

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 20th July 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Mr. L. Phillips Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk

249/15 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Cllr G Collins

250/15 Declarations of Interest

None

251/15 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 1st June 2015, ratified at Full Council on the 29th June 2015.

Agreed

252/15 Action Reports

To receive the report and note the updated information.

Cllrs queried and discussed the following items:

830/14 Bourton Park Ponds Project – The Green Spaces Manager reported that the project was temporarily on hold due to conversation with the Environment Agency about providing fish passage to enable migration up stream, they were also looking at the weirs throughout the town. Cllr Hirons commented he had spent the day at the Drainage Board and was concerned at their intention to bring many water courses back to their natural state. Members agreed that it was wise to take consideration of the recommendations which took the line of considering wildlife more seriously than flooding and the management of water.

330/14 Kenn Tagg play area – S106 funding had been approved. Tenders had been sent out; a further update would be given at the next meeting.

344/13 Cemetery Path – report to next meeting.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

481/12 BMX Track – S106 monies from the Moreton Rd development awaited.

92/15 Sports pitch provision – The Green Spaces Manager reported that a meeting would be taking place on 24th July. Cllr Newell would check with the Town Clerk who the attendees were. **ACTION: CLLR NEWELL**

87/15 Church bollards – to remain on action list. Further thought required to find a solution. Add village green area to Green Flag Application.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

832/14 MVAS sign – Second sign on order, though delayed.

253/15 Budgets

Members requested a budget line for the provision and maintenance of the public toilets.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

254/15 Cemetery

To receive a written request for a memorial bench

Members held a long discussion and decided on this one occasion that they would make an exception but the handbook should be enforced in all future instances.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

255/15 Green Flag Standard

To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk – requirements to achieve.

Members requested the addition of the Village green area surrounding the church and check on the situation regarding lifesaving vests at the river.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Harvey and **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk begin addressing areas where the Council currently falls short of the criteria, with the view of putting together an application for the Cemetery, Bourton and Chandos parks.

ACTION: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

256/15 Dog Bin Provision

To receive a written report from the Green Spaces Manager

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Newell and **AGREED** to purchase dog bins for Castle House (Overn Avenue end), Stowe Avenue, Holloway Spinney, Bone Hill (Gawcott Rd end) and Tingewick Rd East.

257/15 Provision of Table tennis table

To receive a written report from the Green Spaces Manager

Members discussed the report and comments from the Tennis club and agreed with the Green Spaces Manager that Bourton park was the preferred site.

258/15 Community Centre and Football pitch at Lace Hill

To receive a verbal report from the Green Spaces Manager

The Green Spaces Manager reported construction of the Community Centre and drainage for the pitches had begun. It was of paramount importance to

ensure proper drainage was supplied to the pitches and that vehicular access was maintained to enable large vehicles to get onto the pitch for maintenance works throughout the year. The GSM had been in conversation with the developers to ensure the Sport England specification would be delivered for both the pitches and changing rooms. Discussion with the developer was ongoing.

The footpath planned would cut across the site to the play area and bridle path; a type 1 surface was proposed - not acceptable as a solid surface sufficient for wheelchair users or parents with prams etc. The developer had thus far rejected the Town Council's request for adequate surfacing.

The planning application for the play area and MUGA was with AVDC – details were due soon.

Cllr Stuchbury requested copies of the correspondence with the developers on all the issues.

Members discussed that the comments and requests raised by the Town Council came down to sufficient planning and enforcement policies; Cllr Harvey commented that the footpath must be accessible or the developer would be in breach of equal opportunities legislation.

Members requested that the Planning Clerk look up and report on the proposed plans and S106 agreement.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER AND PLANNING CLERK

259/15 Chandos Park

To receive an email regarding the MUGA and agree action

Members discussed the email and agreed to renew signs showing the park was an alcohol free zone – legislation to be checked first. The issue raised about youngsters climbing the perimeter fence was a matter for the Football Club. Members did not agree the request for a hedge alongside the courts – it was felt a screen of this kind would become a safety and security risk.

ACTION: GREEN SPACES MANAGER

260/15 Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty June 2015

To receive a publication from the Rural Services Network and discuss possible projects

Cllr Harvey informed Members of a forthcoming article regarding fuel poverty in the Town Council's newsletter.

261/15 Access Awareness

To receive a verbal report from Cllr Strain-Clark

Cllr Strain-Clark commented on the excellent improvements made in Chandos Park following a recent visit.

Cllr Stuchbury raised the question of providing further benches or rest areas for those with mobility issues in the town centre. Members discussed the possibilities near the Alms houses or post office sorting centre. Cllr Harvey offered to consider further sites and come back to the next meeting.

ACTION: CLLR HARVEY

262/15 **News Releases**
None

263/15 **Chair's Announcements**
None

264/15 **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 7th September 2015.

Meeting closed at: 8.25pm

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