

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 28th February 2022 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	Town Mayor
Cllr. S. Hetherington	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. R. Willett	

Also attending:

Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk

Cllr. Schaefer chaired the meeting; Cllr. Whyte did not attend the meeting.

Public session

A member of public attended and presented concerns to the Committee regarding the bough of a tree in Clarence Park that has fallen into the river and is collecting debris. He has contacted both the riparian owner, Taylor Wimpey, and the Environment Agency but the issue has still not been resolved. Cllr. Gateley thanked him for bringing this to the Town Council's notice and Cllr. Stuchbury asked to be supplied with the information presented. Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Osibogun will meet to discuss a way forward in helping to resolve this.

676/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. O'Donoghue and Cllr. Davies.

677/21 Declarations of Interest

The following Town Councillors declared an interest:

- Cllr. Stuchbury, whose son plays for Buckingham United Football Club

678/21 Minutes

Members received and agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021.

679/21 Action Report

Members received and noted the updated information.

The Town Clerk offered further detail:

- Sports Pitch provision likely to form a new consultation on the new Neighbourhood Plan under a review of sports provision in the town.
- Clarence Park Ramp: Taylor Wimpey have made assurances that they have appointed a contractor and are awaiting a date for completion.

E/05/21

- Holocaust Memorial Stone: The Estates Administrator has saved some snowdrops from the HS2 route, and they have now been planted at various places around Bourton Park including around the Memorial Stone.
- The Ford: in the process of seeking quotes from contractors.
- Community Centre survey: will be on the next agenda, just awaiting quotes.
- Community Garden proposal: two enquiries but neither wanted to get involved in setting up a community garden. Both, however, would like to get involved as volunteers, one with events in the town and the other as a tree warden.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked if a future update on 398/21 Rights of Way could be provided. The Town Clerk agreed and informed members that the deadline for this has now been removed. Cllr. Stuchbury referred to 397/21 Community Centre Survey and requested that it be presented as a confidential report alongside the lease. This was agreed.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

680/21 Budgets

Members received the latest budget figures

The Town Clerk assured members that where work has been ordered but not yet completed, money for this is in the budget and reiterated that ear marked reserves will be used for unspent funds.

Cllr. Gateley requested an update on the Chandos Park Toilets. The Estates Manager explained that the ladies' toilets have been reopened but that we are still awaiting a repair on the men's toilets.

The Town Clerk responded to Cllr. Stuchbury's request for information regarding money accrued for work on the Chamber and the Community Centre: The work has been completed, with the exception of solar panels on the Community Centre roof. The money for this is with Buckinghamshire County Council and they have agreed to hold this over until the next financial year; the intention is to agree to a structural survey on the building, including the roof, get quotes and install the solar panels.

Members received and noted the budget for 2022/23

681/21 Buildings

Members reviewed and agreed Fees and Charges for the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre for 2022/23.

Cllr. Gateley proposed to accept the recommended increases. Cllr. Ralph Seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 7

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

E/05/21

682/21 Cemeteries

Members received and discussed a verbal report from the Estates Manager.

Thefts from Brackley Road Cemetery: Contact with the owner of the stolen items and the police have been made. Messages have been put on social media and signs put up within the cemetery making people aware of the thefts and asking people to be vigilant. There will be further social media posts over the coming weeks. The following options have been considered:

- CCTV: a lot of cameras would be needed to cover the whole cemetery and may seem intrusive. A single camera on the gate may also seem intrusive and would only record people arriving and leaving.
- Closing the gate: this would be too restrictive as people often visit the cemetery early in the morning or in the evening, particularly during Spring and Summer.

Members agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored and social media used to raise awareness.

ACTION COMMUNICATIONS CLERK

683/21 New Cemetery

683.1/21 Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Estates Manager

Site investigations are underway, and work is ongoing to meet the planning conditions. Site and building layout designs are progressing well and it is hoped that these can be brought to the next committee with costings.

683.2/21 Members discussed and agreed a report regarding drainage from the Town Clerk.

Drainage: It was hoped that water could be drained into an existing system, but Buckinghamshire County Council have refused to allow this. The CDS view is that the cemetery will not increase the water coming off the site. CDS advice is that, in order to go back to Buckinghamshire County Council with a clear evidence base that this would not put additional pressure on their drain, we need to do a detailed survey as described in their report. The cost is £20,000. This can be funded from the existing budget.

It is recommended that Members agree to proceed with the further site investigations to establish if the surface water drainage can be connected to the existing highways system at the cost described.

Cllr. Gateley proposed that the recommendation is accepted. Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded.

Members voted and unanimously agreed the recommendation.

E/05/21

684/21 Parks and Green Spaces

70 trees for 70 years

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/70-trees-for-70-years/>

Members discussed and agreed trees or woodlands to recommend for inclusion.

Members discussed several woodland areas and trees including Railway Walk, The Royal Latin School grounds, Stowe Avenue and Moreton Avenue. It was agreed that the public could be encouraged to nominate trees or woodlands in a social media post.

ACTION COMMUNICATIONS CLERK

685/21 LitterLotto

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator

It is recommended that Members agree to work with Recycle4Bucks to actively promote the LitterLotto campaign in and around Buckingham.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed an amendment: that Councillors support the campaign by liking and sharing social media posts.

Members voted unanimously on the amendment

Members voted unanimously on the recommendation

686/21 Anti-social behaviour in Chandos Park

Members received and discussed a verbal report from the Estates Manager

The Estates Manager informed members of two incidents in Chandos Park:

- On Christmas Eve the toilets were vandalised. The door system, which had been ripped off, has been repaired and the ladies and disabled facilities are now open. The handwash unit for the men's toilets needs to be replaced and we are awaiting confirmation from the insurance company before replacing it. The cost of the unit is £2,400.
- In the first week of January a play item in the park was set alight. The repair cost is £15,800 and the cost to replace the item is £17,800. We are awaiting a decision from the insurance company.

Both incidents were reported to the police.

687/21 Tingewick Road Green Spaces Update

Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk informed members that we are seeking to reach an agreement to take on and manage green spaces around the site. An email was received today offering a meeting date within the next two weeks. Members were advised that we cannot apply for money from Buckinghamshire County Council for this until land is 28th February 2022

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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/05/21

owned but advice has been received as to what can be applied for once ownership is established.

688/21 Bourton Park Green Flag Award

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk

It is recommended that Members approve the Bourton Park Management Plan provided.

It is recommended that Members agree for the Bourton Park Management Plan to be submitted in support of the Council's application for a green flag award for Bourton Park.

Cllr. Willett proposed that Members agree the recommendations. Cllr. Hetherington Seconded.

A vote was taken and Members unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Gateley noted the work undertaken in compiling this and commended those involved.

689/21 Climate Action Plan

Members reviewed updated actions and received and discussed verbal feedback from the Climate Champions Meeting to be held on 15th February 2022

Cllr. Schaefer suggested an additional item: Encouraging citizens to plant a small area of wildlife friendly flowers. Existing communications can be used to encourage people to take part and to create a way for people to register that they are taking part and possibly to celebrate this through an additional award. Buckingham Nurseries are currently unable to sponsor this but are happy to promote and publicise. Cllr. Hetherington requested that only native seeds are used.

It was agreed that there is no budget for this currently, but the Town Clerk proposed that it could be promoted this year through social media and press release and a budget for next year can be considered. It will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Members voted unanimously on the proposal.

**ACTION COMMUNICATIONS CLERK
ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

690/21 Buckingham Railway Walk Volunteers

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator

It is recommended that Members discuss and agree how best to support the Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group.

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Following the retirement of Mr and Mrs Manning from the role as coordinators, it has been difficult to find a replacement. Members agreed the significant role and value of the group in conserving the Walk and recognised the need to support it. Cllr. Hetherington suggested offering training, perhaps through The Conservation Volunteers.

It was agreed that the Town Council cannot offer staffing hours but the Town Clerk recognised the need to work with relevant organisations to support training for a new coordinator, or possibly a shared role for two coordinators. Cllr. Hetherington will pass on relevant information and contacts to the Town Clerk who will talk to the group and to relevant partners and put it on a future agenda if necessary.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

691/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Members noted the minutes from the meeting held on the 6th December 2022.

692/21 News Releases

70 trees for 70 years
Awareness of cemetery thefts
Wildlife friendly seeds

693/21 Chair's Announcements

None

694/21 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25th April 2022

Public meeting closed 20:57

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

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. **AGREED**

695/21 Buildings

Maintenance work for Chandos Bowls Pavilion and Cemetery Lodge.

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager **E/115/21** and considered the recommendations:

- that Members agree to proceed with the repair works as specified using company A. Rawding Roofing Ltd.
- That the following funds are taken from budgets:

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Initial

E/05/21

Chandos Park Bowls Club Pavilion Repairs – 901/9058 = £7,230.00
Brackley Road Cemetery Lodge Repairs - 901/9057 = £4,820.00

Cllr. Gateley proposed to agree the recommendations. Cllr. Stuchbury seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour: 7
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

Recommendation **AGREED**

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Meeting closed at: 21:06

Chair

Date

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