

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 18th August 2014** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

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

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk

252/14 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Cadd, Mills and Smith.

253/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

254/14 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 30th June 2014 (**BTC/04/14**).

Agreed.

255/14 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 28th July 2014 (**IM/01/14**).

Agreed.

256/14 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 7th July 2014 (**PL/03/14**) and Monday 28th July 2014 (**PL/04/14**).

Agreed.

257/14 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 21st July 2014 (**E/02/14**).

Agreed.

Cllr P Collins arrived

258/14 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 14th July 2014 (**TCE/02/14**).

181/14 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **RECOMMENDED** to the Council that costs for replacement flags of St George and new Union and EU flags be found together with the number required and submitted to the Council for sourcing a budget.

Members held a discussion over the quotation supplied with the agenda, commenting that the EU flag cost seemed particularly high; Members discussed delaying the order for all flags until after 18th September, following the result of Scotland's referendum.

An amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr Whyte, seconded by Cllr Collins that the Town Council find a £500 budget and proceed with the United Kingdom English flag and non EU flags was defeated 11:3.

Members voted in favour for the original motion 12:1 with 1 abstention.

The Town Clerk would ask the Events Co-ordinator to revisit the quotes, obtaining further information and bring back to the next Full Council Meeting on 6th October.

ACTION: EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

259/14 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 4th August 2014 (**R/02/14**)

245.1 To receive updated information and agree the Internal Audit Report.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council agree the Internal Audit Report and implement the recommendations therein.

Agreed

Cllr Whyte raised a query from the resulting minutes regarding the agreement of the committee to investigate air conditioning in the Chamber; stating that it would be increasing the Town Council's expenditure and carbon footprint; Cllr Whyte asked for explanation of the rationale behind the decision.

Cllr O'Donoghue explained that the issue of the temperature in the Chamber had been raised on several occasions and there was a need to find a solution for a cooler working environment for meetings.

Cllr Whyte encouraged Councillors to investigate further means of extraction of warm air from the Chamber, rather than installing air conditioning in a small building at a high cost to the tax payer.

260/14 Motion from Cllr. Harvey (postponed from Interim Council 28/7/14)

Proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Whyte, that this Council resolves to request the Town Clerk to explore options (as per our Parks Policy 'F10: The structure of the Heartlands should be improved to allow more variety of use – including more formal planting, an event space, art, etc. – to create a more coherent sense of place rather than just a green space to walk through') for creating an

entertainment / picnic space involving options around a band stand type (modern or traditional) structure and/or terraforming an amphitheatre to be funded by s106 or NHB or such other external monies as can be secured.

Cllr Harvey spoke to his motion above, and spoke of the benefits to the town's people of using an area in the Heartlands, directly behind the Community Centre. To create a long term feature which could be used by all members of the community for events such as children's parties shows, band space, music and theatrical events to name a few. The desire would be to create a modern feature to attract visitors into the town to attend open air events, for the expanding community to bring people together. Funding would be sought from the New Homes Bonus project, other sources, possibly lottery funding. There would not be a requirement from Council Tax funding.

Members **AGREED** the motion, public consultation would be sought through advertising on the Town Council website and through the newsletter.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

261/14 Motion from Cllr Stuchbury Min 217/14 relates

As we were not contacted regarding the consultation in relation to Milton Keynes A&E. The Town Council agrees to write to the Chairman of the Milton Keynes Council Health and Well Being Committee to ask that the consultation process is called in for scrutiny and is re-examined.

Cllr Stuchbury informed Members that the Town Council had not been consulted in the above and that as a body the Town Council should take the lead on the subject. Members **AGREED** that the town's people of Buckingham had not been consulted and Milton Keynes was in fact the nearest A&E department for the town.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

262/14 Motion from Cllr. Stuchbury Fire and Rescue Service

To receive and discuss a response to the attached consultation
Councillors held a discussion about the report contents and generally agreed the report was well thorough, well written and that the 5 main proposals were logical. However Members were very concerned that any privatisation or fragmentation of the service could lead to a negative situation for the town of Buckingham. Members were also concerned that the report did not take into account future projections of housing development projections.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Whyte and **AGREED** that the Town Council notes the report, but remains opposed to any emerging plans that would mean a reduction of any local fire service in Buckingham (given the projected increase in local housing as indicated in the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan, and the local infrastructure growth in the Buckinghamshire half of developments at Silverstone, the HS2 & East/West Rails and the Incinerator). Buckingham Town Council also raised concerns about changes that could mean Buckingham Fire Station becoming more expensive due to the shift towards the Day-crew firefighter staffing model. The Council remains very concerned about any possible plan to privatise front-line fire services.

A recorded vote was requested:

FOR

Cllrs O'Donoghue, Newell, Strain-Clark, Whyte, Harvey, Try, Mahi, Hirons, Bloomfield, Stuchbury, Lehmann, Mordue and Isham

AGAINST
Cllr Collins

263/14 Slade Indoor Bowls Club

To receive and discuss a request for help from AVDC in the matter of the Club's NHB application.

The Town Clerk reported that the bowls club had approached AVDC directly; the email response was from Jan Roffe who administers the New Homes Bonus.

Cllr Stuchbury felt that the involvement of the Town Council on this issue was incorrect; a business case should be put forward for the request to AVDC.

Members discussed that the New Homes Bonus allocation to parishes was fundamentally provided to go to the benefit of the parish population; providing facilities for growing, expanding parishes, and considered the request did not fall within such parameters.

AVDC retain 80% of the bonus for the District Council to use as it sees fit; 20% is allocated for parishes to apply for.

Councillors discussed that the Slade Bowls Club building was part owned by AVDC, as was the land it stood on, therefore Members **AGREED** that the Bowls Club needed to apply direct to the District Council in this case, rather than through the Parish route.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

264/14 Action List

To receive the updated Action List

Letter from Mrs Robinson – The Mayor confirmed she now had the letter and would respond.

ACTION: THE MAYOR

265/14 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk reported that the public consultation period had ended on 12th August. The Administration Assistant was typing up close to 200 comments that had been submitted; the Town Clerk was part way through formulating responses. The document was somewhat involved so would not make it to the agenda for Planning on 26th August; a special meeting would need to be convened.

One significant item that came forward was the possibility of a new site for employment reserve emerging next to the existing industrial estate, running down to Lenborough bridge. The Town Clerk had approached the agent to open discussion. Cllr Whyte thanked the Town Clerk for the good feedback; but expressed caution that the hill fort style of Buckingham should be carefully protected and architecturally dealt with; there was a pronounced ridge line, visible from the A413 that should be taken into consideration.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

266/14 Electoral Review of AVDC

To receive the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission. The sections of the report pertaining to Buckingham are attached; the full report is available from the office or at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

The Town Clerk advised Members that the main amendment was that of no expansion to the number of Councillors was required. There would be 7 for the North Ward, 8 for the South Ward and 1 each for Fishers Field and Highlands Road; the ward would be called Highlands and Watchcroft.

267/14 Consultation

BCC Draft Statement of Community Involvement (response date 28th August)

Members are asked to review the attached document before the meeting to expedite the formulation of the Council's response.

Councillors made comments as follows:

1. Page 9, para 2.20; response times to both local plans and supplementary planning decisions should both be equal; not 6 and 4 weeks as stated.
2. The consultation period should be proportionate to the likely public interest.
3. Page 9, Para 2.23 hard copies should be made available in all major libraries.
4. Paras 3.3, 3.4 Pre-engagement should be followed in all cases. There is clear evidence that this was not the case with the example of the school on the Lace Hill estate.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

268/14 Committee choices 2014-2015

To receive the revised list

Cllr Harvey requested that the Chairs and Vice Chairs be marked up on all committees, including sub committees.

Noted.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

269/14 Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence

270/14 Reports from District & County Members

Cllr Stuchbury reported briefly on the recent negative report on Bucks County Council Children's Services. The recommendations would be shortly reviewed by Bucks County Council Cabinet and then the Education Select Committee.

Cllr Stuchbury then updated Members on the works on the Buckingham bypass. There had been a number of amendments to works due to drainage correction, the new position of the roundabout and replacement tree works. There were still outstanding issues being negotiated with Tesco and Anglian Water. A road closure would shortly be required at London Rd.

Cllr Whyte thanked Cllr Stuchbury for his ongoing commitment to the bypass road works and stated that none of the works are being done at the Council Tax payer's expense. All works were being paid for by developers on the Lace Hill site.

Cllr Whyte then reported on his work on the Parish Liaison Group, showing Members a copy of the Silverstone newsletter, and asked Members if they had received a copy circulated through the town's letterboxes – only a small proportion of Councillors had seen the publication; Events at the track were ongoing rather than just 2/3 weekends a year. Silverstone Circuit were interested in improving connection with local residents, currently considering special deals for local residents. The next Local Area Forum meeting in September would be held at the new Silverstone Park. Cllr Whyte reminded Members that half of the circuit site was in the North Bucks region.

On transport foot path repair works on Page Hill were nearing completion; the A413 from Akeley to the Towcester border was now done, additional repairs carried out in Akeley itself.

A public transport inquiry would be forthcoming in Bucks County Council; evidence had been gathered over a 2 day period where national groups and organisations had been represented; areas lacking in policy over the last couple of years had been highlighted. The inquiry would re-convene in the Autumn.

The next item Cllr Whyte's select committee would be looking into was fracking. There was a concern over the lack of information at County on the subject, but the recent recruitment of Lester Harrington would ensure the Select Committee were

updated on the latest position. Cllr Whyte commented that he was not currently aware of any organisation with an interest of fracking exploration in the Buckingham area.

271/14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

- 270.1 AVTUG Meeting Minutes
 - 270.2 BEG Meeting Minutes 6th August 2014
 - 270.3 NAGS Meeting Minutes 23/7/14
- Members noted the reports.

272/14 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information

273/14 News Releases

274/14 Chair's Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members of the official opening of the MUGA in Chandos Park on Tuesday 19th August.

275/14 Dates of next meetings

- Interim Council – Monday 15th September 2014
- Full Council – Monday 6th October 2014

Meeting closed at: 9.15pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor