.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

**26/14 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements**

Members noted the information

**27/14 Chair's Announcements**

None

**28/14 Dates of next meetings**

Interim Council – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Full Council – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked the outgoing Mayor for her service, and recommended a news release to this effect, and welcoming the new Mayor. **AGREED. ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Meeting closed at: 10.00pm

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor