

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Tuesday 31st May 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
 Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham Vice Chairman
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell Chair
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark

In attendance: Mr. L. Phillips Green Spaces Manager
 Mr D. Jones Committee Clerk

80/16 Election of Chairman

Chairman of the Committee for 2016-2017 Cllr Newell proposed by Cllr. Smith seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clarke

81/16 Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman of the Committee for 2016-2017 Cllr Isham proposed by Cllr. Smith and Seconded by Cllr. Hirons

82/16 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs Stuchbury attending VALP Councillor Consultation and Mayor Andy Mahi, Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Mrs. M. Gately & Cllr. P. Collins.

83/16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bates Declared a prejudicial interest in item 16.2 as a resident whose garden also backs onto the Church Green.

Cllr P Hirons Declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 due to his affiliation with church.

84/16 Memorial request

84.1 Item 9 brought forward due to Mrs Buckland's attendance and input during the public session Mrs Buckland emphasised that the proposed cross is 5ft from the base of the grave bed.

84.2 Members asked further question during the public session to ascertain the impact of the cross amongst the other existing stones in that area of the Cemetery.

84.3 Members discussed and agreed that on the basis that other similar memorial stones have been agreed within the same area in the past.

84.4 Cllr. Isham proposed agreement and this was seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield. **Agreed** by all members

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

84.5 In addition Cllr J Harvey **proposed** and members **agreed** that appropriate amendments should be made to the cemetery handbook to enable The Green Spaces Manager to make this kind of decision without the need to bring every case similar to this back to the Committee.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

84/16 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 4th April 2016, ratified at Full Council on Monday 9th May 2016.

Noted and agreed

85/16 Action Reports

85.1 900.1 To receive the report and note the updated information.

Noted

85.2 215/11, 334/11 & 709/14 Renewable energy.

Members requested an update on solar panels on the Community Centre. Request that Town Clerk provides members with an update at the next environment committee meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

85.3 776/15 Festival of Health - Cllr Harvey updated members on Festival of health progress. Outline discussions with University have taken place with the possibility that Buckingham University may be able to incorporate the festival within the 2017 literary festival. At some point, soon after the EU referendum, Cllr Harvey will pull together a small group of people to see what can be done with the potential perhaps of gaining the support of national and international organisations e.g. World Health Organisation and Royal College of Nursing. Ll. Harvey emphasised the need for a self-financing festival. Cllr Bates expressed an interest in working on this with Cllr Harvey.

ACTION: CLLR. HARVEY

85.4 907/15 Dog bins. Cllr. Hirons expressed concern that this hadn't yet been addressed. The Green Spaces Manager confirmed that the bins are ordered in from AVDC on a quarterly basis and the next order and installation will happen in June.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

86/16 Budgets

86.1 To receive the latest figures

Noted

87/16 Terms of Reference

87.1 Need to remove 'planters' as this now sits within T,C & E (page 2,11.3) Members **AGREED** to the terms subject to the suggested amendment.

ACTION: COMMITTEE CLERK

88/16 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

To receive a report on Sports and Community bookings and recruitment

88.1 members noted the report.

88.2 Cllr Smith expressed concern that Zumba classes may not be an ideal mix due to one being a very calm quiet activity and the other being fairly loud

and active. The Deputy Town Clerk mentioned that all clubs are aware that there are other activities going on within the centre and that we could address any concerns as they arise.

88.3 Cllr. Harvey suggested a bylaw or something which prevents dogs using the pitches for dog walking. Members have asked that Officers explore the prospect of a bylaw on the playing fields making them a no dog zone. Members **AGREED**

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER & DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

88.4 members thanked all officers for their work in bringing the Sports and Community Centre to this stage.

89/16 (900/15) Table Tennis Table

89.1 To receive a written report from the Green Spaces Manager E/08/16

Noted

89.2 The Green Spaces Manager confirmed that the Table Tennis table would be located Between the MUGA and the tennis courts.

89.3 Members **AGREED** to option C.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

90/16 (255/15) Green Flag Status

90.1 To receive and discuss the Green Flag Award advisory visit documents for:

12.1 Bourton Park & 12.2 Chandos Park.

Noted

90.2 Members expressed disappointment that the inspector described the relatively new play equipment in Chandos Park as 'tired'. There was also disappointment that the inspector hadn't acknowledged the engagement that had taken place with the public in the past when they comment on 'Consider how the town engages in the parks'.

90.3 Members **AGREED** that there should be distinction between the Heartlands and Bourton Park

90.4 Members **AGREED** with the recommendation to go ahead and take the necessary steps to achieve Green Flag Status

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

92/16 Crocus Planting

92.1 To discuss a request from the Roundtable to plant crocus bulbs, verbal update from the Green Spaces Manager

Noted

92.2 The Green Spaces Manager drew attention to an error and amend 'Roundtable' to Rotary.

Members **AGREED** to pursue this idea and requested that Green Spaces Manager discusses the idea in more detail to determine the location and the level of input from The Green spaces team.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

93/16 (902/15) Town Action Commission (preservation of trees in Buckingham)

93.1 To choose two members to take a lead on the Town Action Commission regarding the preservation of trees in Buckingham.

93.2 Cllr Strain Clarke indicated that she could take on a small role in this project.

93.3 Cllr. Harvey reiterated the point of the Town Action Commission. It is about drawing together a report that could then go out to other organisations. The aim of the Town Action Commission is to involve the public in working alongside Councillors. It's about encouraging people to be involved in a public effort to make a difference in the town.

93.4 Discussions continued over the sort of person who might be suited to leading it. But a decision couldn't be reached on a suitable candidate(s)

93.5 **Proposed** by Cllr. Smith and **AGREED** by Members that this should go back to Full Council for further discussion.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

94/16 Centenary Fields

94.1 To receive a letter regarding a nationwide programme and to decide whether to participate. Members discussed possible areas that could be designated as a Centenary Field.

94.2 Members considered what the programme was about and that concept and general idea whilst they agreed that the principal of the idea was commendable;

Members **AGREED** that they don't wish to pursue the idea.

95/16 Parking Issue at Church

95.1 To receive a verbal update from the Green Spaces Manager

The Green Spaces Manager confirmed that Yew Hedge was the ideal option and that BTC would be responsible for financing and maintaining it. Cllr Smith reiterated the reason for this discussion and described member's initial concern about destruction of the kerb and grassed edge from excessive parking on the grass area around the church.

95.2 Members **AGREED** to go ahead with communicating the plan directly with the church and subject to those discussions going ahead with the plating of the Yew hedge.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

96/16 To discuss an email ref access from Michaelmas Cottage

96.1 Members stated that as the gate in question was cut many years ago, it may be necessary to investigate the overriding implications of the party wall act.

96.2 Members **AGREED** to The Green Spaces Manager researching the Party Wall Act and out of courtesy write to the property owner before any action is taken.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

97/16 Dog bin

97.1 Noted a request from residents in Mary MacManus Drive.

97.2 Members asked that the Green Spaces Manager explores the cost of the dog bins, what the ongoing costs are and understand what the issues are.

97.3 Members were hesitant to agree to an additional dog bin in an area where so few residents lived, and to date we have provided bins in green spaces rather than residential areas. Cllr Bloomfield mentioned that a number of the residents in the area are elderly and their ability to get to other dog bins in the locality

Is restricted due to their age and they might be reluctant to dispose of the mess in their own waste. Members mentioned that any bin can be used to dispose of dog waste.

97.4 Members **AGREED** that the Green Spaces Manager should come back to the committee at the next meeting with the single and ongoing costs of providing a Dog Bin. **ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

98/16 Access Awareness

98.1 To receive a verbal update from Cllr Strain-Clark

98.2 It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Strain Clarke provide the DisabledGo report for the attention of **Full Council** to discuss the matter in more detail.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

99/16 (901.2.2) Edible Woodland

99.1 To agree to pay a 2nd invoice from Budget 4120/255 (Friends of Group) as previously agreed

99.2 Members expressed concern over the expense of some of the items on the invoice. Green Spaces Manager explained that insurance was a standard price. Cllr Smith suggested that the group provide an explanation as to what and why the money has been spent in this way.

99.3 Members **AGREED** that subject to Cllr. Newell receiving satisfactory answers to Members concerns that the invoice should be paid.

ACTION: CLLR. NEWELL AND FINANCE ASSISTANT

100/16 Fields in Trust

100.1 Members noted the communication and discussed whether to join.

100.2 Members **AGREED** that if it costs £50 per year and there are long term benefits such as discounts on park and leisure equipment; we should sign-up for it and see what benefits come from it.

ACTION: GREEN SPACE MANAGER

101/16 News Releases

Town action Commission on Trees

A reminder that Dog waste can be disposed of with general waste and doesn't have to go into a red bin

102/16 Chair's Announcements No announcements

None

103/16 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th July 2016.

Meeting closed at: 8.15pm

Chair..... Date.....