



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BUCKINGHAM CENTRE,
VERNEY CLOSE, BUCKINGHAM MK18 1JP

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Town Clerk: Mr C. P. Wayman

Tuesday, 03 May 2016

Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 9th May 2016** following the Special Meeting in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr C. P. Wayman
Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 1.3, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 14th March 2016.

Copy previously circulated BTC/12/15

4. Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 11th April 2016.

Copy previously circulated IM/04/15

5. Planning Committee

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

- Monday 21st March 2016

Copy previously circulated PL/15/15

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Hirons, and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council decline the offer to join with the other Councils named and Mr. Homer to formulate a strategic plan as described.

Proposed by Cllr. Try, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Committee's Terms of reference be amended as follows in line with AVDC's new divisions so that paragraph 11, under **Area of Operations**

Buckingham



Twinned with Mouvaux, France



11. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:

- Planning Applications (excluding those for more than 20 10 houses or for new multi-unit retail and multi-unit industrial developments)
- Transport
- Forward planning
- Planning Enforcement

Clerk's note Terms of reference amended and included with Annual Statutory Meeting agenda for approval

- Monday 11th April 2016

Copy previously circulated PL/16/15

6. Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 4th April 2016.

Copy previously circulated E/07/15

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that through the Town Action Commission, the Town Council bring together various groups within the town to have formal discussion on the subject. To establish a Town Action Commission with a focus on maintain, enhancing and preserving trees and hedgerows within the town.

7. Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 29th March 2016.

Copy previously circulated TCE/07/15

8. Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 18th April 2016.

Copy previously circulated R/06/15

9. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

10. Representatives on Outside Bodies 2016-2017

To review and agree representatives to organisations per the attached list

Appendix A

11. Action List

To receive and discuss the list

Appendix B

12. 35 Meadway

To receive a written report from the Green Spaces Manager

BTC/1/16

13. Portrait of the RT Hon John Bercow MP

To receive and discuss a letter from Keith Vaz MP

Appendix C

14. 2017 Calendar

To note the proposed meeting dates

Appendix D

15. Attendance figures

To receive for information the meeting attendance figures for 2015-2016

Appendix E

16. Correspondence

16.1 (830/15) To note a reply from Mr Alan Heath

Appendix F

16.2 To note a letter to the Bucks Herald

Appendix G

17. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

- 18.1 AVDC and AVALC Liaison Meeting 3/12/15
- 18.2 AVALC Executive meeting 1/3/16
- 18.3 Access for All meeting 11/3 & 14/3/16

Appendix H
Appendix I
Appendix J

18. Mayoral Engagements

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

- 06/03/16 - Clean for the Queen
- 14/03/16 - Raise the Commonwealth Flag outside the Community centre.
- 12/04/16 - attend the opening of Lace Hill Academy
- 12/04/16 - attend play at Radcliffe Center (Drugs FAM)
- 23/04/16 - MK Dons Stadium - 'Buckingham Big Day'
- 27/04/16 - Presentation of Trophy to University of Buckingham Football Club.

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

- 24/04/16 - County Scouts Banner service in Aylesbury
- 18/04/16 - Reception held by the Mayor of Milton Keynes.

19. News Releases

20. Chair's Announcements

- 21. Date of the next meeting:**
- Interim Council – Monday 6th June 2016
 - Full Council - Monday 27th June 2016

TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES/ORGANISATIONS
2016/17

ORGANISATION	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVE	TERM OF OFFICE	DUE FOR RENEWAL
Access for All	Cllr. C. Strain-Clark	1 year	May 2016
	<i>Deputy</i> Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	1 year	May 2016
A.V. Association of Local Councils	Cllr. J. Harvey Cllr. C. Strain-Clark (deputy)	1 year	May 2016
AV Local Strategic Partnership Stakeholder	Cllr. P. Hirons		
AV Local Council Planning Liaison Group	Cllr. P. Hirons Cllr. W. Whyte		
A.V. North Sports Council	Cllr. D. Isham	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust	<i>The Mayor</i>	Term of Office	Ex officio
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	2 years	July 2016
	Cllr. D. Isham	2 years	July 2016
	Cllr. Hirons		
Buckingham & River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board			
	Cllr. W. Whyte	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Centre for the Arts			
	Cllr. A. Mahi Cllr. M. Try	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Community Centre			
	Cllr. R. Newell Cllr. T. Bloomfield Cllr. D. Isham	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Community Wildlife Project			
	Cllr. H. Cadd	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Economic Group	Cllr. P. Collins	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. D. Isham	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. J. Harvey	1 year	May 2016
	The Mayor	Term of Office	Ex officio
Buckingham General Charities	Cllr. T. Bloomfield	4 years	14 November 2016
	Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	4 years	14 November 2016
	Cllr. P. Hirons	4 years	14 November 2016

**TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES/ORGANISATIONS
2016/17**

	The Mayor	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Partnership	Cllr. M. Smith	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. P. Hirons	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. P. Collins	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. J. Harvey	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. J. Harvey	1 year	May 2016
Buckingham Youth Centre	Cllr. G. Collins	1 year	May 2016
	The Mayor/Deputy Mayor	1 year	May 2016
CAB			
	Cllr. H. Mordue		
Christmas Parade Committee	Cllr. M. Try		
	Cllr. R. Newell		
Green Buckingham Group	Cllr. R. Stuchbury		
	Cllr. J. Harvey	1 year	May 2016
Local Area Forum			
	Cllr. M. Smith	1 year	May 2016
Neighbourhood Action Group	Cllr. T. Bloomfield	1 year	May 2016
	Cllr. P. Hirons	1 year	May 2016
North Bucks. Parishes Planning Consortium	Cllr. M. Try	1 year	May 2016
<i>Deputy</i>			
	Cllr. R. Newell		
Tree Wardens	Cllr. R. Stuchbury		
	Cllr. T. Bloomfield		
	Cllr. D. Isham		
	Cllr. P. Hirons		
	Cllr. C. Strain-Clark		
	Cllr. H. Mordue		
	Cllr. T. Bloomfield		
Twinning Association	Cllr. R. Newell		
	Cllr. P. Hirons		
	Cllr. C. Strain-Clark		
	<i>Cllr. D. Isham</i>		
	Cllr. H. Mordue		
Visitor Information Centre			

ACTION LIST

FULL COUNCIL, INTERIM COUNCIL & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Subject	Meeting date/ Minute	Form	Response received
Toilets	220/14	DTC & TC to arrange for the construction	NHB has been confirmed, awaiting revised lease Confirmed 2 new disabled spaces
Community Centre Lease	393/14 716/15	Draw up funding Plan for Community Centre	Approach Aylesbury Vale Estates to negotiate
Cycling Signage	643/14	Work with BCC and other parishes – discuss with Canal Society and BCC cycling route	Awaiting initial work to start on Buckingham-Winslow May meeting scheduled
Buckingham Partnership	191/15 710/15	To call a meeting	
AVDC Devolved	310/15	To write to AVDC to take on services	Holding letter received
CCTV	432/15 710/15	Purchase new CCTV system	Talking with company over a compatible system to existing
MKCCG Consultation	541/15	Contact MKCCG, Health Watch, Ayle Vale CCG	Meeting being arranged
Broadband – lace hill	553/15 710/15	Write to J Bercow ref issues at new development	
Community Land Trust	712/15	Procced with membership and advertising for local interest	
Acts of Random kindness	833/15	Suggested plan for collection and action of boxes	Boxes being sourced
Moreton Rd toilets	837/15	Prepare report for costs of keeping facility open	
Chamber	840/15	Propose solutions for better use of chamber, re-jig space/offie	
Mayor Admin support	841/15	Report to Resources	
Minor Injuries Unit	709/15 849/15	Letter ref asking for part time nurse led first aid station	Response noted Full Council 14/3

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 9th MAY 2016

Agenda Item no. 11.

**Contact Officer: Mr Christopher Wayman
01280 816426**

Wall between Ken Tagg Play area and 35, Meadway.

Background

The Town council has been approached by the owner of 35, Meadway as they are extending into their garage and the section of remaining wall which is abutting the garage is causing damp issues with the wall of the garage.

Information

The section (approx. 5m) of brick wall owned by the town council is in a bad state of repair as the brickwork is blown.

Email from Mrs Parker – 35, Meadway (dated 17th April):

The piece of wall that attaches to my garage and juts out adjacent to my drive is the last piece of wall remaining and is in a very bad state of repair and potentially unsafe. The bricks I am told are LBC bricks and are notoriously porous and as a result of this a general wear and tear and lack of maintenance there are many pieces of loose brick and holes. The state of the wall is causing water to leak through into my garage and is causing it to be damp, a problem which needs to be resolved as it will only get worse.

I have attached pictures of the inside of the garage, the outside of the garage where you can clearly see the poor state of the brickwork, it is also an eyesore. Please could these pictures also be sent to the Councillors so they can see in detail the issues.

I have, as you know, I have submitted a planning application to convert my garage and replace the flat roof with a pitched roof, I want to improve my home and the appearance of the outside as I do not want to move from the area. To carry out this work the damp issue needs to be resolved or maintenance would need to be carried out.

My original suggestion of the extra piece of wall on the side of my garage being taken down and the brickwork repointed, all work that would be carried out at my expense, would not affect the boundary in anyway as the fence which separates the park and my property is flush to the garage. (Please see the insert below from the deeds of my house which clearly shows that I am responsible for the boundary)

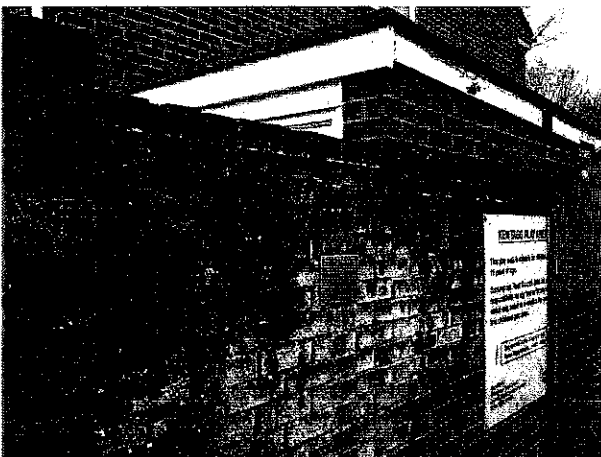
With regards to the pillar of wall which juts out from the front of my garage, this is also in need of repair, again I have attached pictures.

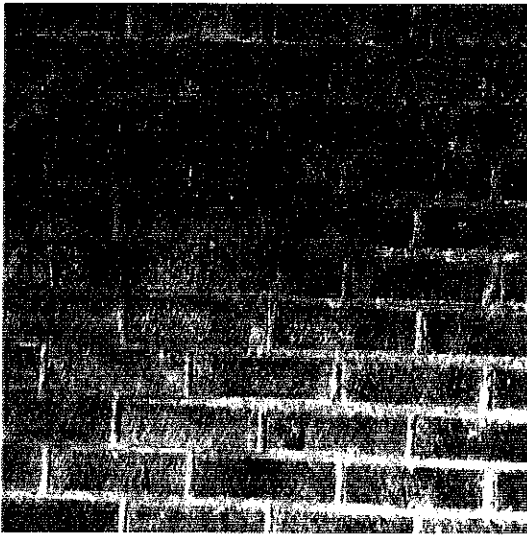
Children often climb up on the fence and up onto the wall, again there are loose bricks and holes and I worry that a child could have an accident. If the Councillors do not agree to my proposition of this piece of wall being taken down and replaced by a close board fence, again at my expense, would they be able to guarantee that maintenance would be carried out?

Following the removal of the wall a section of galvanised metal railings (not wooden fence as Mr Parker has indicated) 1.8m wide and 1.8m high will be required to replace the wall to fit between the garage and existing play metal fence this will need to match in with the plat area fencing, the specification of this will have to be agreed to by the Town Council.



Play area side of wall





Inside garage

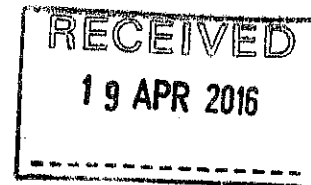


Close up of brickwork from play area side.

Recommendation

That the Council agree to let the owner of 35, Meadway remove the wall and end pillar. Then install a section of metal railings between the garage and existing metal fencing to match the existing play area (not wooden fence). The metal railings will need to be to a specification agreed to by the council.

From: RT. HON. KEITH VAZ MP

15th April 2016
REF:AM/BC/AS

Councillor Andy Mahi
The Deputy Mayor
Buckingham Council
Town Council Offices
The Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
MK18 1JP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Coullis Mahi

Portrait of the Rt Hon John Bercow MP the speaker of the House of Commons

First may I congratulate you most warmly on the very welcome news that you have become the next Mayor of Buckingham. This is a huge honour not just for your family but for the community at large. Many congratulations to you and to the lady Mayoress elect.

I am writing because on a recent visit to Leicester when Mr Speaker unveiled a monument we took a portrait of him by someone we regard as one of the greatest photographers in the Asian Community Maz Mashru.

The portrait has been given to Mr Speaker but I thought it would more appropriate if it was given to the people of Buckingham and perhaps if it was hung in Buckingham councils offices. A few years ago we took a similar portrait of Betty Boothroyd the then speaker and presented it to her local council in Sandwell and it stands there hanging in the town hall to this day.

I hope you think this is a good idea it would involve no costs whatsoever to the citizens of buckingham and when you see the portrait I think you will find it most spectacular.

Should your office have any questions they can contact my chief of staff Adam in my office on 02072192378.

While writing I wanted to tell you that I have a column in an Asian newspaper called the Asian Voice and I do an interview in that newspaper on a weekly basis. I would very much like you to be the subject of one of the interviews and if you agree, I would send you a formal letter.

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting with you and your family.

Keith Vaz

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP

2017 Calendar

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

2017		Meeting 1	Meeting 2	DATE	CIVIC / TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS
Jan	3: Tues	Resources			
	9	Precept			
	16	Planning			
	23	Full Council			
	30	Planning			
Feb	6	Town Centre & Events			
	13	Environment			Pancake Race
	20	Interim	Planning		25th Food Fair
	27	Resources			
Mar	6				
	13	Full Council			
	20	Planning			22nd Annual Town Meeting
	27	Town Centre & Events			
Apr	3	Environment			
	10	Interim	Planning		
	18: Tues	Resources			
	24	Planning			
May	2: Tues				1st May Day Celebration
	8	Full Council & Annual Statutory Meeting			
	15	Planning			28th Music in the Market
	22	Town Centre & Events			TBA Mayors Reception
	30: Tues	Environment			
June	5	Interim	Planning		
	12	Resources			17th - 24th Fringe Festival
	19				
	26	Full Council			
July	3	Planning			TBA Dog event
	10	Town Centre & Events			
	17	Environment			
	24	Interim	Planning		
	31	Resources			
Aug	7				
	14	Full Council			
	21	Planning			27th Band Jam
	29: Tues	Town Centre & Events			
Sept	4	Environment			
	11	Interim	Planning		TBA River Rinse
	18	Resources			
	25				
Oct	2	Full Council			TBA River Rinse
	9	Planning			
	16	Town Centre & Events			14th & 21st Charter Fair
	23	Environment			
	30	Interim	Planning		
Nov	6	Resources			4th Bonfire & Fireworks
	13				12th Remembrance Parade
	20	Full Council			
	27	Planning			TBC Christmas Lights Switch On
Dec	4	Town Centre & Events			
	11	Environment			9th or 16th Christmas Parade
	18	Interim	Planning		& Community Fair

ATTENDANCE REGISTER 2015/16																	
Date of Meeting																	
J. BATES ^{10M}	21/12	1	*	1	*	*	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	*	1	1
T. BLOOMFIELD	21/12	Not held															
M. COLE	14/12	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	1	1	1
G. COLLINS	7/12	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	1	1	1	1
P. COLLINS	30/11	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	1	1	1	1
M. GATELEY ^{10M}	23/11	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
J. HARVEY	9/11	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
P. HIRONS	2/11	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
D. ISHAM	2/11	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
A. MAHI	26/10	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
H. MORDUE	19/10	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
R. NEWELL	12/10	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
L. O'DONOGHUE	5/10	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
J. QUAYLE ¹¹	21/9	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
M. SMITH	14/9	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
C. STRAIN-CLARK	14/9	Not held															
R. STUCHBURY	7/9	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
M. TRY	1/9	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	24/8	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	17/8	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	3/8	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	27/7	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	27/7	Not held															
	20/7	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	13/7	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	6/7	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	29/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	29/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	15/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	8/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	8/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	1/6	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	26/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	18/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	11/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	11/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	11/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	11/5	1	1	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1

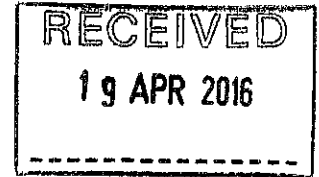
1 = Member Attended 0 = Member Apology # = Present at meeting but not on Committee * = not on Committee ^{10M} from 29/6 ^{11M} from 23/11

ATTENDANCE REGISTER 2015/16		Date of Meeting		FULL COUNCIL		PLANNING		TC & E		Environment		Resources		OTHER		TOTAL	
		No. of Members	No. of Meetings														
J.BATES ¹¹¹¹	04/01	1		1	8/9	13/14	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	15	17	2	39/41	
T. BLOOMFIELD	11/01	1	*	1	9	*	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	2	2	30/35	
M. COLE	18/01	*	1	1	10		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	28/31	
G. COLLINS	25/01	0	1	1	6	*	*	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	14/35	
P. COLLINS	18/01	1	*	1	7	*	*	*	*	4	5	5	2	2	2	18/28	
M. GATELEY ¹¹¹¹	11/01		*	1	3/5	*	1/3	3/3	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*			8/12	
J. HARVEY	18/01	1	1	1	8	14	*	6	7	6	7	7	2	2	2	37/45	
P. HIRONS	18/01	1	1	1	11	15	*	7	5	6	6	6	2	2	2	40/45	
D. ISHAM	11/01	1	1	1	11	16	6	7	6	7	7	7	2	2	2	48/52	
A. MAHI	11/01	1	1	1	10	17	7	7	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	48/52	
H. MORDUE	11/01	1	*	1	7	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	18/21	
R. NEWELL	18/01	1	*	1	10	*	5	6	5	6	6	6	2	2	2	28/35	
L. O'DONOGHUE	11/01	1	1	1	10	10	6	4	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	38/52	
M. SMITH	11/01	1	1	1	10	14	6	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	44/52	
C. STRAIN-CLARK	11/01	1	1	1	9	15	7	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	45/52	
R. STUCHBURY	11/01	1	1	1	10	14	6	6	7	6	6	6	2	2	2	45/52	
M. TRY	11/01	1	*	1	8	14	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	30/38	

1 = Member Attended 0 = Member Apology # = Present at meeting but not on Committee * = not on Committee ¹¹¹¹ 8/6-8/10 ¹¹¹¹ from 29/6 ¹¹¹¹ from 23/11

CLLR	% attendance	FULL COUNCIL	PLANNING	TC&E	RESOURCES	ENVIRONMENT	OTHER
JB	100	89	93	100	100	100	
TB		75		100	86	86	100
MC		83	94				100
GC		50		29	43	14	100
PC		58			71	57	100
MG	100	60		33		100	
JH		67	82		100	86	100
PH		92	88		71	100	100
DI		92		86	86	100	100
AM		83	100	100	71	100	100
HM		58		71	57		100
RN		83		71	71	86	100
LO		83	59	86	86	57	100
JQ	100	100	6	100	100		
MS		83	82	86	86	86	100
CS-C		75	88	100	86	86	100
RS		83	82	86	100	86	100
MT		67	82		86		100

1 = Member Attended 0 = Member Apology # = Present at meeting but not on Committee * = not on Committee 1 8/6-8/10 100 from 29/6 100 from 23/11



41 Kingfisher Road
Buckingham
MK18 7EX

18 April, 2016

Mr A. Mahi
Mayor of Buckingham
Town Council Offices
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP

Dear Councillor Mahi

Mastermind 2016

Thank you for your letter of the 14th and your congratulations on my winning the recent series of *Mastermind* on the BBC. It was very thoughtful of you to take the time and trouble to write. Please would you also convey my thanks to your fellow councillors at your next meeting for their kind words as expressed in your letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Heath".

Alan Heath

Lower South Farm
Doddershall
Quainton
Bucks HP22 4DG

cjprideaux@btinternet.com

22 February 2016

adam.king@jpress.co.uk

The Editor
Bucks Herald, Aylesbury

Dear Sir,

The Calvert Incinerator

The articles in your editions of February 10 and February 17 merit a response from me and my group, BestW (Bucks Environmental Strategy for Treating Waste). To start with, several of the figures attributed to Warren Whyte are wrong.

First, the capital cost of the plant to the taxpayer is not £275 million, it's £185 million. If one adds the estimated annual payments in gate fees one gets to £275 million after 30 years but it's a rather meaningless figure. Either way, it's a lot of money that shouldn't have been spent.

Second, Mr. Whyte repeats the £150 million benefit figure even though BCC's auditors, Grant Thornton, are on record as saying this is false because the figure takes no account of the time value of money. And it's not a benefit, it's an affordability figure.

Third, FCC have said that their electricity output at Calvert will be 20% below target, just like their plant in Lincoln, because householders are quite efficiently separating food and plastic waste from black bag waste which then produces less energy when burnt. So Mr. Whyte's hoped for figure of power for 36,000 homes comes down to less than 29,000. Wholesale electricity prices too are down – by 15% compared to a year ago. Conflating 20% and 15% means returns from electricity sales will be 68% of target. And that comes on top of what the Auditors have called "a weak business plan". Even BCC's own Finance Officer, speaking about the Calvert incinerator in Cabinet on 15 February, said "the long-term challenge will be around the impact of unpredictable energy prices." This is just posh language that really means "it doesn't do what it says on the tin."

So one begins to wonder what else Mr. Whyte and BCC have got wrong. Well, in our opinion it's the whole ball game. These details above are just a few clues as to how far off course the whole project is.

In Neil Shefferd's article of February 17 there is an official admission that the incinerator is not an adequate replacement to landfill. All the items on the list could be taken to landfill but - now the admission - not to the incinerator. Of course no sensible person would advocate taking hazardous or clinical waste or batteries or oils to landfill but neither can such items be disposed of in the incinerator. In fact burning batteries and plastics result in emissions into the air of heavy metals, dioxins and furans, all of which are known health hazards.

It's no comfort for the council taxpayers to be told by Mr. Whyte that they "are doing a brilliant job [of] recycling" when this means that at best 40% of those batteries and plastics result in toxic emissions into the air they breathe.

BestW, which took the trouble to investigate, has been saying this for years in an attempt to deflect BCC from spending £185m on this white elephant.

Little known and even less publicized are two levels of landfill tax and the often-quoted high level applies ONLY to biodegradable waste and not to the rest like plastics, metals, tyres and furniture.

Food and garden waste that is biodegradable doesn't go to the incinerator anyway, but to

anaerobic digestion – which is why it is collected in a separate bin.

Enlightened councils world-wide have focused on waste prevention, separation at source, re-use, recycling and bio digestion – and in that order – and long ago reached reductions in kg/person generated waste and 85%+ re-use, recycling and bio digestion. One such enlightened council is Milton Keynes, which has opted for Advanced Thermal Treatment as part of an overall waste management system that is so advanced that it will host this year's EfW Conference with its state-of-the-art system.

By contrast it is misleading that Calvert is referred to as “the most advanced energy conversion technology in the world”. It isn't. Calvert's chosen technology is nearing the end of its design life. The irony is that Milton Keynes is downwind of this polluting monster.

BCC is on record as saying that the biggest risk to the Calvert incinerator is a change in emission regulations. Historically such changes have happened every ten years, so it's not difficult to recognize that this is indeed a risk for this 30 year project. BCC has said in the same breath that they have no contingency plans for such a change. So guess who will have to pay for it? The stalwart council taxpayer of course.

BCC is now caught in a dilemma as it has committed to supplying 110,000 t of waste per year to the incinerator so any reduction in kg/person or recycling improvement beyond the current 56% will result in a shortfall and penalty. After careful deliberation AVDC has declared its target of zero waste.

Equally little known is that the BCC-funded incinerator is 3x bigger than needed so the rest must be imported from outside Buckinghamshire to keep the continuous process running.

Cut expenditure on transport, children's services, day centres, libraries, road maintenance but spend £185m to finance an incinerator for a Spanish company to burn rubbish from London and beyond, even from outside the UK. How crazy is that?

BCC has missed a golden opportunity to design and implement an integrated waste collection, separation, re-use, recycling, bio digestion and disposal system that would have avoided the higher rate of landfill tax without the need to spend £185m and import other peoples' waste.

So what should BCC do now? First, it should explore ways of not paying £185 million on the grounds that the plant will not perform as expected financially. Some examples are: lower electricity price, reduced electricity generation, changed market of regional waste and competition from Ardley close by, increased re-cycling, and advances in new clean technologies.

It's not yet true that the plant “has passed all relevant inspections”. It has not yet been commissioned. The plan is now seven years old and of course external factors have changed in that time and should be re-examined.

Second, the Public Works Loan Board might not lend most of this £185 million to BCC because of the high risk of a change in emission regulations, which could result in a complete change to the alternative of Advanced Thermal Treatment technology, or at least an expensive change in filter technology at a cost of many millions.

Yours sincerely

C. J. Prideaux
Chairman, BestW Ltd

cc. editorial@bucksherald.co.uk

AVDC and AVALC Liaison Meeting

3 December 2015

PRESENT:

AVDC: Councillor Angela Macpherson; Alice Fisher, Andy Kirkham, Susan Kitchen, Stephanie Moffat, and Andrew Small

AVALC: Cllr John Gilbey, Cllr Jon Harvey, Cllr Jenny Hunt, Cllr John Riches and Cllr Bob Saintey

1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Action By

The notes of the last meeting held on 16 July 2015 were agreed. John Gilbey asked whether there had been any progress regarding the database of 106 Agreements. Andy would follow this up.

AK

2. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDING THE BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AND HOW THIS EQUATES WITH RECENT NEWS FROM BCC

Once again AVDC had to make a number of cuts as the council continued to lose its Government Grant. The £2m in savings needed for 2016/17 would mostly arise because of the increase in costs related to waste collection. The amount of Grant AVDC would receive should be known by 23 December 2015.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement had announced that those Councils that provided Adult Social Care would be able to add 2% to their Council Tax. This would not apply to AVDC. Bucks CC would be consulting on the proposed increase to their portion of Council Tax. As of April 2016, police forces would also be able to increase the amount they require from council tax by 2%.

From 2020 AVDC would be able to keep the money raised from business rates and spend it on local services.

John Riches asked about the collection of waste going to BCC's incinerator rather than landfill and how this would affect AVDC's finances. BCC would be withdrawing from the Inter Authority Agreement over the shared savings accrued from avoiding disposal costs. Effectively this meant AVDC would be paying BCC to incinerate the collected non recyclable waste.

Cabinet were considering a report on the Budget for 2016/17 and the New Homes Bonus on 15 December Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 15th December 2015, 6.30 pm

3. STATUS OF UNITARY AUTHORITY INCLUDING ENGAGEMENT WITH PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Jenny mentioned an item in the latest edition of Aylesbury Vale Times which referred to a delay in putting forward a business case for Aylesbury Vale becoming a Unitary Authority.

Angela confirmed that the council was meeting with the other Bucks

Councils and that a meeting had also taken place with Greg Clark, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. AVDC was still committed to going ahead with becoming a Unitary Authority, but couldn't as yet, give a clear indication when discussions with the parish councils would commence.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

A number of Parishes had raised concerns that planning decisions were being taken against the interests of agreed Neighbourhood Plans. Other parishes that had not yet submitted their plans or even started one were concerned whether it was worth their while in doing so.

Susan confirmed that all planning decisions had to be looked at on their own merits and that the approach was being clearly set out in officers report taking into account the neighbourhood plans.

It was acknowledged that neighbourhood plans can take time to progress from the initial stages of preparation, consultation, examination, referendum and the making of the plan. Taking the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan as an example the whole process took approximately two years. Central Government were looking at the process, including giving more advice, streamlining the process and looking at how Neighbourhood Plans would fit in with Local Plans.

Although AVDC was in the top 5 of areas percentage wise for the number of NPs either made or in the process, and Forward Planning had a dedicated member of staff to liaise directly with parishes, it was felt that there was a need to offer parishes more encouragement to make a NP. It was important to get the message across that NPs were about more than just housing allocations. They also encouraged communities to get together and incorporate a number of objectives and policies into their plans including amongst other things transport, community services, open/green spaces, heritage and economy.

It was acknowledged that not every parish wanted a plan, but it would be useful for Andy Kirkham to produce a document outlining why Neighbourhood Plans were a good idea from a parish point of view.

AK

An update was given on the Planning Inquiry concerning the approval of 280 houses at Aston Road/Glebe Site at Haddenham. The inquiry had taken place between 24 and 27 November and a decision was expected by 11 April 2016.

5. FURTHER CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

At the Local Planning Liaison Group meeting on 30 September, Susan had mentioned that there would be changes to the planning system.

A restructure would be taking place within her department and there would be a move away from geographically split teams. The intention is to have one team dealing with major developments and another team dealing with the minor and smaller applications. Information will be sent out to the parishes to advise of the changes. The statutory period of 21 days for comments would be brought in once the restructure had taken place and established.

Government were also planning to introduce a number of changes to the planning system, but no end date had yet been given. The Housing and Planning Bill was currently going through Parliament.

Although there had been some speculation, planning fees were not covered in the Chancellors Autumn statement.

Parishes would be informed in due course about changes within the planning teams.

John Riches raised the question of parish clerks passing information onto their councillors. It would be appreciated if, when information about applications was sent to clerks, that the clerks were reminded to forward all information to the councillors including any updates. Parish clerks and councillors can set up an alert via the public access to be notified of any additional documentation relating to particular applications in their area.

SK

5. "JOINED UP SERVICES"

Jenny mentioned a "Working Together" conference on joined up services and hosted by Bucks CC that had taken place in Amersham on 25 November for Town and Parishes Councils. It transpired that none of the District Councils had been made aware of the conference.

Andrew would ask for an item to be included on the LAF agendas and arrange for a meeting involving all partners with regard to grass cutting.

AS

6. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 7 April @ 3.00 pm
Wednesday 20 July @ 3 pm, and
Thursday 8 December @ 3 pm

AF

All to take place in the Olympic Room

AYLESBURY VALE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 held at the Town Council Offices, High Street, Winslow
 on 1st March, 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Jenny Hunt [in the Chair],
 John Gilbey, Bob Carvey, Jon Harvey, Bob Saintey, and John Riches

Invited guest: Cllr Paul Harvey - Chair of BMKALC

GUEST PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: PAUL HARVEY CHAIRMAN OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Paul thanked everyone for the invitation to attend and outlined his background and ambitions for the future. He is a long term councillor with his roots in Ireland where his father was a councillor too. Currently he is Vice Chair of NALC's Larger Councils Committee. His aim is to visit all the Buckinghamshire Associations of Local Councils to hear what their wishes are of him in his new role.

He sees his role as enabling, not directing. Although he comes from a large parish, he explained he is very sympathetic to small parishes, recognising the different challenges they face. He hopes to reform the functioning of BMKALC so that it connects more with all the parishes who subscribe, be they large or small. He is pro local democracy and consensus and believes there should be no politics in parish councils. He asked for questions or comments. AVALC exec members then raised a number of issues including:

- the need for better advice and training from BMKALC
- BMKALC should enable and facilitate Parishes facing national strategic development schemes by bringing together those Parishes who may be adversely affected in order that they could support each other. This had not occurred with the announcement of HS2 six years ago although twenty two Parishes in AV were affected. BMKALC had taken the view at the time that this was not its role.
- the importance of E/W Rail to many AVALC members and beyond into wider Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes should be recognised and Parishes encouraged to become engaged. AVALC had held a Forum for those with BCC and EW Rail for those Parishes located in Aylesbury Vale which had been appreciated but the same did not occur for others
- the need for BMKALC to become more involved in the devolvement of services from the primary authorities to parishes (Paul said he believed that devolution starts with the parishes)
- NALC should consider organising an information and advice service which could become a centre of expertise for Parish and Town Councils rather than the current fragmented services often provided by CALCs
- keeping a close eye on Neighbourhood Planning and how BMKALC could work in tandem with Government and Secretary of State very committed to localism
- Salden Chase near the borders of MK and AV - the implications of this development to nearby parishes and towns.
- The need to make BMKALC into a cohesive and influential organisation given the geographic and diverse interests which exist.

- After thanking Paul for coming along, the meeting proper began at 19.40

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Nick Heirons, Andrew Bruton, David Barry & Martin Jarvis.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2016 had been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) AVALC Website

Bob C explained that progress was being made and that he had been liaising closely with the person nominated by Andrew B who had volunteered to assist in revising the website. He said that a considerable amount of work had been done and he would report back to the next meeting. It was also agreed to review the site and hosting at the next meeting of AVALC. The possibility of seeking funding to support maintenance was discussed but no action was agreed. Other sources of financing were considered (**INFO:** Buckinghamshire Funding Search http://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/pages/buckinghamshire-funding-search.html?dm_i=ESU%2C42K1M%2C2D5SHJ%2CEQVGX%2C1)

4. FINANCE

a) Financial situation to date.

A spreadsheet showing the current financial position prepared by DB had been previously circulated showing a balance of £3992

b) Any Other Financial Issues

It was agreed to send out letters forthwith to parishes asking for a voluntary donation for the financial year 2016/17. To remind Parishes BAX method of payment would be accepted. BC agreed to circulate.

5. MEETINGS WITH AVDC

a) Formal Minutes of last meeting held on 5th December 2015

The formal Minutes of last meeting were still awaited from AVDC. A written report from those Cllrs attending had been circulated at the January meeting.

b) Arrangements for next meeting

It was agreed that Bob S, Jon H, John R. John G and the Chairman would attend for the meeting which begins at 3pm on 7th April at AVDC Gateway, Aylesbury.

Topics for the agenda were discussed and agreed -

- Parish boundaries: is there a need for a review now that District and County boundary changes had been finalised?
- Business model: progress report, operating figures, VAT?
- Neighbourhood Planning: AVDC's response to recently revised DCLG advice on the potency of NDPs and review of Woodcock result
(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499119/16-02-10_DL_IR_Kingsland_Laines_2189451.pdf & <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood->

[planning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/what-is-a-neighbourhood-plan-and-what-is-its-relationship-to-a-local-plan/](#)

- Collaboration on devolution powers with other agencies / councils
- Non-consultation on changes to Parish involvement in Planning meetings (see below)
- Local waste : Dedicated services for sorting of waste prior to transfer to Calvert.
- Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility [9 below]

c] Any other AVDC issues

Councillors agreed to monitor the impact of recent unannounced changes to AVDC's response to parish council objections to planning applications and whether a PC is objecting on legitimate grounds .

6. NEW HOMES BONUS

a] Update from Representatives [JG/NH]

John G reported that he had been invited as AVALC representative to the turf cutting ceremony on the NHB funded extension to the community centre in Embleton Way, Buckingham to be used as new Scout HQ.

b] Consultation on New Homes Bonus

The committee reviewed the document drafted by Roy van de Poll previously circulated. John G had drafted a response based upon this document which was discussed and it was agreed that JG would undertake further work to be submitted to the DfC&LG as the AVALC response. It was agreed that a copy to be forwarded to Andrew Small Dir of Finance AVDC who manages the AVDC NHS grants panel. The resulting document is attached in the **appendix** to these minutes.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The committee welcomed and the information leaflet requested by AVALC which had now been produced by AVDC and circulated to Parishes (email to Clerks from Olivia Wojniak, Neighbourhood Planning Officer dated 11/2/16 refers)

Jon H mentioned a previous application by Domino's Pizza to open a take-a-way shop next to a Zebra crossing in Buckingham which had been refused by AVDC, partly on grounds that it contravened one of the Buckingham NDP's policies. Domino's were appealing against this decision and the outcome of the appeal would be watched with interest in connection with the Buckingham NDP and the wider context.

There was also discussion on the new set of housing development proposals submitted by Gladman in Winslow, which conflicted with the local neighbourhood plan. BS reported that Cheddington were facing another application in conflict with their NDP. However, Ivinghoe which did not have a made Neighbourhood Plan had benefited from AVDC refusing an application by Gladman in terms that it could not be revisited. Some disquiet was raised by Exec members that different criteria appeared to be applied by AVDC Planning Committee depending on the location of application sites with some areas receiving more protection than others.

Bob S announced that Pitstone NDP is going to referendum on 17/3/16

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (5th November 10 am)

The committee noted with thanks that David Lidington MP for Aylesbury has agreed to be guest speaker. AVDC said that there were no other events at The Gateway on that day and

much of the building would be shut off including the refreshment facility precluding its use for the event. It was agreed to advise AVDC that due to the complications and costs involved in the need to open up the building for AVALC alone an alternative venue would be sought. The Chairman said that an offer had been received from Watermead Parish Council for the use of the Community Centre, off Buckingham Road, Aylesbury and she was due to visit to assess suitability. It was noted that University College, Aylesbury had also been reserved which will be held for the time being. A "Street Market" of good parish practices and innovations will go ahead and will be organised by John R and Jon H (**ACTION:** Jon & John R)

9. FROM AROUND THE PARISHES

The committee discussed the forthcoming "Greatmoor energy from waste facility" (aka Calvert Incinerator). It was agreed to find out more information about a) how the service is being financed and its business model compared to landfill, and b) how rubbish will be sorted. It appears that other parts of the County are setting up local waste transfer sites to ensure only suitable waste is transferred to Greatmoor. However, in Aylesbury Vale, the onus will be placed upon householders to ensure only suitable waste is placed in the green top bins. (**ACTION:** To include on agenda for meeting with AVDC)

10. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & MILTON KEYNES ASSOC OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The committee received a report on the Annual Executive Meeting and also the Buckinghamshire Local Councils liaison meeting with BCC which had taken place on 27 January when JG, JR and the Chairman had attended. It was noted that Paul Harvey [MK] had been elected Chairman, Jenny Hunt [Bucks] as Vice Chairman, Kevin Wilson [MK] NALC representative, Isabella Fraser [MK] as Deputy representative to NALC and Tom Fraser [MK] as representative of SERCAF. Aylesbury Town Council had withdrawn from the Association as had also Coldharbour Parish Council. Interviews had taken place for the new County Officer for which ten applications had been received. An appointment had been made subject to references. It was hoped that the new County Officer would commence duties mid April.

A vote of thanks to Jenny was proposed and agreed for her sterling work for her commitment to AVALC and sterling work undertaken for BMKALC.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rachel Webb had been in touch in her role as ongoing liaison person with London Luton Airport Consultative Committee as the co opted representative to BMKALC. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place in April and she asked if there were any issues to be raised. Bob S promised to check and correspond with her about any issues that needed to be taken up. (**ACTION:** Bob S)

Jenny reported that she has a forthcoming meeting with the Chief Executive of Community Impact Bucks and will report back at the next meeting. (**ACTION:** Jenny)

Meeting closed at 20.55

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Tuesday 7th June 2016 at Winslow Town Council offices, 7pm.

**AYLESBURY VALE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
RESPONSE TO NEW HOMES BONUS CONSULTATION
“NEW HOMES BONUS: SHARPENING THE INCENTIVE”
MARCH 2016**

Question 1. What are your views on moving from 6 years of payments under the Bonus to 4 years, with an interim period for 5 year payments?

If a reduction in funding is inevitable then this seems the least worse option.

Question 2. Should the number of years of payments under the Bonus be reduced further to 3 or 2 years?

No this would be an unacceptably low level.

Question 3. Should the Government continue to use this approach? If not, what alternatives would work better?

Quotes from the New Homes Bonus Consultation of November 2010.

“The aim of the New Homes Bonus is to create a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive which rewards local authorities that deliver sustainable housing development.

Flexible - local authorities can decide how to spend the funding in line with local community wishes. The Government expects local councillors to work closely with their communities – and in particular the neighbourhoods most affected by growth – to understand their priorities for investment and to communicate how the money will be spent and the benefits it will bring. This may relate specifically to the new development or more widely to the local community.. This will enable local councillors to lead a more mature debate with local people about the benefits of growth, not just the costs. The Bonus will be paid through section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 as an unringfenced grant. “

First tier authorities whose communities are the ones to generate the new homes and hence the Bonus were thus led to believe by Government from the outset of this initiative that some of that Bonus would find its way **directly** to those communities from the second tier authorities. Press Notices from the then Housing Minister gave the following assurances, which confirmed communities’ understanding of the commitment to community specific financial incentives, in accordance with spirit and the way in which the New Homes Bonus initiative was promoted to first tier authorities.

“We’re giving communities a reason to say yes to new homes through these powerful cash incentives.” “It is now (early April 2011) essential that councils engage with their local communities to decide how the money is spent, so residents feel the

benefits of growth. Communities themselves will decide how to spend this extra funding."

And, probably the key promise of all he made *"It's why communities that continue to welcome new homes can expect to see bigger cash bonuses and improved local services in the future."*

Very few second tier authorities have introduced a scheme whereby some of the Bonus cascades down directly to new home generating communities. It has simply been seen as an income stream, in part compensating for the loss of the government grant. Most second tier authorities simply ignored the clear directive from Grant Shapps MP (the then Housing Minister) that – *"transparency should be at the heart of everything local authorities do and Ministers expect local authorities to consult communities about the use of the Bonus, especially those communities affected by the growth."*

*In Aylesbury Vale after representations from Town and Parish Councils and also from Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils (AVALC), Aylesbury Vale District Council agreed to allocate 15% of its net income from the NHB to be set aside in order that Town and Parish Councils, which had "been affected" by new homes being built in or around them, could bid for a grant in order to improve community facilities in order to cope with the additional development. A strong criteria and Policy was set. During the past three years of operation more than £1,9milion has been granted for schemes and the grants for the third and most recent year of operation exceeded £1.1 million. Therefore, AVALC believes that the New Homes Bonus Scheme should continue but that more emphasis should be made on the wishes of the local councils and communities. It should not be moved away from the "localism" context and weighted more to the higher level authorities but second tier Councils should be made aware that **the Bonus is for sharing directly with those 'new homes delivering communities'** (without which no Bonus would be generated) and a figure stipulated as to what that proportion of the Bonus fed to new homes delivering communities should be e.g. min. 15%.*

Question 4. Do you agree that local authorities should lose their Bonus allocation in the years during which their Local Plan has not been submitted? If not, what alternative arrangement should be in place?

The lack of a Local Plan does not in practice mean that LPA will not be delivering meaningful levels of new housing. AVALC represents 111 parishes in north Buckinghamshire and our Local Planning Authority is Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) which currently does not have an up to date Local Plan. Recent data regarding the delivery of new homes in the Vale shows that an LPA without a Local Plan can still be a star performer when it comes to the level of housing completions i.e. NEW HOMES which the Bonus initiative is designed to reward.

AVALC would like to see a higher rate of bonus when the Parish/Town which the development(s) is affecting has a "made" Neighbourhood Plan.

Recent Levels of Housing Delivery by AVDC

As the data from Bucks Business First below shows – link -

<http://www.bbf.uk.com/download/680> if all LPAs in this country were performing as well as Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) regarding new homes completions over the past few years, nationally we would not currently have a massive undersupply of new homes.

With 1,760 dwellings completed in the last year, more homes were built in Buckinghamshire than in any of the core cities, with Aylesbury Vale alone behind only Leeds (1,670), ahead of Manchester (980), Sheffield (910), Bristol (820), Birmingham (660), Newcastle (600), Liverpool (520) and Nottingham (230). Of the 32 London Boroughs, only Tower Hamlets built as many homes as Buckinghamshire. If national house building matched Aylesbury Vale's rate, England would have built 355,722 homes in the last year, exceeding all targets. Aylesbury Vale built almost two thirds (64.8 per cent) of Buckinghamshire's houses in the last year, having built more than half of the county's total for each of the last five years. Aylesbury Vale constitutes about one third of Buckinghamshire's total population.

AVALC would therefore contend that to penalise local authorities that have had large numbers of houses built, and where the need for infrastructure improvements is as great as anywhere else just because the Local Planning Authority lacks current, adopted Local Plan, is totally unjustified.

Question 5. Is there merit in a mechanism for abatement which reflects the date of the adopted plan?

Not as long as the LPA is delivering new homes in accordance with its Local Plan and a review concluded that the changes in circumstances were not significant enough to justify an updating.

Question 6. Do you agree to this mechanism for reflecting homes only allowed on appeal in Bonus payments?

We do not believe that Local Planning Authorities would refuse an application without very substantive reasons for believing that if the application was taken to Appeal the Planning Inspector would find in their favour. Surely the Planning Inspector already has the power to award costs against the LPA. We believe that large development companies already have enough power in terms of financial resources and recourse to continual repeating of planning applications even though they have been turned down by a Planning Inspector and even the Secretary of State.

Question 7. Do you agree that New Homes Bonus payments should be reduced by 50%, or 100%, where homes are allowed on appeal? If not, what other adjustment would you propose, and why?

We think that the New Homes Bonus should reflect the actual number of houses built irrespective of how the planning approval was achieved.

Question 8. Do you agree that reductions should be based on the national average Band D council tax? If this were to change (see question 3) should the new model also be adopted for this purpose?

Basing calculations on the average Band D council tax appears reasonable. Regarding our response to Question 3, Band D calculations would still appear to be the most logical basis.

Question 9. Do you agree that setting a national baseline offers the best incentive effect for the Bonus?

AVALC would find it difficult to rationalise that setting a national baseline for the diversity of areas covered by LPAs from those in National Parks to those in 'growth areas' in the South East of England could be considered a fair and equitable way forward. For the communities in Aylesbury Vale, where our new Local Plan will be demanding a district wide average housing growth of at least 42% over 20 years, it will not be the Bonus incentive governing communities' levels of housing growth over the Plan period, it will be what the Local Plan tells those individual communities they must deliver!

Question 10. Do you agree that the right level for the baseline is 0.25%?

No. See answer to Question 9.

Question 11. Do you agree that adjustments to the baseline should be used to reflect significant and unexpected housing growth? If not, what other mechanism could be used to ensure that the costs of the Bonus stay within the funding envelope and ensure that we have the necessary resources for adult social care?

Not relevant.

Question 12. Do you agree that the same adjustments as elsewhere should apply in areas covered by National Parks, the Broads Authority and development corporations?

Covered in the in answer to Question 9.

Question 13. Do you agree that county councils should not be exempted from adjustments to the Bonus payments?

No. County Councils cannot be held responsible for LPAs in their county not having up to date Local Plans but in other respects LPAs, County Councils and Unitaries should be treated equally.

Question 14. What are your views on whether there is merit in considering protection for those who may face an adverse impact from these proposals?

AVALC is concerned that there may be losers which result from the changes that are eventually implemented and that these losses, through no fault of that authority, could be of such a magnitude as to be termed harmful. A scheme to protect such adversely affected districts should be prepared as a contingency.

Cllr. Jenny Hunt [Chairman]

On behalf of Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils

1st March 2016

Minutes of the A4A Meeting held on Monday 11th March 2016 in the Library

Item 1. Welcome: John Russell welcomed everyone. He praised the work of our small dedicated group of attendees but was still concerned that we had not found a permanent Chair or Secretary. There is still a lot of interest though we have currently to work through Buckingham Town Council and Bucks County Council. Soon we will see whether DisabledGO will be able to do any better.

In Attendance: Cllr. Jenny Bates, Mary Buckingham, Simon Garwood, Cllr. Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Cllr. Ruth Newell, Clair Pudaruth, Una Robinson, John Russell, John Squires, Cllr. Chris & Peter Strain-Clark.

Apologies : Ed Grimsdale, Cllr Warren Whyte, Cllr Tim Mills

Item 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February March 2016 were accepted.

Item 3. The problem of Parent and Child Parking has been taken up by Cllr Warren Whyte. Cllr Tim Mills (AVDC) forwarded this letter about disabled and parent and child bays in Cornwall's Meadow car park:

Hello Tim. Yes you are correct, vehicles using disabled bays must display a valid blue badge. The legislation is clear and penalty charges are issued to vehicles "Parked in a designated disabled parking space without displaying a valid disabled person's badge in the prescribed manner". There is no definition in the legislation for P&C parking.

On the practical side, sharing the bays with P&C parking could not be effectively managed, for example how would our officers know who had parked the vehicle or whether a child was present? This is a perennial problem at supermarkets etc. where there are dedicated P&C bays.

In addition, I would add that the disabled bays appear to be well used and allowing any shared use is likely to negatively affect disabled people.

Regards Stephen (Harding - Parking Services Manager AVDC)

Warren also has the problem of the timing of the 'Jardines' lights in hand. Chris has explained to Warren that the time is much too short. John S highlighted the problem of the slope and the difficulty of anyone in a wheelchair or on a motorised chair of reaching the buttons. It is essential that there is a site visit by Cllrs to experience the problem themselves and to consider all the possibilities.

Item 4. Chairman's Report. Ed unfortunately still cannot attend and John R thanked Chris for doing all the things he used to do.

Item 5. Secretary's report: An email from Elaine Hassall – Community Engagement Officer (older people) advertising stroke recovery sessions for £5 at Green Park, Aston Clinton – has been forwarded to all of you. Simon informed us that there were nearer sessions at Shenley Wood. These sessions do not replace NHS physio but just carry on with a private provider once the too short

NHS provision finishes. We should be pressing for more local provision as stroke victims cannot drive themselves the large distances currently required.

Chris had also forwarded an email from Kelly about MeetupsBuckingham. This is for parents and carers of children with additional needs either stated or not. They meet twice a month – once in the evening and once in the day – to talk in a relaxed way. Details on Accessible Buckingham Facebook page as well as Buckingham What matters to You.

Following up members concerns from our March meeting Chris reported that

Roads – Warren is hopeful that Addington Road (and the lower end of Moreton Road) will be on the shortlist for repairs in the 2016/17 financial year. Please keep reporting pot holes online. As an aside, the final surface works to Well Street & Church Street will be later this spring, together with the last stage of resurfacing works to the A421.

Pavements – No planned works to town centre pavements this coming year I'm afraid, but please report any dangerous defects online. He's very hopeful that the footway to Victoria Row should be on the repair list for this financial year.

The problem of large lorries in the Town Centre from Brackley Road -

This problem is well known despite the signage improvements a couple of years ago and work of the Neighbourhood Action Group.

Despite Police fining lorry drivers it seems to have little effect. It was suggested that we need further improved signage and that chicanes should be considered. We need to take photographs of offending vehicles ourselves as the police do not have time.

Lighting- Any existing street lighting problems should be reported online to Transport for Buckingham (which now has a map tool to save you needing to know a post code). Any bypass lights would be within Cllr Stuchbury's division.

Nb Meadow Row is a private shopping area and not county council.

There was concern that lights were being switched off just to save small amounts of money and this was making night time driving and walking even more dangerous for all but particularly for those with disabilities.

Church Street light - *Warren is now chasing the third lighting engineer.*

Disabled parking - *There are no plans by the county council in introducing paid for disabled parking on the street.*

Una suggested the film place and the Radcliffe need checking for accessibility. Chris is going to a play in the Radcliffe tomorrow and will check out the new arrangements. We can't add all the University premises to our DisabledGO list but we have let them know of our concerns. The town clerk and Chris will be

interviewed by university news tomorrow and will use this opportunity to reiterate our concerns.

Villiers – *Clair Pudaruth drafted a letter for me to send to OxfordshireHotels group about the access to the Old Town Hall – no reply! Not even an acknowledgement.* We now believe that they are selling the premises and will ask them to pass on our letter.

Buckingham What Matters to You – *Chris recounted the saga of her and Peter's struggles to access this meeting held in the White Hart. Despite the organisers knowing they were coming no one had checked on access and from the area set aside it was impossible to access the bar up steep steps. There were a lot of apologies but so what! This sort of thing happens every day.*

Though this venue will be covered by DisabledGO it was felt that Chris should write on headed note paper to let them know what happened. In future they should alert customers booking functions of the possible limitations to access. It is a pity they didn't install a stair lift during refurbishment.

It is not clear how much simple advice on such matters DisabledGO will give venues inspected. The original presentation by Dean Eales suggested it would but more recently this has been contradicted.

We need to make sure that Access is on the Agenda at all meetings of BTC.

Item 6. Treasurer's report Our funds stand at £1264.01p

Item 7. DisabledGo – Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March in the Community Centre.

Chris thought: This was not sufficiently advertised as the local leaflet was not delivered and the Advertiser doesn't reach everyone. No planning had been made for people with hearing or eyesight problems, which was disappointing. Others felt even more strongly. It was abysmal. Slides were illegible and the sound inaudible for all. The presenter was very poor. She did not know to repeat questions for the benefit of others in the audience sitting behind the questioner. Chris has given her feedback letting her know about these problems.

Item 8. Our own Accessible Buckingham leaflet

We have made no progress waiting for the DisabledGO event which turned out to be of no use. Clair had the idea that we should get moving on our own initiative. We should contact local businesses offering them advice and ideas before inspection and preparing them to work with DisabledGO and generally raising awareness. This could be in the form of a letter or email but we would need a database of local venues and businesses.

Simon is doing something similar with Dementia Awareness trying to get businesses involved in the 'Safe Places' scheme. There is a meeting on 17th May in the Library.

John R asked whether we could add anything to the next BTC leaflet and Clair felt something was also needed for Buckingham What Matters to You. Clair will produce a draft and run it past Chris.

Item 9. Members Concerns –

Mary was concerned that bollards by the skate park have been removed giving vehicles access to where children play. This needs to be reported.

John S suggested one way systems to relieve traffic in town. Ruth confirmed that residents and BCC were in favour of a system in Addington Road so we await developments. Warren has suggested give way signs in West Street giving priority to vehicles leaving town but this may cause further congestion and will not help with the bottle neck between on Castle Street by Villiers.

Una brought a 2002 cutting about the removal of slippery metal studs by crossings. At last this has happened. She was still concerned with parking on pavements and John S reported that parking on the pavement by the cemetery had spread to the town side of the gates blocking access to the cemetery itself.

?Una reported the need for a bollard to stop continuing parking on the grass verge on Stratford Road at the end of Addington Road.

Clair had been forced to go on the road by the scaffolding outside Lords.

John S enquired about the bollard by the Bridge Street zebra crossing that was knocked down (repeatedly) years ago. It is vital for the safety of pavement users and we have been promised a replacement but nothing happens.

The problem at Cotton End rumbles on. BTC and BCC want to move forward with a planning application but AVDC said that just one letter of protest will stop it. They just don't want to admit they made a mistake!

John S was concerned about the narrowing of the roads into the estate of Moreton Road. These were supposed to be accessible for buses but with narrowing and park cars this is not possible.

On a positive note Clair reported on the excellent facilities at the refurbished Swan Pool. The hoist for entry to the pool proved very successful.

Chris reported on her inspection of the Lace Hill Community & Leisure. There are seats for the disabled in some of the shower – unfortunately nowhere near the actual shower! The facility is not just another Community Centre though there is a meeting room but it has a sports hall and outside playing fields and is in the care of the BTC Green Spaces Manager.

The plans for the new toilets in Cornwall's Meadow Car Park are moving on. AVDC are yet to approve quotes – they are paying for it. Will the disabled toilet have changing facilities?

Item 10. Next meeting - Monday May 9th , 2-3.30 p.m. in the Library.

Minutes of the A4A Meeting held on 14th March 2016 in the Library

Item 1. Welcome: John Russell welcomed everyone.

In Attendance: Cllr. Jenny Bates, Cllr. Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Cllr. Ruth Newell, Clair Pudaruth, John Russell, Cllr. Mike Smith, John Squires, Cllr. Chris & Peter Strain-Clark.

Apologies: Simon Garwood, Ed Grimsdale, Una Robinson, Cllr. Warren Whyte

Items 2 & 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2016 were accepted.

Item 4. Chairman's Report. Ed had attended the photo shoot for our leaflet.

Item 5. Secretary's report:

Latest experience at the Old Town Hall. The Rotary Club held a meeting on 11 Feb 6-8pm to see how local charities and businesses could help each other. I went. Rotary organiser had no idea about even where the lift was! But the lift was out of order, and had been all afternoon. No one had warned me, though they knew I was attending and would need the lift. No one even told John Russell who attended re Scouts, but represented Access4All as well.

The ensuing discussion covered whether we should email Rotary with our concerns and decided that we should write directly to Villiers/Oxford Hotels asking them to make it clear in their booking information that the Conference Centre and Ballroom are not accessible. There is only a goods lift and they do not comply with health and safety regulations as there is no evac-chair available. They could point this out on their Trip Advisor page. Clair will draft a letter for Chris to send. Hopefully DisabledGO will also look into this problem. John S mentioned similar problems with National Trust properties at Stowe & Waddesdon.

Cotton End progress. This was covered again in the Advertiser. But no progress made yet. Though BCC, who own the land, are sympathetic they have not been able to get together with the developer or all the residents whose permission is needed.

Community Centre door handle – Derrick reports that it is now solved!

In her absence Una had submitted a report to Chris. It noted various positive and negative occurrences around town.

Positives: Outside the King's Head the commercial wheelie bin has been removed. Some new tactile dropped kerbs are now in place.

Boots the Optician (previously D&A) has helpful signs and attitude.

Chantry Chapel – at least volunteer listened! Maybe there'll be a hand rail some day?

Negatives Wheelie bins and black sacks persist on the narrow pavement between the dentist and Barclays.

Location of new toilets – There was some concern as there is a lot of vandalism in town. Shopmobility has been ok, but it is only open during day time. Is this a safe place at night? Should there be Lighting, CCTV...? The approaches to it are through

trees and though the Disabled Toilets require a Radar Key these are easily available even from the key shop in Buckingham!

Needing checking –The Film place and the Radcliffe Centre.

Item 6. Treasurer's report: We have £1280.51p

Item 7. DisabledGo – There will be a Meeting tomorrow, Tuesday 15th 10am - 12noon in the Community Centre. Ruth sends her apologies.

Item 8. Our own Accessible Buckingham leaflet

Chris circulated draft copies of our leaflet. Mike asked the pertinent question of what purpose we expected this to have. John R and Chris want it to raise awareness, to let people know what we do and that we are here. To that end we need something immediate that can go in the Library, Tourist Information Centre, Doctors' Surgeries .. We have more money than is needed for this leaflet and the remainder will go towards a more comprehensive booklet. Several members felt that the leaflet ought to allocate a bit more space for a map showing the few most relevant facilities such as TIC, Toilets and Safe Places for Dementia Sufferers. The leaflet should be clearly headed Buckingham Access For All. We should wait until after tomorrow's DisabledGO meeting before finalising it and we could possibly look at the Hidden Buckingham leaflet in preparation by the Town Council.

Item 9. Members Concerns –

Traffic Lights by Jardines: The timing is still all wrong even though we told them 18 months ago. We need Warren to get them to do something.

Potholes: The condition of roads and pavements are deteriorating. On enquiring about Addington Road, John R has learned that their criteria have changed and the holes now need to be bigger before action is taken.

The problem in the Town Centre is exacerbated by the presence of large lorries particularly those coming along the poorly signed Brackley Road.

Lighting: Several members have observed problems with lighting on the bypass and at Meadow Row and Church Hill. These can be reported but you need to give the postcode and lamp number. Chris told the saga of the non-lamp post in Church Street and the remaining concrete trip hazard which we should report.

Parent and Child Parking Spaces: It has been suggested that the disabled parking spaces be shared with parent and child parking. This was not generally acceptable. The disabled spaces are already insufficient to meet the demand particularly due to increasing parking problems around town. The alternative of allocating new wider parent and child spaces closer to the river would reduce the overall number of spaces and cause other problems. A compromise might be to let parents with toddlers in car seats use disabled spaces as they do need extra room getting in and out of the car.

Paying for Disabled Parking: This proved to be highly contentious and the discussion reached no conclusion. For those with severe disabilities it would be a very retrograde step.

Item 10. Next Meeting is on Monday 11th April at 2 – 3.30pm in the Library.