

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 23rd November 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	
Cllr. Mrs. G. Gateley	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk
Also : Cllr S. Cole AVDC

539/15 **Apologies for Absence**

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Harvey, Strain-Clark, Paddy and Geraldine Collins, County Councillor Whyte, BCC Chairman Brian Chapple and District Councillor Mills.

540/15 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Members declared knowing some or all of the co-option candidates for personal reasons.

(548/15) Cllr Newell declared an interest as an employee in Bucks Learning Trust during the item below.

(548/15) Cllr Smith declared an interest as a trustee of the CAB

(553/15) Cllr Try declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of BT.

(554/15) Cllr Isham declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Community Centre Management committee.

541/15 **Co-option**

To receive a presentation for Highlands and Watchcroft Ward from the following candidates:

Proposed by Cllr Mordue, seconded by Cllr Bloomfield and **AGREED** to vote for candidates by written votes.

1. Stuart Chalmers

Mr Chalmers explained he had been resident in the area his whole life and was involved in charity work, with the church play group, and had helped numerous times at the river rinses and Christmas Parades. Mr Chalmers ran a successful business in the town and now had the time to commit and help the Town Council and people of the town. Mr Chalmers said he felt there were trying but exciting times ahead for the town.

2. Sue Dix

Mrs Dix said she had lived in Buckingham since 1968 (only leaving for 5-6 years, moving back in the early 1980's), and had attended the Royal Latin School. Mrs Dix said that no matter where she had lived she liked to get involved with the community and had helped with the Winslow playgroup, Twinning Association, played piano for various schools, been involved with the Buckingham Musical Festival and helped to revive the Padbury panto. Mrs Dix had volunteered at the Citizen's Advice Bureau and subsequently taken up a career in a similar vein, and described how her skills would translate well into the role of a Councillor. Mrs Dix explained she was very interested in her environment and couldn't complain about the issues unless she was involved in helping to shape the town. Mrs Dix said she felt that now was the opportunity for her to get involved, to shape the future of the town and listen to people's views, ensuring that Buckingham remained a pleasure to live in.

3. Margaret Gateley

Mrs Gateley told Members she had been resident in the town for 27 years and was increasingly aware of the good work that the Town Council does. Mrs Gateley was the chair of the Fairtrade group and had recently become more involved with Destination Buckingham. Mrs Gateley explained she felt she had a role to play as a Councillor, and following a career in the probation service felt she had the skills to listen to people and understand the problems that people are often presented with throughout their lives. Mrs Gateley said she had also been resident within Highlands and Watchcroft ward since 1995.

Members proceeded to vote, Mr Chalmers was unsuccessful in the first round, and Mrs Dix unsuccessful in the second round.

Mrs Gateley was appointed Councillor and invited to sit at the table.

541/15 Motion – Cllr Stuchbury

To propose that Buckingham Town Council agree to seek a meeting with Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group to consult with Members regarding the proposed changes to the MKCCG following its Public Consultation document.

Healthcare review update document attached for Members information

Cllr Stuchbury spoke to his motion, informing Councillors that he had recently circulated Members with further information and that no consultation date had been offered for Buckingham. Cllr Stuchbury said he felt all Members shared his concern and that the Town Council must push for a response, irrespective of AVDC's or Bucks County Council's actions.

Cllr Smith seconded the motion and commented that page 7 of the document stated the CCG were listening to the people of Milton Keynes and North Bucks, though they could not be in a position to listen as no-one had asked for the town's views.

Members supported the motion and were very concerned that people may be expected to go to Bedford or High Wycombe hospitals for care.

Cllr Stuchbury urged all Members to attend the next Scrutiny Committee meeting at Milton Keynes Council on Tuesday 1st December when the item would be discussed.

Cllr Mordue added that it was important to lobby not only Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group but Aylesbury Vale CCG, Bucks County and Health Watch Bucks.

Proposed by Cllr Try and accepted by Cllr Stuchbury to add that the Town Council was in favour of having a public session to discuss the review, for which the Town Council pay for.

The substantive motion became:

To propose that Buckingham Town Council agree to seek a meeting with Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group to consult with Members regarding the

proposed changes to the MKCCG following its Public Consultation document. The Town Council also propose they are in favour of having a public session to discuss the review, for which the Town Council pay for. The Town Clerk would contact Aylesbury Vale CCG, Health Watch and Milton Keynes CCG to discuss further.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

542/15 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015 (**BTC/07/15**).
Agreed

543/15 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015 (**IM/03/15**).
Agreed

544/15 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 12th October 2015 (**PL/08/15**) and Monday 2nd November 2015 (**PL/09/15**).
Agreed

545/15 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 26th October 2015 (**E/04/15**).
Agreed

546/15 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 26th October 2015 (**TCE/04/15**).
Agreed

547/15 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 9th November 2015 (**R/04/15**)

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Hirons and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council identify funds from earmarked reserved to proceed with the 3 year plan for 100 venues with DisabledGo costing £12,166.67

Cllr Smith gave a brief background to the motion explaining what services Disabledgo offered and stating that the town prides itself on welcoming all visitors, but felt that sometimes disabled people were marginalised, often due to the nature of venues and historic buildings in Buckingham. The Disabledgo service would give in-depth information on up to 100 venues in the town.

Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendation.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

548/15 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Simon Cole stated nothing to report but requested Members contact him with relevant queries.

Cllr Mordue reported on AVDC beginning their budget setting for 2016, stating that savings would have to be made though it was not envisaged any services would be stopped, though it was likely to have to increase incoming revenue to maintain services to the public. Cllr Mordue said that it was likely that the Government would be reducing its funding over the next 2-3 years; the New Homes Bonus scheme was also thought to be at risk. The District Council was also changing its administrative structure to a flatter, customer service approach – details to be announced in January/February.

Cllr Smith asked Cllr Mordue to confirm the outcome of a discussion at the AVDC cabinet meeting regarding the Aylesbury Vale Tourist Information Centre.

Cllr Mordue confirmed the resolution was supported and that AVDC would cease funding the Information Centre from March 2016 and it would close.

Cllr Stuchbury reported he had also attending the budgeting seminar at AVDC.

The Cotton End steps issue had still not been resolved between AVDC and Bucks County Council – it was hoped that the developer would come forward with a resolution.

Cllr Stuchbury commented on his fears for an unknown future in terms of government funding and withdrawal of support for such critical services as the Citizens Advice Bureau which supported up to 12,000 people across Buckinghamshire. It was felt that at this time it could not be predicted where cuts may fall and vulnerable families would be at risk.

Cllr Smith declared an interest in the CAB as a trustee.

Cllr Stuchbury also reported on the difficult work he had been involved with in Children's Services for Bucks County Council, the first recommendation of the department's recent report had been agreed and County Council employees would undertake training in sexual exploitation annually.

Cllr Stuchbury asked all Members to look through the District's and County budget setting reports and raise any pertinent issues with Councillors.

Cllr Mordue clarified the position on the CAB's in the region – there were currently 2 serving the Vale, Buckingham and Aylesbury, the Districts proposed cuts were aimed at promoting efficiencies and working together – a phased situation was proposed and that having one CAB office shouldn't affect front line services.

Members **AGREED** that a future agenda item was necessary to discuss the matter further.

ACTION: JANUARY AGENDA

Cllr Whyte contributed by email as had apologised for the meeting:

MK Health Review - members will recall that I brought this topic to the town council originally, and I am keen that we work together to hold the Review to account. I would be grateful if you could keep me in the loop on any meetings you may organise.

Paris Attack - the county council has opened a book of condolences at the county hall if anyone is able to get to Aylesbury <http://www.bucksherald.co.uk/news/more-news/sign-book-of-condolence-for-those-lost-in-paris-attacks-1-7072527>

Community Centre - as a AVDC representative on the Aylesbury Vale Estates board, please let me know if there is anything you need assistance with.

Other news:

Buckingham Library - works are underway with the refurbishment, and I thank residents for their tolerance of the temporary facilities. I am looking forward to the re-opening in the new year.

Addington Road - after a longer than expected delay, I am pleased to advise that the resident consultation about the proposed one way systems is about to commence, and I hope the town council is able to assist

Roadworks - Well Street, St Rumbolds Lane etc. patching works are imminent, with resurfacing to be complete in the spring.

549/15 **Action List**

To receive and discuss the updated list

(220/14) Toilets. The Town Clerk confirmed that the New Homes Bonus Committee had recommended the full amount of funding was awarded to the Town Council. Discussions were ongoing over the associated lease with both the Town Council's solicitor and AVDC's legal office. It was hoped to be able to construct and open the public toilets by May 2016.

(393/14) Community Centre roof repairs were complete.

(632/14) Cycling signage Work on the Buckingham/Winslow route would start in January 2016.

(432/15) CCTV. Conversation was ongoing with the supplier to ensure a compatible camera to the existing system.

(433/15) Cotton End Steps. The Town Clerk had seen a rough solution for a slope to be constructed – ongoing.

(437/15) Industrial unit – an asbestos report was due.

The Town Clerk went on to update Members on the difficulties being experienced on taking over the Community Centre at Lace Hill. There was a vast snagging list still to be attended to with over 100 items, some small but some as major and fundamental to the buildings function. The Town Clerk reported Barratt Homes had been rather forceful in pushing for handover of the premises. The Town Council's solicitor had written to Barratt's solicitor over questions relating to the associated S106 agreement, but had not yet received a response. The Town Clerk reiterated how important it was for the Town Council to take on and run the Community Centre for the benefit of the town.

Members were disappointed to hear of the frustrations and wanted the handover to be completed as soon as possible, but understood and thanked the Green Spaces Manager, Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for all their hard work with the project in the face of such difficulties, Members also **AGREED** that should Barratt not respond satisfactorily in 10 days then a press release would be formulated to inform the public of the situation.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

(133.1/14) Festival of Health – it was **AGREED** to transfer the item to the Environment Committee.

ACTION: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

550/15 **(511/15) AVDC Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document**

Members are requested to view the following link
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan---issues-and-options-consultation>

The various evidence documents are available at
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

The consultation runs from 23rd October to 4th December

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk; discuss comments and agree a response

Members held a discussion over the content of the Issues and Options document and the queries raised.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **AGREED** to put forward the Town Clerk's paper in response, whilst specifically quoting option I, question 9 and querying the population figures quoted in question 8.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

551/15 Paris Attacks

To discuss a request via Facebook to explore whether the Town Council should do anything more to express solidarity with our French compatriots after last week's outrageous attacks in Paris.

Members **AGREED** the Town Mayor write a letter expressing sympathy and sorrow to the Town Mayor of Mouveaux. **ACTION: CLLR MAHI**

552/15 Freeman of Buckingham

To receive and discuss a nomination from Cllr Newell

Cllr Newell explained the idea to sound out Members had come about whilst doing the latest version of the winter newsletter. Members discussed the proposal and **AGREED** they were happy to support the nominations at the appropriate time.

553/15 Broadband Issues – Lace Hill

To receive email correspondence, discuss and agree action

Cllr Stuchbury reported that he was seeking to demonstrate the concern of the Town Council to the residents of Lace Hill. The issues that the community had faced with regards to the lack of facility when moving into a brand new, purpose built estate was totally unacceptable.

Cllr Smith commented that it was understood to be a part of a developers remit and responsibility to provide suitable communications infrastructure

Standing Orders were suspended to allow AVDC Cllr Simon Cole to speak

Cllr Cole said that one of the reasons broadband was not written into legislation was because technological innovation was moving so fast and suggested there were reasons for things the way they were and to change them would be to stifle such innovation.

Standing orders were reinstated

Members went on to discuss the duties of the planning authority (AVDC) to ensure adequate infrastructure for all utilities.

Cllr Try declared an interest during the discussion as an employee of BT.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Smith and **AGREED** that the Town Council wish to see a requirement from the Planning Authority to ensure that developers provide adequate infrastructure to communication cabinets, such that individual houses can then take supply from for broadband/high speed communication requirements.

Members **AGREED** this to be the Town Council's policy and asked the Town Clerk to also write to John Bercow MP to concur. **ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

554/15 Purchase of the Community Centre

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk

Cllr Isham declared a prejudicial interest.

The Town Clerk said he had hoped to have more information from a valuation survey but it had not come in to date. **ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

555/15 (526/15 Planning) Response to Mr Van de Poll's letter
To receive and agree a letter written by the Town Clerk
Members **AGREED** the draft letter. **ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

556/15 NALC
To note the date of Larger Local Councils Conference 2015: Communities Can
Wednesday 02 December 2015. To discuss, and agree whether to vote for any of
the nominees.
Members are requested to read candidates statements from the following link:
<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/communitiescan/eventdetail/22/-/larger-local-councils-conference-2015-communities-can>
Members **AGREED** it was customary for delegates to vote as they see fit.
ACTION: TOWN CLERK

557/15 Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum
To receive and discuss a nomination request
None

558/15 Bourton Meadow Academy
To agree a representative to meet with Bourton Meadow Academy stakeholders to
discuss travel arrangements for the school
Cllr O'Donoghue would attend as a resident and Cllr Smith would attend as
resident.

559/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies
559.1 Members are asked to note the reports listed below:
559.2 Buckingham & Maids Moreton NAG Meeting minutes 21st October 2015
559.3 Access for All Minutes 12th October and 9th November 2015
559.4 Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust Financial Statement 31st July 2015
559.5 Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes 2nd September 2015
All noted.

560/15 Meeting Calendar 2016
To receive the calendar for information
Some information incorrect – to be re-issued. **ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK**

561/15 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements
Members noted the information

562/15 News Releases
Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group

563/15 Chair's Announcements
Christmas lights switch on 28th November

564/15 Dates of next meetings
Interim Council – Monday 21st December 2015
Full Council - Monday 25th January 2016
Meeting closed at: 9.25pm

Signed Date
Town Mayor