

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

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

**Invited guests** Mr. R. Colson } Taylor Wimpey  
 Ms. E. Walton }  
 Mr. R. Swan Robert Swan Architects  
 Mr. V. Duckworth } Hallam Land Management  
 Mr. A. Birch }  
 Mr. G. Armstrong } Armstrong Rigg  
 Mr. R. Welchman }

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

Members stood for a minute in silence in memory of the recently deceased ex-Councillor Eric Evill.

#### 124/14 Apologies for Absence

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins, Cllr. H. Mordue and Cllr. Ms. R. Newell.

#### 125/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Isham declared an interest in Agenda 19 (Min.142);  
 Cllr. Mahi declared an interest in Agenda 13.1 (Min.136.1);  
 Cllr. Lehmann declared an interest in Agenda 13.4 (Min.136.4).

#### 126/14 Annual Statutory Meeting Minutes

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (BTC/01/14).

#### 127/14 Full Council Minutes

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (BTC/02/14).

**128/14 Extraordinary Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (BTC/03/14).

**129/14 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 after adding Cllr. Isham to the attendance list (PL/01/14)

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes and confirm the Recommendation below of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 after adding Cllr. Isham to the attendance list (PL/02/14)

**101/14** The draft Protocol on Representation at DCC/SDCC meetings was **RECOMMENDED** to the Council for acceptance.

**130/14 Environment Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 (E/01/14).

**131/14 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (TCE/01/14).

**132/14 Resources Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive and accept the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (R/01/14).

**133/14 Motions to Council**

Cllr. Harvey proposed and described the reasons for the following motions:

133.1 Following Ed Grimsdale's excellent article in the Buckingham Advertiser about Dr De'ath and the conference held in Buckingham in 1892 which established community nursing as a progressive approach towards boosting public health for all, this Council agrees to allow the Town Clerk and a named Councillor (to be agreed) to explore the possibility of convening a 'Festival of Health' on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2017) of this conference, in partnership with the County Council (and others as appropriate).

Cllr. Stuchbury seconded the motion. Members discussed whether there would be much public interest, and how wide-ranging the event should be. The District Council might also be interested in participating.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to look into such an event, Cllr. Hirons abstaining.  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

133.2 This Council asks the Town Clerk to prepare a short report on the viability of supporting the establishment of (a) 20mph zone/s within Buckingham to reduce pollution and improve road safety (among other outcomes) and recommend ways forward that the Town Council might take.

Cllr. Harvey reported that a petition bearing 104 signatures had been submitted to the LAF seeking such a restriction on West Street and Brackley Road. Members discussed whether a 20mph limit would increase congestion and pollution in the town centre, though it was felt that it would be useful outside schools and in some of the housing estates. The difference in injuries caused by a vehicle travelling at 20mph and one travelling at 30mph was significant. Cllr. Stuchbury seconded the motion.

Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Cadd, proposed an amendment that substituted County Council for Town Council in the wording of the motion.

Cllr. Whyte pointed out that it was the perception of speed, not the actual speed, that caused concern; furthermore the change had been suggested by the County Council not long ago and rejected by the Council (FC12/8/13 Min.287 & Planning 9/9/13 Min.370.1/13). No budget was allocated, and a 20mph zone would need repeater signs throughout the zone at a time when the Councils were working to reduce signage in the town. The weight of daytime traffic meant that speeding was only really a problem very late or very early. However, policy on speed restrictions around schools was easier to implement though he had seen no complaints.

A recorded vote was called for. Cllr. Whyte declared an interest as a County Councillor and abstained.

For Cllr. Collins' amended wording:

Cllrs. Bloomfield, Cadd, Collins, Hiron, Mahi, Try (6)

Against: Cllrs. Harvey, Isham, Lehmann, O'Donoghue, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury (7)

The amendment having fallen, the original motion was voted on and carried 7 : 6, Cllr. Whyte abstaining.

### **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

133.3 The council asks the Town Clerk to investigate the background to the recent referendum in Fylde Borough which requires the Council to abandon Cabinet style governance and return to a committee structure for making decisions: <http://www.fylde.gov.uk/news/2014/may/230515referendum/> (news item here: <http://www.localgov.co.uk/Fylde-to-abolish-cabinet-system-following-referendum/36397>) Then to return to this Council with a report outlining options for Buckingham Town Council as to whether we should initiate and lead a campaign to do something similar here.

Cllr. Stuchbury seconded the motion. Cllr. Harvey explained that he felt Cabinet governance took power away from local councils and a committee structure was more democratic. Other Councillors thought that a Cabinet allowed strong government, or that such changes were better instigated by private citizens than by the Town Council; experience with other Council structures showed that Select Committees were able to investigate matters in depth, while Scrutiny Committees + Cabinet government could be toothless.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed an amendment which advocated holding action over until AVDC had debated this on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and if no modifications were agreed to proceed.

Cllr. Harvey seconded this and offered to withdraw his motion and bring it back at a later date.

Members **AGREED**.

Proposed by Cllr Newell:

133.4 (Min. 17.2/14) "This Council agrees to bring up to date the Chamber display of photographs of Buckingham Town Mayors by adding pictures of Councillors Cadd, Smith, Newell and O'Donoghue; the cost of £52.30 each, including frames (total £209.20 excl VAT) being met from contingency funds if no other budget can be identified".

In the absence of Cllr. Newell, this motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue and seconded by Cllr. Smith.

Cllr. Collins pointed out that it had been the custom for outgoing Mayors to present a portrait to the Council, funding it from their allowance. Other Councillors also felt that it was up to the individuals as to whether they did this, though some thought there should be a complete record for posterity.

A recorded vote was called for.

For the motion: Cllrs. Cadd, Harvey, Isham, O'Donoghue, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Try (8)

Against: Cllrs. Bloomfield, Collins, Hirons, Lehmann, Mahi, Whyte (6)

The motion was therefore carried.

**ACTION CLLR. NEWELL**

**134/14 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan documents had been circulated separately by email.

134.1 Sustainability Appraisal

134.2 Site Assessment

134.3 Evidence Base

The Town Clerk outlined the changes and the likely timetable following Council approval of the documents.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, that the documents as circulated be accepted; he thanked the officers, consultees and Councillors for their efforts in the production and research involved. Cllr. Hirons seconded the proposal and Cllr. Harvey called for a recorded vote.

For approval of the Plan documents: Cllrs. Bloomfield, Cadd, Harvey, Hirons, Isham, Mahi, O'Donoghue, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Try, Whyte (12)

Against (0)

Abstentions: Cllr. Collins and Cllr. Lehmann.

The Neighbourhood Plan documents were therefore **AGREED**

**ACTION TOWN CLERK/TOWN PLAN OFFICER**

*Mrs. McMurtrie left the meeting.*

**135/14 Annual Return year ended 31 March 2014**

To receive and agree the Annual Accounts return as follows:

135.1.1 Section 1 – Accounting statements 2013/2014

135.1.2 Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2013/2014

**AGREED** and signed by the Mayor.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

*Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the guests to address the meeting.*

**136/14 Developer Presentations (10 mins. allowed each)**

136.1 Taylor Wimpey – land north of Tingewick Road (former industrial park)

A drawing had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. Colson explained that he had sought pre-application advice from AVDC and had hoped to have had a response in time for this meeting. He was waiting for agreement on a revised layout and a new design for the flats – AVDC had recommended he use the block on Moreton Road Phase I as an exemplar. The additional street scene requested by Members would be provided with the new application. A Riverside Walk was also planned, but could not be linked up with the existing part behind Fishers Field as the land between was not in their ownership. BCC were happy with there being a footpath on one side of the road. No details of the playground were yet available.

Members commented as follows:

The Affordable units should be spread throughout the estate, not all in one area. *[Groups of approx. 5 units are preferred for ease of management: RC].*

The issue with the block of flats was that it was at the entrance; the Moreton Road flats are within the housing and not visible from the main road

The developers should be proactive and design a feature block of flats for the entrance, not defer to AVDC and copy an existing block.

The site was ideal for elderly people wishing to downsize, being within walking distance of the town centre.

#### 136.2 Robert Swan – land at Brackley Road

Mr. Swan had supplied a folder of sketches for circulation with the agenda. The plan was for affordable sustainable housing of various sizes on a site fronting on to the Brackley Road beyond Cox and Robinson, with allotments, a community store, a central square suitable for events and parking on a perimeter road. The site was triangular with streams on the other two boundaries. Housing groups would have green areas between them, and all had a south-facing aspect and solar gain panels on the roof.

Members noted that additional service roads ran behind all the houses, though reservations were expressed about the parking bays being remote from the houses. The sustainable principles of the design were liked.

A local Housing Association to manage the development was requested.

#### 136.3 Hallam - land south of Tingewick Road

An indicative drawing was circulated at the meeting of a proposal for the land north and south of the Tingewick Road west of the old railway line. There would be 50 houses including 15 self-build plots on the northern site and 400 houses on the southern. They had responded to matters raised at the public exhibition including pedestrian & cycle links to the town and vehicle access onto Gawcott Road, and had discussed additional cemetery and allotment provision with the BTC Green Spaces Manager.

Members expressed concerns about possible archaeological remains, particularly round the Well, and maintaining views of the Church from this approach to the town. It was also hoped to receive finished plans, not an accumulation of amendments.

The developer would take the lead from AVDC, but it was likely that the Affordable housing would be in groups of 15-20.

#### 136.4 Bellway – land behind Moreton Road estate

Mr. Armstrong noted that this area was not designated for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan, but it was a natural extension to Phases I & II. Over 100 people had attended the public exhibition; their main concerns had been traffic and drainage.

Mr. Welchman said that they were looking to an Outline Application for 150 houses on the southern part, and – having noted the sports provision deficit in the town - sports pitches on the northern part.

There would be no noticeable extra traffic as a travel plan similar to that designed for Phases I & II would be put in place.

Members were very critical of the scheme, which besides being proposed for space not allocated for housing, was unimpressive in architecture and design. The development would be even more remote from the town centre than previous phases and there was no proof of the effectiveness of the existing travel plan.

*The guests and members of the public left the meeting.*

*Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.*

*Cllr. Lehmann left the meeting briefly during the following item.*

#### **137/14 Action List (per Min.17.1/14)**

137.1 To receive the action reports per the attached list.

Noted

137.2 (20.3/14: Buckingham Partnership) Response from AVDC

It was the feeling of the meeting that the LAF had too broad a catchment for useful discussions about Buckingham, and it was unfair to the other parishes if Buckingham matters monopolised the agenda. There was some debate about whether other bodies such as NAGs and Destination Buckingham covered some of the Partnership areas, and whether the Town Council should reinstate Partnership meetings, inviting other Councils and organisations as before.

**138/14 Consultation – Underground gas & oil deposits & geothermal energy**

To discuss and agree a response to NALC Policy Consultation PC08-14

Members agreed that each question should be answered with YES.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**139/14 Consultation – Polling places**

To discuss and agree a response to AVDC's review of certain polling places

The only polling station in question in Buckingham was the Adams Close Scout Hut. Members felt that so long as residents wanted the polling station it should remain in use. Cllr. Collins demurred, feeling that both wards should have a single polling station in the town centre which was convenient for all.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that the additional Buckingham North polling station should remain at Adams Close so long as it was usable, and that Electoral Services should advise the Town Council if they located a suitable alternative venue.

Carried 13 : 1, no abstentions.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**140/14 Consultation – Revised bus service 60**

To discuss and agree any comments on the proposed revisions to the 60 service.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, that the Council wait until after the AVTUG meeting called to discuss this before returning a response.

Members disagreed, noting that, though the surrounding villages might lose some services, Buckingham would be better off, and a better bus shelter with live information was included in the scheme. However, the removal of the 32 service meant that there would be no direct link to the hospital; passengers would have to change in Milton Keynes.

Members expressed themselves as broadly supportive of the change.

An amendment to Cllr. Stuchbury's proposal, by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, that the Council make immediate response was carried 13 : 0 with one abstention.

The substantive proposal was then carried unanimously.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**141/14 Strategic Planning**

To receive an update on the progress of the Town Council's Strategic Planning Meetings.

Noted.

*Cllr. Isham left the meeting for the following item.*

**142/14 Dispensation**

To discuss and decide on Cllr. Isham's application for a dispensation as attached. The Town Clerk explained why the Council needed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Isham and why it was on an AVDC form (it is the monitoring authority for the Code of Conduct).

Members noted that Cllr. Isham was a “Custodian Trustee” which was not included on the form rendering it incorrect. Cllr. Isham was asked to amend the form accordingly and resubmit it.

**ACTION CLLR. ISHAM**

**143/14 Lace Hill open space, pitches & community building**

(Acquisition of the land to the south west of the school as a community asset).

The Town Clerk updated the Council on progress.

Members felt that more information was needed, particularly as regarding costs, before the matter could be discussed properly.

**144/14 Mayor’s Cadet**

Members agreed the appointment provided there was no cost to the Council and no precedent was set.

**ACTION THE MAYOR**

**145/14 Correspondence**

145.1 To receive for information only a letter about the Community Governance Review from AVDC.

145.2 Invitation to TVP Open Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 at Sulhamstead  
Members noted the correspondence

**146/14 Reports from District & County Members**

Cllr. Whyte reported on the Parking Working Group meeting held the previous week, which had been quite well attended. Decreasing the time limit in the High Street from 60 to 30 minutes would increase capacity, and revising the restriction to 8am – 6pm would help residents. He thanked Cllrs. Harvey, Stuchbury and Mills for their help.

He had also registered a call-in for the Minerals and Waste Plan which had not revised source areas to take account of the Neighbourhood Plan and the recent re-watering of the Canal.

Cllr. Stuchbury had supported the call-in in the interests of Buckingham. He reported on the distribution of the Lace Hill s106 education funding, and attendance at various child-related events. He also noted the funding problems at BCC.

The District Council would be considering a motion on Select Committees, which he felt had greater impact than Scrutiny Committees.

**147/14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members noted the reports.

147.1 Ageing Well – Transport Action Group Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

147.2 Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group Minutes of AGM & meeting 3/6/14

147.3 Buckingham Community Centre Minutes 26/9/13, 28/11/13 & 23/1/14

147.4 Buckingham Economic Group Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014

147.5 Destination Buckingham Group Meeting notes 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**148/14 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements**

Members noted the information

**149/14 News Releases**

Members agreed to publicise the adoption of the Plan, and the next stages.

**150/14 Chair’s Announcements**

None

**151/14      Dates of next meetings**  
Interim Council – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
Full Council – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Meeting closed at: 9.35pm

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

Town Mayor