

R/07/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Resources Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm online via Zoom.

**Present:** Cllr. Bloomfield  
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
 Cllr. P. Hirons  
 Cllr. A. Mahi (from minute 1264/20)  
 Cllr. Ms. Newell  
 Cllr. Mrs. O'Donoghue Vice-Chair  
 Cllr. Smith Chair  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try

**Also present:** Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk  
 Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk

### Public Session

Cllr. Strain-Clark attended the Public Session and addressed members regarding the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010. Cllr. Strain-Clark raised concerns about words used during the recent meeting of the Town Centre and Events Committee, and asked who was responsible for calling out racist or other inappropriate behaviour during Council meetings.

Chairman, Cllr. Smith said "Thank you for a point well made. I hope that the council and all members take this fully on board in the future, and work to fully restore and maintain the Council's good name in such matters."

### 1259/20 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Harvey and from Cllr. Mahi for lateness.

### 1260/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Newell declared an interest in agenda item 6.3 (Subscriptions) as a Trustee and Secretary to the Friends of Buckingham Library.

### 1261/20 Minutes of last meeting

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021 received at the Full Council meeting held on the 15th March 2021.

### 1262/20 Minutes of Communications Strategy Group

Members received the minutes of the Communications Strategy Group meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### 1263/20 Action Report

Members received and noted the update report.

Pensions – The Town Clerk reported that Buckingham Town Council was contributing 25.1% of salaries towards the pension scheme, as shown on page 27 of the report

(26/04/2020)

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

1

*PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.*

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<https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/annual-report-19-20.pdf> .

This was based on the most recent three-yearly assessment of the Council's pension liabilities.

**1264/20 Budgets**

1264.1/20 Members received and noted the budget reports from 2020/21 and 2021/22

1264.2/20 Members discussed the inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment.

Fire Doors – Town Clerk to investigate why the new fire doors were referenced on the Assets Register.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members held a discussion over the report layout and asked the Town Clerk to investigate re-categorising the data and for an updated report to be received by Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

1264.3/20 Members noted the council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies.

**1265/20 Financial Risk Assessment**

Members reviewed the Council's Financial Risk Assessment and the following queries were raised:

Cemetery – section needed rewording to reflect the current situation.

RAG scoring – section needs investigating as some of the scores appear to be inconsistent. The Town Clerk confirmed that an updated version of the report would be received by Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**1266/20 Report to show fund transfers within the Council's banking arrangements**

Members received a report showing money moving between the Council's three bank accounts, noting the Council's three separate bank accounts. The Town Clerk reminded members that officers are only able to withdraw or spend funds from the current account; the other two accounts are set up to only allow withdrawals into the current account.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the precept grant was being paid on time in two separate amounts, six months apart, and the money to purchase the land for the new cemetery and allotments was to be taken from the General Reserves.

**1267/20 CCLA Investments**

1267.1/20 Members received and noted correspondence related to the ethical approach taken by CCLA.

1267.2/20 Members received and noted correspondence related to current financial risks.

**1268/20 Compliments and Complaints**

Members received and noted the compliments and complaints and responses provided.

**1269/20 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Members received and discussed the Resources Committee's section of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Cllr. Newell said she was pleased to see that from 2021/22 each

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2

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grant applicant must state how their organisation is working to reduce the environmental impact of their project.

**1270/20 Carbon Footprint Audit**

Members received a written report from the Committee Clerk and unanimously **AGREED** for officers to research options and prices for commissioning an eco-audit to be brought back to the Resources Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for decision. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**1271/20 Induction Plan for New Members**

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk and asked for the Equalities Duty and related legislation to be included in the Induction and for the session to be retitled as 'New and Existing Councillor Induction'

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**1272/20 Chair's Announcements**

Cllr. Smith announced this was his last formal meeting of the Town Council and gave thanks to Committee Members that had contributed so fully towards the work of the Resources Committee and wished everybody well for the future. Noting special thanks to the Town Clerk and Accounts Officers for steering him through the complexities of Local authority accounts.

Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. Smith for his 14 years' service to the Town Council remarking on his competence as a Councillor and aptitude at chairing a meeting.

**1273/20 Date of next meeting:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Meeting closed at:19.52

**Signed**

**Date**

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**DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION**

**3**

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