

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 5th October 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	Mayor
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. J. Quayle	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk

Retired Councillor Cadd had sent apologies and did not collect the scroll.

426/15 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs P & G Collins, Strain-Clark, Try and Mordue. Apologies also received from County Members Whyte and Chapple.

427/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

All Councillors – item 19 (Allowance for Parish and Town Councillors) at that point in the meeting.

428/15 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Stuchbury reported he would attend a meeting on 6th October at AVDC regarding the unitary council proposals. He informed Members that following his motion to the District Council regarding challenging the footpath access issue, he was waiting to receive news of a proposed solution from Cllr Paul Irwin.

Cllr Stuchbury also briefly reported on his working projects with Children's Services and County highways on the Tingewick Rd development.

Cllr Harvey asked Cllr Stuchbury to report on what was happening with the issue of the Tesco/London Rd roundabout; the petition had been sent in several months ago and promises of resolution from both District and County had amounted to nothing – despite being promised in February 2015.

Cllr Stuchbury responded that he too was very disappointed and frustrated at the lack of action from both Councils

Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write to both AVDC and Bucks County citing all dates and correspondence in which the issue had been raised, expressing deep displeasure and requesting immediate action.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

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 users?

ACTION: CLLR STUCHBURY

429/15 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 17th August 2015 (**BTC/06/15**).

Agreed.

430/15 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 24th August 2015 (**PL/06/15**) and Monday 14th September 2015 (**PL/07/15**).

Agreed.

431/15 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2015 (**TCE/03/15**).

Agreed.

432/15 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 7th September 2015 (**E/03/15**).

386/15 Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Mahi and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council purchase further CCTV equipment and fund from Contingencies as a matter of urgency

Agreed

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

433/15 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 21st September 2015 (**R/03/15**)

422/15 Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council prepare a New Homes Bonus funding application.

Cllr Harvey explained this application would be for the funding to resolve the access problem at Cotton End Steps on Lace Hill.

For 10, Against 1, Abstention 0

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Hirons and **AGREED** to move items 9 & 10 to the end of the agenda

434/15 Planning Application 15/01218/AOP – Amended Plans

Land north of A421 Tingewick Road [actually land between *Tingewick Road and A421 Buckingham bypass*]

Application for Outline Planning Permission with access to provide up to 400 Residential Dwellings (including Affordable Housing), Open Space including Play Areas and sports and related recreation facilities, Landscaping, New Vehicular and Pedestrian Accesses, Engineering (including Ground Modelling) Works, Infrastructure

Works (including Drainage Works and Utilities Provision) and Demolition (including Site Reclamation), Car Parking and Lighting.

Hallam Land Management

Minor Amendments: relocation of eastern access [1 on the drawing] 18m further east and related realignment of primary street and removal (and replacement elsewhere) of some hedgerow and redesign of the drainage basin; extension of visibility splays; a NEAP replacing one of the LEAPs; appendix to the Environmental Statement; correction of typos and other errors pointed out in BTC response

Members thanked the representative from Hallam for incorporating the Town Council's recent comments in their amendments; and for their honest expression on wishing to deal with any s106 fund requirements through the Town Council.

Members **AGREED** a no objection response.

435/15 Action List

To receive and review the updated list

University Access – Members agreed that the Town Council had fully discussed the subject with the University and Film place. Members requested that Access for All write to the Vice Chancellor to take the matter further.

ACTION: ACCESS FOR ALL

Cycling signage – The Town Clerk had met with members from Bucks County and was waiting for a date to commence a working program.

436/15 Purchase of the Community Centre

To receive a verbal update on the current position from the Town Clerk and agree to employ a surveyor/commercial agent to give an estimate on the price.

Members held a discussion over the history of the development and public funding of the Community Centre. Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk could contact local surveyors/valuers for valuation.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

437/15 Industrial Unit

To receive a verbal update regarding the purchase of a unit at Hillcrest Way. Agree to obtain a survey on the building and an asbestos report in line with Financial Regulations.

The Town Clerk reported he had looked at the unit with the Green Spaces Manager to assess viability for the Town Council and confirmed the unit was fit for purpose, and the price was in line with similar units sold previously.

Members unanimously **AGREED** that the Town Clerk could both commission a survey and asbestos report, then proceed with the purchase.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

438/15 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

438.1 To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that following the recent successful referendum and adoption of the neighbourhood plan that the Dominoes planning application had been refused on the basis of non-compliance with the plan.

438.2 To note John Bercow MP's letter to the Town Clerk

Noted.

439/15 AVDC Response to NDPs

Following the SMDC decision to support a planning application outside Great Horwood's NDP settlement boundary, and concerns about the likely response to Moreton Road stage III when (and if) transport issues are resolved, to consider this council's response to AVDC planners who are apparently disregarding para 198 of

the NPPF despite the Cabinet Member's stated support of NDPs by AVDC Members and Officers. (Cllr Mike Smith)

Members held a long discussion and agreed that as a result of the successful adoption of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development plan that the Town Council will need to continue to be very diligent with commenting on planning applications, quoting plan policies and specifications.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Hiron and **AGREED** that in view of the District Council's received legal advice and its impact on Neighbourhood Plans that such advice should be provided in full to Town and Parish Councils to equip them in their local planning decisions.

For 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

440/15 Aylesbury Magistrates' Court Closure Consultation

Members are requested to view the online consultation; to discuss and agree a reply if necessary. Cllr. Mark Cole's suggested response is attached.

https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/proposal-on-the-provision-of-court-and-tribunal-es/user_uploads/reform-estates-national-consultation_official-sensitive_final.pdf

Cllr Cole informed Members that he served as a Magistrate and that there had been magistrates sitting in Buckinghamshire serving the local communities for 640 years. At present Magistrates courts were only in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Milton Keynes – the proposal was to now close Aylesbury.

Aylesbury supports the Headquarters for the fire, ambulance and police services; Cllr Cole commented that the magistrates court building was a 1980's build and fit for purpose.

Members discussed the importance of local services, particularly for those people attend court for 9am cases, such as families with young children who have to arrange care; or witnesses who may not be inclined to travel further to High Wycombe or Milton Keynes. Members remarked that court activity covers a whole raft of situations and wholeheartedly supported the proposed response on behalf of the Town Council and people of Buckingham.

Members voted for the proposed response:

For 10

Against 1

Abstention 0

441/15 NHS England – Controlled locality determination in relation to the area of Buckingham and surrounds

To receive the decision for information.

Noted

All Members declared an interest in the following item

442/15 Allowances for Parish and Town Councillors

To receive the report recommendations.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **AGREED** to increase Parish Councillors allowance by 1.5%, and refer to precept.

The Town Clerk and Cllr Stuchbury left the meeting

The Deputy Town Clerk took the place of the Town Clerk

443/15 NALC – Council of the week

To discuss and decide whether to enter a submission

Cllr Harvey agreed to submit an entry based on the Town Clerk's recent nomination for localism.

ACTION: CLLR HARVEY

444/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports.

444.1 The Buckingham Society Newsletter – September 2015

444.2 Buckingham Community Centre Management Committee Minutes – 22nd January, 26th March and 28th May

444.3 Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes 1st July

444.4 Destination Buckingham group 28th July and 1st September

445/15 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information

446/15 Supplementary agenda item - Red Cross Centre, Verney Close

To receive a letter from BCC (attached) and discuss a response.

Members **AGREED** to defer this item to the next Full Council agenda.

ACTION:FULL COUNCIL AGENDA 23RD NOVEMBER

Members returned to items 9&10 of the agenda

Cllr Stuchbury returned to the meeting

447/15 Motion – Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury

Europe and the Middle East is in the middle of a huge humanitarian crisis: millions of people are desperately seeking safety and sanctuary. This Council commits to work with all local people and public service partners to make refugees welcome in our town.

Cllr Harvey had circulated the following proposed amendment by email:

Europe and the Middle East are in the middle of a huge humanitarian crisis: millions of people are desperately seeking safety and sanctuary. This Council commits to work with all local people and public service partners to make refugees welcome in our town. Moreover, echoing Buckinghamshire County Council's recent commitment, that this Town Council agrees that all Buckinghamshire authorities, together with Police and Health, should work together to press the Government to fund fully the ongoing costs of the refugees, particularly those with high needs.

Naturally this Council supports the fair & lawful application of the 1951 UN Convention on helping refugees (<http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>) and all its Articles in particular Article 21 concerning Housing.*

As a consequence and in compliance with this Article, this Council supports giving priority to housing the homeless, including ex Services personnel, in Buckingham & wider Aylesbury Vale, before refugees.

*This Article states: "As regards housing, the Contracting States, in so far as the matter is regulated by laws or regulations or is subject to the control of public authorities, shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances."

Cllr Harvey stated the amendment was simply about extending a welcoming hand to all and sought to find a motion that would unify both sentiments.

Cllr Hirons spoke at length about a trip he had recently taken, visiting towns in both Sweden and Germany where the locality were taking in 100s of refugees and felt that the UK was not pulling its weight in response to the humanitarian crisis. Members voted unanimously in favour of the amended motion, item 10 fell as a consequence.

448/15 Motion – Cllr Mahi, seconded by Cllr Mike Smith

That this Council support giving priority to house the homeless, including Ex Service personnel, in Buckingham and Aylesbury Vale, before refugees.
Item fell.

449/15 News Releases

The Town's Council's motion above

450/15 Chair's Announcements

Members extended their condolences to the Town Clerk's family on their recent loss.

Members sent their continuing support to Cllr Paddy Collins and his wife, Geraldine.

451/15 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 2nd November 2015

Full Council - Monday 23rd November 2015

Meeting closed at: 21.20

Signed Date

Town Mayor