

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 25th January 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. M. Cole
 Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
 Cllr. M. Try

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
 Mrs. C. Carter Committee Clerk
 Cllr. W. Whyte Bucks County Council

702/15 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Mills (AVDC), Mr B Chapple (BCC), Cllrs Stuchbury, Gateley, Bates and Mordue

703/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Newell expressed a personal interest in item 10 regarding the Library (716/15) Cllr Isham expressed a prejudicial interest at that point in the meeting (Community Centre) (717/15) Cllr Smith expressed a prejudicial interest as a trustee of Citizen's advice

704/15 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on:

- Monday 23rd November 2015 **Copy previously circulated BTC/08/15**
 548; Cllr Smith noted that the organisation was Citizen's Advice – the word bureau had been dropped.

- Monday 11th January 2016 Precept meeting
 671; the word bureau to be removed

Copy previously circulated BTC/09/15
ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

705/15 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 30th November 2015 **Copy previously circulated PL/10/15**

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Harvey and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council request the expressway come as near to Buckingham as possible and actively support the project.

Agreed

- Monday 21st December 2015 **Copy previously circulated PL/11/15**

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Policies be available at Full Council meetings for reference when considering planning applications of 10 houses, or for a mixed development.

Agreed

- Monday 18th January 2016 **Copy Previously circulated PL/12/15**
Minutes had only been issued that day, so could not be agreed and would be carried forward to the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK/ MARCH AGENDA

706/15 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 14th December 2015.

Copy previously circulated E/05/15

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council proceed with the Tender produced by Burley's subject to satisfactory references. Should references not be approved, the GSM would take up the second choice.

Agreed.

Cllr Newell confirmed that the references had been received and Burley's were contracted.

707/15 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 7th December 2015.

Copy previously circulated TCE/05/15

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Strain-Clark and **RECOMMENDED** that the event [Clean for the Queen] be organised in co-ordination with schools and relevant organisations in the town.

Agreed.

Cllr Smith commented that the Neighbourhood Action Group would also get involved.

708/15 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 4th January 2016

Agreed

Copy previously circulated R/04/15

709/15 Motion – Cllr Hirons

That this Council uses its best endeavours to get a Minor Injuries Accident unit set up in Buckingham. This could be at an existing surgery, or at the hospital or otherwise

Cllr Hirons explained the background to his motion when had been helping an elderly resident following a minor accident; she had received little help from her local surgery and had been expected to go to A&E.

Cllr Mrs G Collins said that the practice nurse at the surgery should have attended to the minor injury and she would follow up.

Cllr Hirons commented that 'local' signposted A&E departments were High Wycombe or Wexham, near Slough, and felt that local provision for simple procedures could surely be found.

Members unanimously voted in favour of the motion.

710/15 Action List

To receive the updated list and discuss any actions

Members raised the following items, the Town Clerk responded as marked:

(432/15) CCTV, what developments? *The Town Clerk said that the Green Spaces Manager was progressing the item*

(553/15) Lace Hill Broadband – had the letter to John Bercow been sent? *The Town Clerk would write as soon as possible*

(119/15) Red Cross Building – Cllr Newell commented that she had been at a mission outreach meeting with members of the church who had indicated they were rejigging and furnishing the building and were planning to make a room available for Council meetings.

(191/15) Buckingham partnership, what was the latest? *The Town Clerk replied the item had taken a back burner with recent workloads and projects such as the industrial unit and public toilets.*

(549/15) Lace Hill Community Centre – Cllr Harvey asked whether a press release could be written to indicate an official opening and availability schedule for the public. The Town Clerk said handover had taken place though there were some major snagging items still to be attended to by Barratts.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

711/15 Cllr Mahi – To discuss the future of the library

To receive information from David Jones of the Library Service

Members discussed the extract briefly and expressed uncertainty about the detail in the notes. It was queried just exactly what the note meant for the Buckingham library which had just gone through a major refurbishment project.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the project had been funded from S106 monies released from the Lace Hill estate, not from County Council funds.

*Members **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow Cllr Warren Whyte to speak*

Cllr Whyte was surprised the extract was on the Town Council's agenda and that on its own, it was not helpful. Cllr Whyte went on to explain that Bucks County Council (as all other Councils) was responsible for reviewing all services and this was a long term review looking forward to 2017-19; the way in which library services were managed may be up for debate, but that library services would remain a County Council responsibility.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Hirons and **AGREED** that the Town Clerk write to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and express the Town Council's strong support of the library service in Buckingham.

Standing Orders were re-instated

712/15 Community Land Trust

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk explained that the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan gave provision to set up a Community Land Trust to provide affordable housing projects for those living or working in Buckingham and those with family connections in the town. The Initiative could be supported by the Town Council, but run by the community.

Cllr Hirons commented that the group should also work in association with other similar organisations in the town running the Alms Houses and Chapter 21 for example.

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Cole and **AGREED** to adopt the Town Clerk's recommendation that the year's membership is take out to the CLT Network and advertising is done through a news release and social media to find people who would be interested in setting up the CLT. In addition, the small hall in the community centre is booked for a public meeting on the subject.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

713/15 Bucks County Council – Parking Consultation

Proposed changes to Parking Restrictions in Buckingham Town Centre

Members are requested to view the online documents, plans and survey questionnaire

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=2119>

Survey end date 31st January 2016

Members **AGREED** the consultation showed tangible improvements and were happy for the Town Clerk to respond accordingly.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

714/15 Buckinghamshire Law Plus – Bucks County Council

To receive a request for Independent Panel Members

Members discussed the appeals system briefly and commented that the letter was not clear in its invitation; i.e. whether panel members could be a member of the public or Councillors only. The Town Clerk would write for clarification.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

715/15 (428/15) Reply - District Councillor Questions

To receive a reply from Bucks County Council to a question asked at Full Council 5/10/15

Original Question below for Members information:

Cllr Harvey also requested that Cllr Stuchbury ask both AVDC and Bucks County Councils that following the announcement on 5th October by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 'devolution revolution' how they would use their new powers to favour commercial activity in town centres and away from peripheral activity. How would both Councils use their powers for the purpose of keeping town centres alive for the benefit of both the public and commercial

Members noted the response

716/15 Community Centre Executive Valuation Summary

To receive the Executive Summary report – the main report is available in the office
Members agreed for the Town Clerk to approach Aylesbury Vale Estates to begin negotiations and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

*Members **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow Cllr Warren Whyte to speak*

717/15 Reports from District and County Councillors

717.1 For further discussion and agree any necessary action:

(548/15) *Cllr Stuchbury asked all Members to look through the District and County budget setting reports and raise any pertinent issues with Councillors.*

Cllr Mordue clarified the position on the CABs in the region – there were currently 2 serving the Vale, Buckingham and Aylesbury; the District's 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.*

Cllr Smith declared an interest as a trustee of the Citizen's Advice

Cllr Smith reported that there was no intention by AVDC to shut the office in Aylesbury, but to manage the service more efficiently – possibly by sharing services, for example an umbrella management system for both offices and smarter working processes.

717.2 New reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Whyte reported the County Council were to increase Council tax by 1.99% and a further 2% for the new adult social care element. The loss of the central government funded support meant that Bucks County Council were the second worst of local authority in England.

Budget scrutiny was continuing with a view to protecting services that affected the vulnerable and those in need in all communities.

The County Council was continuing to promote a 'digital first' response – to encourage the public to use the web and 'buy online' services as a first point of contact, freeing up the call centre to deal with more complicated individuals' needs.

Locally, work on the London Rd Bridge was ongoing, a local transport event was being held at the Royal Latin School on 26th January to promote the co-design of future local travel services. Buckingham was 1 of 4 local towns being focussed on to help mould the future of transport services, to hopefully ensure BCC were more reactive to local needs.

Moreton Road phase II – recent drainage issues were being pursued, a pedestrian crossing was due to be installed shortly.

Addington Rd – approximately 70 houses were mailed with a consultation for a one way system; the response rate was 35-40%. The project has now been handed to Transport for Buckingham and was hoped to be started by the summer.

Buckingham Library – Cllr Whyte said that he was keen to promote use of the library, though eventually the management of the service may change. Cllr Whyte was launching a 'Friends of Buckingham Library' group to support additional funding and events – the launch would be on 6th February.

As an Aylesbury Vale Estates board Member, Cllr Whyte had recently challenged the board as to why they continued to own assets in Buckingham that had no long term income; Cllr Whyte supported the Town Council's view on the Community Centre (owned by AVE).

Thornborough Bridge Layby – Cllr Whyte reported the County Council would no longer actively maintain the layby – Cllr Whyte was open to suggestions from Members and the public about how to maintain and/or promote the area.

On a final note Cllr Whyte said he and Cllr Stuchbury were in regular conversation with the Cabinet Member for Education about how the new Vale of Aylesbury plan may impact on education.

Cllr Whyte also reminded Members of County's 'Switchedon' initiative for cheaper energy bills which finishes on 1st February.

Members thanked Cllr Whyte for his update.

Standing Orders were reinstated

718/15 Correspondence

Noted

719/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports.

720/15 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Noted

721/15 News Releases

Promotion for minor injuries unit

722/15 Chair's Announcements

The Chairman congratulated all staff and Members on achieving the Quality Gold level standard local council scheme.

723/15 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 22nd February 2016

Full Council - Monday 14th March 2016

Meeting closed at: 8.15pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor