

BTC/07/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7.47pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:**

Cllr. R. Ahmed  
 Cllr. M. Cole JP  
 Cllr. F. Davies  
 Cllr. M. Gateley (Town Mayor) Chair  
 Cllr. J. Harvey  
 Cllr. S. Hetherington  
 Cllr. A. Mahi  
 Cllr. H. Mordue  
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. A. Ralph  
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
 Cllr. M. Try  
 Cllr. W. Whyte  
 Cllr. R. Willet

**In attendance:** Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk  
 Mrs. N. Stockill Estates Administrator  
 Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk  
 Mrs K. McElligot Planning Clerk (Via Zoom)

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

**531/21 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. Schaefer and Osibogun.

**532/21 Declarations of Interest**

None were made.

**533/21 Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Precept).

**534/21 Interim Minutes**

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**535/21 Planning Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

*Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Ralph to recommend to Full Council to undertake a footfall survey across the bridge from Heartlands Park to the car park in order to ascertain the volume of pedestrians and cyclists that have to cross the busy car park*

*Buckingham Society and Access4All are to be invited to participate in the survey to improve signage or introduce mitigations to reduce the risk of accidents’.*

Cllr. Harvey proposed an amendment to the motion: To research and request information, in writing, on the plans for the junction once the building of the Crownhill Care home is completed. Cllr. Whyte seconded the proposed amendment.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Cllr. Mordue expressed concerns regarding expenditure for the Town Council to undertake the survey. The Town Clerk clarified that the intention would be for Councillors and other volunteers to carry out the survey. Cllr. Gateley encouraged Councillors to undertake the footfall survey alongside partner organisations on a voluntary basis.

The amended motion became the substantive motion and Members voted unanimously in favour.

#### **536/21 Town Centre and Events Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

#### **537/21 Environment Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

#### **538/21 Resources Committee**

Members received the minutes and unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022:

#### **586/21**

**Members AGREED to recommend the revised version of Standing Orders to Full Council. (With the insertion of additional paragraph at 3Y regarding virtual attendance at meetings by Councillors)**

#### **Action List**

Cllr. Cole raised concerns about the lack of response from the Police and Crime Commissioner (353/21) to the letter from the Town Council, dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. There has been no response to the request for answers regarding expenditure and county closure. Cllr. Cole requested that the Town Council write again, demanding an answer to the questions and deploring Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner’s discourtesy towards Buckingham Town Council. Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to write and email Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner along with the Police and Crime Panel Chair and Buckinghamshire representative on the Crime Panel.

#### **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **Motion – Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Ralph**

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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.....

It is proposed Buckingham Town Council declare 2022 as the Year of the Tree in Buckingham. Our many mature trees contribute to the natural environment of the town and in their role lowering the carbon footprint of Buckingham by extracting carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

We have already lost many substantial trees through the planning process and other trees continue to be discussed for removal so is important to seek the community support in monitoring the well-being of these trees within the community, taking personal ownership of their well-being albeit not in any way the financial or legal ownership.

Although everyone is working to plant new trees within Buckinghamshire, it seems a contradiction to be removing so many mature trees at the same time. In doing so, the valuable service they render in sequestering carbon dioxide is lost and additionally the carbon within the tree is released as they decay. A double loss.

There is a necessity therefore, to encourage community ownership of our beautiful canopy and arboretum of substantial trees in Buckingham.

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke to the above motion, expressing concern over the number of trees removed in recent years from the streets and gardens of Buckingham. Members discussed making a statement on the importance of trees to the town and its residents and encourage local ownership of the landscape.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Davies and seconded by Cllr. Ralph to include 'hedgerows' within the original motion. Members voted on the following amended motion:

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We have already lost many substantial trees through the planning process and other trees continue to be discussed for removal so is important to seek the community support in monitoring the well-being of these trees within the community, taking personal ownership of their well-being albeit not in any way the financial or legal ownership.

Although everyone is working to plant new trees within Buckinghamshire, it seems a contradiction to be removing so many mature trees at the same time. In doing so, the valuable service they render in sequestering carbon dioxide is lost and additionally the carbon within the tree is released as they decay. A double loss.

There is a necessity therefore, to encourage community ownership of our beautiful canopy and arboretum of substantial trees and hedgerows in Buckingham.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Stuchbury:

**In favour:** Gateley, Stuchbury, Mahi, Davies, Ralph, Hetherington, Harvey, Willett, Ahmed, Cole, O'Donoghue and Whyte

**Against:** Try

**Abstention:** Mordue

### **Motion carried**

Cllr Whyte asked the Town Clerk to clarify how the motion will be implemented. The Town Clerk explained that the motion was a declaration by Full Council and Committees may take it forward if they wish.

## **539/21 Section 106 Wishlists**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk and discussed the recommendations:

1.1 It is recommended that from now onwards the Council takes a two-part approach to all large new developments, of providing a response to the planning applications, but also providing a S106 request in detail at the earliest possible stage, making it clear that this in no way detracts from any overall opposition to a development.

1.2 The Council requests that the Sport and Leisure contributions for both Osier Way and Moreton Road requests are allocated towards the cost of providing an arts and cultural venue in Buckingham

Cllr. Harvey expressed hesitancy regarding 1.2 due to reservations that it will impact plans for other areas, for example the skate park. The Town Clerk clarified that funding for the skate park has already been secured and would not be affected.

Cllr. Whyte supported the recommendations and noted the need for an arts and cultural venue for the town as the availability of spaces within the university may become limited as the university expands. Cllr. Mordue asked that the Town Council be specific about the use of wording for funding as this does need to be spent in Buckingham.

Members **AGREED** unanimously **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **Major Planning Application 19/00148/AOP - Land Off Osier Way, East Of Gawcott Road - S106 Sport/Leisure**

To discuss and agree destination use for the s106 Sport & Leisure contribution for Osier Way. [See minute 539/21 1.2 above]

### **Major Planning Application 20/00510/APP Land West of Moreton Road and Castlemilk**

To discuss and agree destination use for the s106 Sport & Leisure contribution for Moreton Road Phase 3. [See minute 539/21 1.2 above]

## **540/21 Buckinghamshire Plan Consultation**

Members received notice of a [Questionnaire Survey](#) – The Discovery & Exploration Phase for the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire.

Cllr. Harvey's response was the only response received and he proposed that the Town Clerk responded in similar fashion on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr. Stuchbury seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 9

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

Motion carried

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

## **541/21 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors**

### **Cllr. Whyte**

The Buckingham bypass will be closed between Bourton Road and Burleigh Piece between 7.30pm and 5am for the next five days for highway repairs.

The HGV town centre project is now back on track and hopefully an update will be available before Easter

Tree replacement in Cornwall Meadow car park is complete.

### **Cllr. Stuchbury**

Attended Education meeting to raise questions regarding speech and language therapy.

Health committee looking at change on health service and the development of community hubs; there is no intention of removing hospital beds.

The Fire Authority are addressing a budget deficit.

### **Cllr. Mordue**

Integrated care system legislation is not in place and Cllr. Mordue has questioned this.

Cllr. Willett requested an update on the 20 mph speed limit.. Cllr. Whyte updated that the community board has now appointed a full time Office Coordinator so going forward this should be clarified.

Cllr. Whyte declared an interest in the next agenda item.

### **542/21 Environment Bill**

Members received and noted a response from Greg Smith MP

### **543/21 Boundary Commission Consultation on Ward Boundaries in Buckinghamshire**

Full Council received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk explained that at present there are four wards in Buckingham, with eight councillors for Buckingham South, seven councillors for Buckingham North and one each for the wards of Fishers Field and Highlands & Watchcroft – making a total of 17 councillors. Members considered whether this arrangement is ideal or whether more evenly sized wards would be more appropriate. The two most apparent options would be to either move to just two wards, separated by the current boundary between the two Buckinghamshire Council wards, or to have four wards, with each of the current Buckinghamshire Council wards being divided equally.

Members **AGREED** to respond to the consultation requesting that the Buckinghamshire Council ward boundaries are coterminous with the Town Council boundaries and that the Town Council ward boundaries are altered to only provide for two wards, to be coterminous with the wards for Buckinghamshire Council.

### **544/21 Food Connect, Stratford Road, Buckingham, MK18 1NY PR202104251190**

Agenda item deferred to a later date to ensure a more detailed response.

### **545/21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members received a verbal report from Cllr. Harvey regarding the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils. Carole Burslem is retiring as County Officer for BMKALC and is replaced by Melinda Woof. Members expressed their gratitude to

Carole for all her support over the years and **AGREED** to send Carole Burslem a letter of appreciation for her service. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members received and noted the minutes from the Pontio Group meeting held on 10th January 2022.

**546/21 Mayoral Engagements**

Members received and noted a list of events attended by the Mayor:

- 19.11.21 BACAB Town v Gown Quiz.
- 21.11.21 Lace Hill Winter Fair
- 23.11.21 Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust meeting.
- 24.11.21 Royal Latin School. Opening of Sports Campus.
- 25.11.21 Buckingham Society AGM and lecture.
- 05.12.21 Aylesbury Town Mayor's Carol Service.
- 09.12.21 Lace Hill Residents' Association AGM.
- 11.12.21 Christmas Parade.
- 11.12.21 Leighton Linlade Town Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert.
- 15.12.21 University of Buckingham Vice Chancellor's Christmas Reception.
- 10.01.22 Pontio meeting.
- 15.01.22 Queen's Canopy tree planting at the University of Buckingham.
- 20.01.22 Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity Trustees' meeting.
- 27.01.22 Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony.
- 02.02.22 Buckingham Twinning Association meeting.
- 05.02.22 Unveiling of Buckingham RAF cadets' new flag.

**547/21 Chair's Announcements**

Civic Service on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February at St. Peter and St. Pauls from 14:00.

**548/21 Date of the next meeting**

Interim Council – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Preceded by an Informal Meeting of Full Council)

Full Council - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Meeting closed at: 21.18

Signed .....  
Town Mayor

Date .....