

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. G. Collins  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. D. Isham (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. A. Mahi - Mayor  
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell (Chairman)  
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

**In attendance:** Mr. C. Wayman Town Clerk  
Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk

**80/15 Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman of the Committee for 2015-2016  
Proposed by Cllr O'Donoghue and seconded by Cllr Bloomfield that Cllr Isham be Chair;  
Proposed by Cllr Strain-Clark and seconded by Cllr Mahi that Cllr Newell be Chair

Voting was 5 : 7 and Cllr. Newell was declared Chair for the forthcoming year.

*Cllr Newell took the chair for the next part of the meeting*

**81/15 Election of Vice Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2015-2016  
Cllr Isham was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

**82/15 Apologies for Absence**

None

**83/15 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs P. Collins, Hirons and Newell declared an interest in item 8.

**84/15 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 30 March 2015, ratified at Full Council on the 11 May 2015.

**85/15 Action Reports**

To receive the report and note the updated information.

Cllr Bloomfield requested details of responses received to the Ken Tagg Paly Area refurbishment project. The Town Clerk reported that they had contacted all households in Meadway with 7 responses received and that the Green Spaces manager had responded back to each one. Cllr Strain-Clark asked that her previous comments regarding paving and seating be taken into account during the design.

Cllr Isham requested an update on Cemetery land and burial space. The Town Clerk advised 6 new plots had been created by the removal of a tree. At a meeting with the Town Clerk the developer who proposed to provide new cemetery land stated 2 years would be a reasonable time scale for provision.

Cllr Harvey asked whether the MVS sign had been purchased suggested it be located next to Meadway, recording traffic exiting the Tesco roundabout. The Town Clerk confirmed it had been ordered and would be rotated around points in the town. Cllr Stuchbury confirmed he had requested stretch of road highlighted by Cllr Harvey be included in the recent safety audit, and once this audit was made available he would forward to Members.

The Town Clerk informed Members that;

AVDC confirmed they are happy for a BMX track to be included in S106 funding requests, but it cannot be located on their land. Town Clerk to investigate further and invite the new Cabinet Member for Leisure to view the parks with the Environment Chair.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

A meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June to discuss possible outcomes from the Ponds Survey.

Survey of Dog bins is almost complete and will appear on the next agenda.

The Town Clerk met with the Environment Agency to discuss options regarding Chandos Park banks and weir repairs. They provided some helpful advice and contacts for the Town Clerk to pursue.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**86/15 Budgets**

Cllr. Hiron asked for clarification on Account 4050, Maintenance of Fields.

The Town Clerk informed Members this was in relation to the proposed adoption of Lace Hill Playing fields.

**87/15 (708/14) Wooden Bollards for verge Western side of the Church**

*Cllr Newell declared an interest and Cllr Isham chaired the item*

Members received and discussed the letter received from the Oxford Diocesan Registry's Solicitor in regards the installation of bollards. Members debated the merits of moving forward with the installation or applying for faculty permission, with some confusion expressed over the Village Green

status of the particular land in question, the definition of curtilage and whether any permission is indeed needed.

It was AGREED that complete information should be collated and brought back to the Council with an officer recommendation.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

*Cllr Newell returned to the Chair*

**88/15 Land Registry – new hedging on cycleway – back of Treefields**

(887.5) to receive a response re the new hedging on the cycleway  
Councillors discussed the Land Registry results failing to show the land as registered and whether the Town Council should look to register the land. The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the land may belong to Buckinghamshire County Council but may not have been registered; historically Councils have been slow to register all areas of land, and that The Town Council would have to prove 20 years of activity (Maintenance) to register the land. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk will contact the County Council to establish who owns the land.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**89/15 Request to use Bourton park**

AGREED subject to the usual indemnities and assurances and that there is no clash with the regular Park Runs.

**90/15 Bourton Park Finger Posts**

Members received and discussed the report from the Green Spaces Manager. Members AGREED the officer's recommendations to purchase and replace 5 finger posts in the parks. Members discussed additional park signage and AGREED to get prices for entrance signage to areas of Bourton park and information boards.

**ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**91/15 Bourton Park and Cemetery Footpath Tender**

To receive and agree tender documents to be sent to potential suppliers.

The Town Clerk reported that the Green Spaces Manager was unable to complete the Cemetery path tender documents in time for the meeting. However, the specification will be similar to pages 3,4 & 5 of the Bourton Park Specifications. The Town Clerk informed Members that during the work the Green Spaces Manager wanted to widen the Cemetery paths to allow access for works vehicles to the back of the Cemetery. The work in Bourton Park would be in two or three phases to keep the park as open and accessible to the public. Members discussed and AGREED to go out to tender for both projects.

Cllr Newell thanked the Town Clerk and Green Spaces Manager for their work and that Members look forward to receiving tenders.

**ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**92/15 Sports Pitch Provision**

Members discussed and AGREED the recommendation in the report. It was suggested that parameters laid down by Sport England could be used as a criteria for judging club/sport priority.

**ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**93/15 (831/14) Chris Nicholls Walk**

To note correspondence regarding the proposed adoption of Chris Nicholls Walk.

The Town Clerk informed Members he had replied to AVDC requesting further information regarding the extent of land adoption, as other areas such as Hunter Street grave yard have also been mentioned. Members felt that it was an attractive idea to adopt the land; however any land adoption must be taken on in good order and with endowment. Members also felt AVDC should provide details of all future land they may wish to transfer and that adoption of land requiring maintenance should be balanced by adoption of land able to provide income generation. Members asked that the Town Clerk bring back as much information as possible.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**94/15 Access Awareness**

To receive a verbal update from Cllr Strain-Clark.

Cllr Strain-Clark informed Members that;

Access Awareness now has 3 active officers and that Bucks Disability Services will act as the groups legal advisors.

Mr Grimsdale has set up and manages a Facebook group concentrating on disabled access issues.

Arthritis sufferers have reported difficulty in using the Community Centre's new door knob when accessing the venue and that she would be writing to the Community Centre about this.

Members discussed the lack of available disabled taxi services in the area after 5pm and AGREED to contact the GMB Union, AVDC and County Council to try and work towards a solution.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**95/15 Request for Memorial Tree in Bourton Park**

Members AGREED the request

**ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER**

**96/15 Green Buckingham Group**

To receive a verbal report from Cllr Newell

Cllr. Newell provided Councillors with a brief update on recent 'Green Drinks' and informed members that they would continue advertising meeting on a monthly basis.

**97/15 BCWP**

To receive minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Members **AGREED** to receive the minutes

**98/15 News Releases**

Members **AGREED** to issue a press release on the Councils commitment to Access for all, concerns over availability of the disabled taxi service, dropped kerbs and the Councils upgrade of Bourton Park and Cemetery paths

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**99/15 Chair's Announcements**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that Register of Interest Forms were due to him by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Members discussed a letter received from a Winslow resident in reference to speeding and agreed the Town Clerk would issue a response using Cllr. Harvey's draft.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

**100/15 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Meeting closed at: 8:45pm

Chairman..... Date.....