

BTC/09/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 19:10 pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:** Cllr. M. Cole JP  
Cllr. M. Gateley Town Mayor/Chair  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. S. Hetherington  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. A. Ralph  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try

**Via Zoom:** Cllr. Ahmed

**Also in attendance:** Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk  
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk  
Mrs. L. Stubbs Communications Clerk

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

Members AGREED to resume the practice of standing when speaking.

#### **758/21 Apologies for Absence**

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Willett and Cllr. Whyte.

Cllr. Cole expressed concerns regarding the impact of absences on attendance figures if a member has attended via Zoom.

The Town Clerk suggested the presentation of absences could be amended to reflect a member not being physically present. Members unanimously AGREED. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **759/21 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Stuchbury will abstain from voting on planning applications as it may show prejudice at a later date.

#### **760/21 Minutes**

Members AGREED as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 7th February 2022.

#### **761/21 Interim Minutes**

Member AGREED as a correct record the minutes of the Interim Full Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022.

### **762/21 Planning Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 14th February 2022 and Monday 7th March 2022. Cllr. Cole thanked Cllr. Ralph for chairing the latter meeting in his absence.

### **763/21 Town Centre and Events Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 7th February 2022 and Monday 21st February 2022.

### **764/21 Environment Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 28th February 2022.

### **765/21 Resources Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 31st January 2022 and received and confirmed the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022:

Members AGREED to RECOMMEND that Full Council adopt the Code of Conduct with minor amendments. (740/21)

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed accepting the minor amendments. Cllr. Harvey seconded. Members unanimously AGREED.

Members reviewed and AGREED to RECOMMEND to Full Council a revised version of the Financial Regulations. (The only change is at 6.17 and is based on the NALC template. Changes are marked in red.) (738/21)

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed accepting the revised version of the Financial Regulations. Cllr. Harvey seconded. Members unanimously AGREED.

### **766/21 Support for Ukranian Refugees**

Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Town Mayor and Town Clerk. Cllr. Gateley, the Town Clerk and the Communications Clerk attended the meeting at The New Inn on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The meeting was very well attended. The Communications Clerk minuted the meeting and will circulate these to members. The aim of the attendees of the meeting was to ensure that Buckingham will be ready to host, support and provide facilities for refugees. Members may sign up to offer support on the forms supplied. The Town Clerk will continue to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council and is also attending a sub-group tomorrow at Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr. Gateley informed members that a Facebook page is being set up by a group member.

### **767/21 Covid 19**

Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk noted the impact of staff absences and cancelled bookings at Lace Hill. Further measures have not been put in place, but staff are encouraged to work at home if they or a member of their household has Covid, where this is possible.

## **768/21 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors**

Cllr. Stuchbury

Cllr Stuchbury noted that one million pounds has been withdrawn from the Community Board settlement for 2022/23 which may have an impact on bids.

Cllr. Harvey PROPOSED that Buckingham Town Council write to the chair of The Community Board asking for the following to be added to their next agenda: *to discuss whether every parish household should give £1 per household towards funding Citizens Advice.* Cllr. O'Donoghue seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 8

Against 0

Abstentions 1

## **769/21 New Licensing Policy**

Cllr. Gateley noted that the link in the Policy was not working. The Town Clerk has emailed a new link to members.

Cllr. Cole requested an update regarding the appeal raised against the BP garage application for a 24-hour licence. The Town Clerk will update members at the Planning Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## **770/21 Levelling Up white paper**

Member received the Levelling Up white paper and the minutes and evaluation of the white paper discussed at NALC's recent Assembly. The full white paper of 332 pages and a summary version are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>.

The NALC minutes were included as an Appendix.

## **771/21 Moving Traffic Offences**

Members received and discussed the Moving Traffic Offences consultation.

Cllr. Harvey questioned why the 'No Entry' turn had been included. Members AGREED that another location in Buckingham, plus Well Street weight restriction, may be more beneficial and that the Town Clerk should draft a response. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

## **772/21 Moreton Road Phase III**

Cllr. Cole read a recap for members: the validated application for 130 dwellings was outside the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan housing envelope. In April 2016 the Secretary of State agreed to Buckingham Town Council's request to call in the application. Planning permission was refused. Buckinghamshire Council has since allocated this land for housing and Bellway Homes has made a new application.

Cllr. Cole PROPOSED that this agenda item, which includes the amended plans, is moved to the Planning Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Cllr. Harvey seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 8  
Against 0  
Abstentions 1

**773/21 River pollution incident in 2018**

Members discussed the lack of an update from the Environment Agency regarding the investigation of the pollution incident which affected the River Great Ouse between Brackley and Thornton from 29 June 2018. Members AGREED unanimously that Buckingham Town Council should write to the Environment Agency requesting a case number as soon as it is available and an approximate time before it will appear before a court. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**774/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Review**

Members received and discussed the current Climate Action Plan.

Cllr. Harvey noted that the Annual Town meeting was well attended and PROPOSED that it makes sense to await the report from the meeting and put this item on the agenda of the next Full Council. Cllr. Ralph seconded. Members unanimously AGREED.

**775/21 Planned Communications**

Members received and discussed a presentation from the Communications Clerk regarding the Council's approach to planned communications.

The Communications Clerk presented members with information explaining the importance of communications in Buckingham Town Council. Data was presented showing a considerable improvement in social media success over the past five years and members were encouraged to join the Communications Strategy Group.

Members congratulated the Communications Clerk on her success.

**776/21 Action List**

The Town Clerk confirmed that he has written to the Police and Crime Commissioner but has received no direct response. He has, however, recently received a communication from Buckinghamshire Council's representative on the Panel who has assured the Town Clerk that this will be raised with the Commissioner.

Cllr. Cole proposed that, due to a continued lack of response, the Town Council should raise a formal complaint for contempt for Buckingham Town Council. Cllr. O'Donoghue seconded. Cllr. Harvey expressed reluctance as a communication has been received and therefore a complaint should not be made until we have awaited a further response.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 7  
Against 0  
Abstentions 2

Cllr. Stuchbury requested an update on the action for Child Poverty. A meeting is being held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7pm.

Cllr. Try requested information regarding the Code of Conduct training. The Town Clerk explained that there was no updated information at the time of publishing the agenda, but he has now had an exchange regarding appropriate training and this will be arranged in the near future.

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed that the Town Council write to the Chief Executive of the Health Trust to request that Buckingham Town Council is part of future consultation regarding the Community Health Hubs. Cllr. Harvey seconded. Members unanimously AGREED.

**777/21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

There were none.

**778/21 Mayoral Engagements**

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

- 12.02.22 Civic Service
- 22.02.22 Pancake Races
- 26.02.22 Food Fair
- 03.03.22 Talk at Open House
- 04.03.22 World Day of Prayer, St Edmunds, Maids Moreton
- 05.03.22 Mayor of Banbury's Bollywood Evening
- 06.03.22 Chair of Buckinghamshire's Civic Service, Hambleton
- 14.03.22 Commonwealth Day Flag raising and Affirmation
- 19.03.22 Twinning Civic Lunch and Celebrations
- 24.03.22 Community meeting in response to crisis in Ukraine
- 24.03.22 Annual Town Meeting

**779/21 Chair's Announcements**

Cllr. Gateley has been asked to encourage street parties in Buckingham as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. She reminded members that Buckinghamshire Council are offering free road closures but there are procedures to follow.

**780/21 Date of the next meetings:**

- Special on Monday 9th May 2022
- Interim on Monday 9th May 2022
- Annual Statutory Meeting and Full Council on Monday 30th May 2022

Meeting closed at: 20:47

Signed .....  
Town Mayor

Date .....