

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 29th June 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
Cllr. M. Cole
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi Town Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. J. Quayle
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk

173/15 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllrs Bloomfield and Smith

174/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Isham declared a personal interest in item 17, Well St Church.

175/15 Co-option

To receive an application and short presentation from Ms J Bates.

Ms Bates introduced herself to Members and commented that she was motivated to make a contribution to the town. Ms Bates was very interested in matters affecting the town, particularly traffic issues. Ms Bates said she would shortly be retiring and volunteering at Age UK at the CAB. Ms Bates informed Councillors she would very much like to welcome new members of the community to the town.

Members voted **UNANIMOUSLY** in favour to co-opt Ms Bates.

Ms Bates took a seat at the table.

176/15 Annual Statutory Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2015 (**BTC/01/15**).

Agreed

177/15 Full Council Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2015 (**BTC/03/15**).

Agreed

178/15 Extraordinary Full Council Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2015 (**BTC/02/15**).

Agreed

179/15 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 8th June 2015 (**IM/01/15**).

Agreed

180/15 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 18th May 2015 (**PL/01/15**) and Monday 8th June 2015 (**PL/02/15**).

- Monday 18th May 2015

Copy previously circulated PL/01/15

An amended wording was proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark, and **RECOMMENDED** that "The Plan recognises that to best ensure the viability of these particular sites (I & K) the level of Affordable Housing may be required by external agencies to be adjusted from the Plan's standard 35%."

Further to statements in the examiner's report the above recommendation was withdrawn.

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Harvey and **RECOMMENDED** that clause

5 of the Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to read

5.1 In the event of an inquorate meeting, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Mayor may agree a response;

5.2 In the event of a time-sensitive application, Members will correspond by email to agree a Committee response; should one or more Councillors not respond in due time, their response shall be deemed to be "No Objection".

Members discussed the consultation period on planning applications now stood at 21 days, often making it difficult to fit in with the programmed cycle of planning meetings at the Town Council. Members were concerned at the reduction in transparency for members of the public.

An amendment to 5.2 proposed by Cllr Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr Stuchbury and **AGREED** that In the event of a time-sensitive application, Members would be called to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Planning Committee to agree a committee response; should it prove impossible to convene a meeting due to time constraints or absences, Members will correspond by email to agree a Committee response.

For 13, Against 1, Abstentions 2

48.2 To receive and agree the Terms of Reference for the Tree subcommittee

Proposed by Cllr. Hirons, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Tree SubCommittee be dissolved as tree applications are no longer consulted upon. Tree applications will continue to be listed in the agenda for information, and should Members wish to make a comment, this would be covered by the existing Standing Order 12.4 of the Planning Committee.

Members held a long discussion about the benefits of the tree wardens and the very important work they do, despite the Town Council no longer being able to comment on application made to AVDC regarding works to trees

A recorded vote was called for.

For: Cllr P Collins, Cllr Hirons, Cllr Try

Against: Cllr Newell, Cllr Strain-Clark, Cllr Harvey, Cllr O'Donoghue, Cllr Quayle, Cllr Cole, Cllr G Collins, Cllr Stuchbury, Cllr Isham, Cllr Bates

Abstentions: Cllr Mahi, Cllr Mordue

- Monday 8th June 2015

Copy previously circulated PL/02/15

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Strain-Clark and **RECOMMENDED** that this Council ask AVDC to review its planning decision at Lace Hill on the pedestrian access from Cotton End.

Members **AGREED** the recommendation. The Planning Clerk would write to AVDC.

ACTION: PLANNING CLERK

181/15 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 1st June 2015 (**E/01/15**).

Agreed

182/15 Town Centre and Events Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 26th May 2015 (**TCE/01/15**).

Agreed

183/15 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 15th June 2015 (**R/01/14**)

Proposed by Cllr P Collins, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **RECOMMENDED** that the Personnel sub Committee can only make recommendations with regards to hiring, remuneration and termination of employment.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council could decide this recommendation, though clarification was sought from Members as to whether the recommendation would take precedence over current procedure.

Members held a debate over the recommendation Cllrs Bates and Newell spoke strongly against the recommendation.

A recorded vote was requested.

For: Cllr P Collins, Cllr Hirons, Cllr O'Donoghue

Against: Cllr Newell, Cllr Bates, Cllr Strain-Clark, Cllr Try, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Quayle, Cllr Cole, Cllr Stuchbury, Cllr Isham, Cllr Mordue, Cllr Mahi

Abstentions: Cllr Strain-Clark

The recommendation fell.

Members **RECOMMENDED** the Town Action Commission paper to Full Council.

For 12, Against 0, Abstentions 3

Members agreed to move to item 17 for the benefit of invited guests

Standing Orders were suspended

184/15 Well St United Church

To receive a request and presentation from Reverend Tim Edworthy and associates Reverend Edworthy attended with David Thorpe, Mike Ennis and Sue Ioannou.

Cllr P Collins stated that the Community Centre was a facility for the inhabitants and benefit of Buckingham. Cllr P Collins urged Members from the Church group to join the Community Centre Management team.

Cllr Stuchbury said if the Town Council were voting on this item then Members should be clear of their position.

Cllr G Collins commented that the Town Council could receive and listen to the guests but that they could not do anything on the matter as a 67 year lease was running.

Cllr Mordue stated that Aylesbury Vale Estates owned the building, though could in theory sell the lease.

Reverend Edworthy had approached the Town Council with possibility of working with the Town Council to use the Community Centre on a more permanent basis. There were significant problems using the current building in Well St including access and parking. The group currently meet at the Royal Latin School on a Sunday morning for worship.

The representatives informed Members of a number of different services and groups that Well St Church ran including lunches, toddler group, youth groups, workshops, hiring out to external organisations, and during school terms offer various activities involving the schools; also running workshops during the main school holidays. It was reported that using the Community Centre on a more permanent basis would be advantageous to the Church, including a long term hire on Sundays. It was understood that the Town Council had previously looked into an extension of the Community Centre; the Church representatives were interested into looking into a joint project for extension.

Members were concerned at how busy the Church's diary was with various groups and the effect that would have on other organisations using the Community Centre. Members were not sure in practical terms that the proposal would work. Members were also concerned at the proposal of the Community Centre being used as a religious rather than secular building.

Members thanked the representatives for attending, the Town Clerk would meet with Reverend Edworthy to discuss and look at options for premises within the remit of the town's neighbourhood plan.

The Well St Church representatives were thanked for their attendance.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Standing orders were reinstated.

185/15 Action List

To receive and discuss the list

The Town Clerk said that a report on the 20mph speed limit would be written for the next meeting.

Quotes for the leaking Community Centre roof were being sought.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

186/15 Annual Return

To receive and agree the Annual Accounts return as follows:

186.1 Section 1 – Accounting statements 2014/2015

186.2 Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2014/2015

Agreed

187/15 Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

187.1 To receive the Examiners report

187.2 To receive the revised Neighbourhood Plan

187.3 To agree a proposed referendum date of 20th August or 17th September

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Hirons and **AGREED** that the Town Council proceed with the advice received and recommendations made by the Examiner, and to plan the referendum date of 17th September.

188/15 Lace Hill Playing Fields and Pavilion – Cllr Stuchbury

To request an update from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that he had been in conversation with the developer, Barratt Homes and their solicitors, Shakespeare of Birmingham who would be in touch with the Town Council's solicitors Chandler Ray.

The Green Spaces Manager had been in discussion with the architect regards the layout and pathways, an upgrade to the drainage systems would be required and a significant amount of heavy maintenance would be required in the first 2 years of operation.

The changing rooms had been requested to be up to Sport England's required specification, and as yet final plans for the play area and MUGA had yet to be seen.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/GREEN SPACES MANAGER

189/15 3rd Buckingham Scouts Group – Cllr Stuchbury

To request an update from the Town Clerk following the Council's agreement to support a bid for the New Homes Bonus

The Town Clerk reported he had spoken with Dean Jones at AVDC regarding the project. The total funding required was £139,000. The Town Council were hoping to apply for funding to help with the second phase funding of £77,500.

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow District Councillor Tim Mills to speak

Cllr Mills reported that the scout group had applied through Aviva for community funding. The results had shown they were unsuccessful.

Standing Orders were reinstated

Cllr Harvey declared an interest in the following item

190/15 Public Toilets

190.1 To receive an update from the Town Clerk

190.2 To receive a letter from the Manager, Waitrose

The Town Clerk reported that he and Cllr Newell had discussed the subject briefly during a meeting with Angela McPherson, Cabinet Member for Leisure from AVDC who confirmed that AVDC would not grant the lease for the Town Council's preferred site.

Members were asked if they had suggestions for any other sites.

Proposed by Cllr P Collins, seconded by Cllr O'Donoghue and **AGREED** that the Town Council look at the option of extending and using the existing shop mobility site.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

191/15 (21/15) Buckingham Partnership

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded and **AGREED** to bring the subject of the re-formation of the Buckingham Partnership back to a Full Council meeting, and suggest agenda items.

Members **AGREED** to call a meeting of the Buckingham Partnership

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

192/15 Dispensation

To agree to renew and submit dispensation forms
The Town Clerk explained that within the code of conduct policy Members had to submit these forms as they pay Council Tax within with town, and have the power through Council to decide on the Precept.
Members **AGREED** the renewal.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

193/15 Allowances for Parish and Town Councillors

To receive a letter from AVDC
Agreed.
Members discussed whether they should recommend that co-opted Councillors should receive the allowance.
Members voted:
For: 6 Against 6
Abstentions: 2
Mayor's casting vote for.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

194/15 Bucks & MK Sport and Activity Partnership

To receive an invitation to nominate for Bucks & MK Sport Awards nomination
Members suggest a couple of possibilities and then **AGREED** to write to the various clubs in the town to ask for their own nominations of members, coaches or relevant persons.
The Town Clerk would clarify who could be nominated.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

195/15 Community Centre

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk
The Town Clerk reported that so far no response had been received from Aylesbury Vale Estates.

196/15 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Stuchbury reported on further failings in Education and that the gap in Key stage 4 results had grown.
Cllr Stuchbury also reported that Bucks County Council were moving forward with their evolving business plan.
Cllr Mordue reported a project to bring a National Heritage Paralympics Centre to Stoke Mandeville; and AVDC's new website that would go live in September 2015.

197/15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports.
Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust Minutes of a meeting held 15 April 2014
Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes of a meeting held 6th May 2015
Buckingham Access for All Group Minutes of a meeting held 8th June 2015
AVALC Minutes 2nd June 2015
Noted.

198/15 Mayoral & Deputy Mayoral Engagements

Members noted the information

199/15 News Releases

None

200/15 Chair's Announcements

None

201/15 Dates of next meetings

Interim Council – Monday 27th July 2015

Full Council – Monday 17th August 2015

Meeting closed at: 9.40pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor