

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm. on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

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

Also attending Mr. C. Wayman Town Clerk  
 Mrs. K. McElligott

#### **722/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. H. Cadd, Mrs. G. Collins and P. Collins.

#### **723/14 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Mordue declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 (Min.725/14).

#### **724/14 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 ratified at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were received and accepted. There were no matters arising..

*Cllr. Mordue left the meeting.*

#### **725/14 Public Toilets, Cornwalls Meadow**

The Town Clerk outlined the main points of a meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January with Tamsin Ireland and Jane Heywood of AVDC; their subsequent letter had been circulated with the agenda. CCTV coverage had been offered to allay concerns about anti-social behaviour, and the benefits of the link path pointed out. The letter had been received on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> February, the issue date for this agenda, and the Town Clerk had consequently not been able to challenge certain statements which it contained before the agenda was sent out.

He reported that the matter of disabled access to the Town Council's preferred site had not been discussed at the meeting, and a telephone call to Inspector Davies had established that the police had been misinformed as to the proposed siting of the toilets. On receiving the correct information Insp. Davies had withdrawn the adverse comments. He had not been told about the CCTV proposal.

The Town Clerk had booked a meeting appointment with Mr. Grant, CEO of AVDC, on 25<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the refusal to grant a licence.

The options were to agree AVDC's proposed site in the shrubbery adjacent to the Community Centre, or to try the Council's site again in 3 – 6months time.

Members discussed the situation with the aim of providing decent public toilets for the town as soon as possible.

It was agreed that, should the site adjacent to the Community Centre be chosen, the design of the building would have to be of higher standard than that proposed for the car park entrance as this was a principle pedestrian access to the town centre for visitors. It should be an attractive building of matching brick with a roof design compatible with that of the Community Centre. There were assorted services under the shrubbery area for which accommodation would have to be made.

No approach had been made to the Community Centre management about the siting of a building close to the existing wall and tapping into its services and drainage. The Town Clerk pointed out that the roof overhang meant that the new build would project into the walkway and over a manhole; Members advocated that it be tied in as an extension to the existing. AVDC were aware of the terms of the lease of the building.

There was debate about whether there was sufficient space to accommodate Shopmobility as well as toilets. It was considered unlikely that AVDC would have plans approved before 2016, and negotiations with AVE and M7, plus time for the legal work and tendering would have to be allowed for. Any changes to the original plan should not be chargeable to the Town Council.

Several Councillors expressed disappointment at the delay, and especially the incorrect information supplied to the police; it was also pointed out that the area police car came through the car park most nights to discourage drinking and other anti-social behaviour, and the Town Council's site would be in the headlights of all vehicles coming into the car park.

Members noted that, though AVDC's letter noted that "good health and safety practice does not move people into traffic unless there is no other option" it did not address the necessary use of the car park entrance by those using the green bridge.

Criticism was levelled at comments made to the *Advertiser* following the Access event in October; Cllr. Strain-Clark confirmed that these comments had no basis in her report of the findings.

A suggestion was made that the toilets and Shopmobility could be situated in the unoccupied Red Cross Centre in Verney Close.

The Town Clerk was asked to look into arbitration between Councils in dispute; some mechanism should exist, it was not an uncommon occurrence.

Members proposed and **AGREED** unanimously

- that the Town Clerk be accompanied by the Deputy Town Clerk at the meeting with Mr. Grant and that notes be taken;
- that the history of the attempt to get new toilets be assembled in chronological order, with the various impediments put in place by AVDC;

The Town Clerk would report on the meeting at the 9<sup>th</sup> March Full Council.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for his hard work on this matter.

**726/12 Chair's Announcements**

The Mayor reminded Councillors about the Pancake Races to be held the following morning.

**727/12 Dates of next meetings**

Full Council Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015; Interim Council Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....