

E/03/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

**Present:**

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley Town Mayor

Cllr. J. Harvey

Cllr. A. Osibogun

Cllr. A. Ralph

Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Cllr. W. Whyte (Chairman)

Cllr. R. Willett

Cllr. A. Schaefer was present online via Zoom, Cllr. Schaefer did not vote, and only spoke where Standing Orders were suspended.

**In attendance:**

Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mr P Hodson	Town Clerk
Mrs N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

A minute's silence was held in respect for David Amess MP who had been murdered on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session

**394/21 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and **ACCEPTED** apologies from Cllrs. O'Donoghue, Davies and Hetherington. Members noted apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor C. Cornell.

**395/21 Declarations of Interest**

None

**396/21 Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and received at Full Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**397/21 Action Report**

Members **AGREED** to add the survey of the Buckingham Community Centre on the Action Report to report back for next time. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**398/21 Budgets**

398.1/21 To receive the latest figures

Waste Disposal – The Estates Manager clarified that this was related to an increase in the number of Grundon bin collections due to an increase of litter in the parks during lockdown.

398.2/21 Members received and discussed a written report proposing budget changes for 2022/23.

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ratified

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*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.*

Initial .....

**E/03/21**

Fuel prices – based on previous years underspend

Solar Income – Members congratulated the Estates Manager & Town Clerk on the installation of the Solar Panels at Lace Hill Community Centre.

4275 – Play Areas Replacement – Members **AGREED** for the town Clerk to revisit agreements with the unitary Council regarding Section 106 funding the replacement of play area equipment. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members **AGREED** the report's recommendations

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **399/21 Community Gardening Proposal**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and **AGREED** the Community Gardening Scheme to be promoted on the Town Council's social media pages and website, with the addition of encouraging residents to create 'Bee Friendly' gardens drawing attention to the Bucks Buzzing recommendations.

**ACTION GREENSPACES ADMIN**

### **400/21 Flooding**

Members received a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk reviewing the Community Flood Plan following a test exercise in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

- It is recommended that Members read and note the amendments to the Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan.
- It is recommended that Members agree to allow officers to add organisational learning to the Plan as required.
- It is recommended that the Plan be reviewed by Members on an annual basis as a minimum.

The Flood Plan is to be reviewed annually and residents will be written to every year as the report is updated.

Cllr Harvey added the following comments to be considered within the draft report:

- Responsibilities of Riparian owners referring to the current statutory guidance. They are responsible for ensuring the river growth doesn't impair the flow of the river.
- Brief reference to the Natural Flood Management scheme.
- Glossary for abbreviations and links to other documents
- Out of hours' number for the Contacts Page.

Flood Mobile - to be chased by the Town Clerk to see if a visit was still due to take place in October 2021. **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested adding a map of the river illustrating the riparian ownership of section of Buckingham stretch of the River Great Ouse.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**401/21 Brackley Rd Cemetery**

401.1/21 Members received, discussed and **AGREED** a proposed uplift in the cemetery fees for Brackley Road Cemetery within the table below to come into place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022:

<b>Brackley Road Cemetery fees: 2022/23</b>	<b>Residents Fees</b>	<b>Non-Residents Fees</b>
<b>Price to purchase a plot: for 99 years</b>		
Single Plot - single	<b>£495</b>	<b>£990</b>
Double - Side by Side	<b>£887</b>	<b>£1,774</b>
Childs Plot (under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	<b>£495</b>	<b>£990</b>
Cremated Remains	<b>£113</b>	<b>£446</b>
<b>Interment Fee - whether purchased plot or not</b>		
Single Depth - Adult	<b>£387</b>	<b>£774</b>
- Child (under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	<b>£387</b>	<b>£774</b>
Double Depth	<b>£446</b>	<b>£892</b>
Re-open an Existing Grave	<b>£387</b>	<b>£774</b>
Digging Fee for Ashes	<b>£113</b>	<b>£226</b>
<b>Memorial Permits</b>		
New memorial	<b>£113</b>	<b>£226</b>
Additional Inscription	<b>£54</b>	<b>£113</b>
Memorial permit – (Child under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	<b>£113</b>	<b>£226</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Search Fee	<b>£22</b>	<b>£44</b>
Use of Chapel	<b>£59</b>	<b>£118</b>
Duplicate Deed	<b>£22</b>	<b>£44</b>
Transfer Deed	<b>£22</b>	<b>£44</b>
Deed Renewal Fee	<b>£22</b>	<b>£44</b>
Memorial Seating	<b>Price on Request</b>	

401.2/21 Members received and reviewed The Cemetery Handbook Cllr. Gateley noted some typographical errors.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**402/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan****402.1/21 Parish/Community Carbon Footprint Report**

Members received and noted a written report from the Greenspaces Administrator.

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ratified

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Initial .....

**E/03/21**

Members discussed the potential of public transport and electric bikes to connect the villages with Buckingham and surrounding towns.

Cllr. Whyte suggested the Climate Champions consider promoting food waste recycling, electric bikes and cars.

Members **AGREED** the report recommendation to refer the report to the next meeting of the Climate Champions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

**ACTION GREENSPACES ADMIN**

#### **402.2/21 Promotion of Initiatives**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Greenspaces Administrator

The following report recommendations were **AGREED**:

- To list all of our environmental initiatives on the Council's Climate emergency webpage,
- Create a social media campaign (including newspaper/newsletter article) around their locations,
- Create a Green Buckingham banner on the Town Council's homepage, thereby directing more traffic to the Climate Emergency webpage.

**ACTION GREENSPACES ADMIN/COMMUNICATIONS CLERK**

#### **403/21 Rural Market Towns Group**

To receive and discuss a verbal report from Cllr. Gateley regarding a recent meeting that discussed [decarbonising rural communities and economies](#).

Members highlighted local and national schemes that could be promoted by the Climate Champions including:

- The free boiler scheme was launched in January 2013, aiming to reduce the UK's energy consumption and provide grants to low-income households in order to help them improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Electric Car sharing scheme such as [Co-Wheels](#)
- [Bucks Green homes Grant](#) - Eligible households earning less than £30,000 per year could benefit from measures including external wall insulation, air source heat pumps and loft or underfloor insulation.

#### **404/21 Lace Hill Solar Panels**

Members noted that install 55 Trina Solar Vertex S 380W all black split cell mono photovoltaic (solar) panels were now installed at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre (LHSCC). Members recalled that since the Council took ownership of the LHSCC there has been a desire to fit solar panels in order to decrease costs and make the centre more environmentally friendly.

#### **405/21 Footpaths**

Members discussed a written report from the Greenspaces Administrator. The following actions were **AGREED**:

- Otter Trail to be removed from the website
- The current Town Map doesn't refer to the Cornwall's meadow toilets or shop mobility, is it possible to edit the online version?

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**406/21 Rights of Way**

Members to discuss possible routes for submission as formal rights of way.  
Cllr. Whyte suggested routes to connect Moreton Road, Overn Crescent, Western Avenue and Market Hill, explanatory map within appendix A.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**407/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project (BCWP)**

Members received and noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2021.

**408/21 Community Board Environment Group 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Members noted the minutes of the Buckingham & Village Community Board Environment Group.

**409/21 News Releases**

Committee **AGREED** to issue a press release on the Flood Response Plan

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**410/21 Chair's Announcements**

**411/21 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**412/21 Confidential Session**

**RECOMMENDED** In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

**413/21 Devolved Services**

Members received and discussed a verbal report from the Town Clerk noting Buckinghamshire Council's intention for the current Devolved Services Contract to roll over into the following financial year at the current rate.

Proposed by Cllr. Osibogun, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write to Buckinghamshire Services outlining an increase in RPI that the Town Council would accept within the Devolved Services contract agreement.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**414/21 Tingewick Road Green Spaces Update**

Members noted the Town Clerk's effort to liaise with the Developer over possible management of the greenspaces at the Tingewick Road development.

**415/21 Cemetery and allotment land purchase update**

The Town Clerk reported that the first stages of the archaeological surveys were now complete and the Town Council were waiting on correspondence from the College's solicitor to complete the land purchase.

Meeting closed at: 21.30

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Chair  
Date

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Appendix A  
Blue line indicates pathways on private land

