

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 9th March 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. R. Lehmann
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue Town Mayor
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. M. Try
 Cllr. W. Whyte

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
 Mr. C. Robson Deputy Town Clerk
 Mrs. S. McMurtrie Town Plan Officer

756/14 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were apologies from Cllr. Mrs G. Collins and Cllr. P. Hirons

757/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Isham declared an interest in item 17

Cllr. Mordue declared an interest in item 15 as AVDC Cabinet member for Leisure.

758/14 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 19th January 2014 (**BTC/09/14**), and Precept meeting Monday 12th January 2015 (**BTC/08/14**).

Cllr. Whyte confirmed he submitted apologies for the meeting of Monday 19th January 2015 and these were added to the minutes.

759/14 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 16th February 2015 (**IM/05/14**).

760/14 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 26th January (**PL/11/14**) and Monday 16th February (**PL/12/14**).

181/14 Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark, and **RECOMMENDED** that in order to accommodate the increased number of member

of the public, the community Centre Small Hall be hired for meetings which include large or controversial planning applications.

Members briefly discussed and AGREED the motion.

Action: Town Clerk

761/14 Environment Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9th February 2015 (**E/06/14**).

762/14 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 2nd February 2015 (**TCE/06/14**).

763/14 Resources Committee

RESOLVED to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2015 (**R/06/14**)

Cllr. Strain-Clerk raised the issue of accessibility at the Film Place, which following instructions from Buckingham University no longer allows disabled customers to use the lift to the upper viewing area. This leaves limiting seating, with poor viewing, for disabled customers.

Members AGREED to write to the University to ask about their disabled access policy and highlight the use of 'Evac' Chairs as a solution. Members agreed to write to the Film Place to ask them to place pressure on the university to reinstate the use of the lift for disabled users.

Action: Town Clerk

764/14 (648/14) Motion – Cllr Stuchbury

To discuss Towns against Tax Dodging initiative

Members discussed the motion and concluded the initiative by Action Aid is aimed at County and District Councils and is not relevant at Town and Parish level.

The motion was not agreed by Members.

765/14 Motion – Cllr Lehmann

That this Council initiates an annual award to recognise excellence in the sport and the arts in the town. The award going to a high achieving team or individual in sport or acknowledging considerable achievement by a musicians, artists or writers. The award to be made at the Annual Town Meeting with a suitable trophy

Cllr. Lehman spoke to his motion above, speaking of the number of successful sports and arts groups/individuals in the town and a need for wider acknowledgment of their success within the community.

Cllr. Lehman proposed that the this year's award went to Buckingham Women's Hockey Club who play in the UK's highest league of women's hockey and are in the Country's top 10 teams.

Members discussed and supported the motion. Cllr. Isham proposed that the Mayor Making event would be a more suitable time to present the award. Concerns were

raised over how success within the arts would be measured and that sports success may overshadow that of the arts.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed the motion be amended to state the award be kept under review in respect of Councillors concerns.

Members **AGREED** the motion and that this year's award would go to Buckingham Women's Hockey Club and be presented at Mayor Making.

766/14 Motion – Cllr Stuchbury

In light of AVDC's agreement to undertake investigation into the business case to become a unitary council, to discuss the potential changes to services currently supplied by AVDC to the town of Buckingham; to discuss and agree whether the Town council should monitor AVDC's unitary ambition and future impacts to the services provided to the people of Buckingham; and that the Town Clerk formulate report on the business case submitted by AVDC and bring back findings to a future Full Council meeting.

766.1 To note replies received from AVDC, following a vote on 25th February to investigate the business case for adopting unitary council status;

766.2 As Buckingham is 8 miles from Milton Keynes and close to South Northants, to ask the Town Council to consider whether the town's best long-term interests will be served by a unitary council.

766.3 That the Town Clerk formulate a report detailing both the current services delivered by AVDC and/or other councils, and those which have been closed or removed from Buckingham

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke to his motion, stating the Council should consider the impact of a unitary authority on Buckingham and that the Town Clerk move forward with the above mentioned report.

Councillors discussed the motion and concluded it was too early to comment and that should a business case come forward from AVDC the Town Council would then make its comments. It was also concluded 766.3 was not needed as Councillors are already aware of the services and what has been cut/added.

The motion was **NOT AGREED**.

Cllr. Try proposed that item 14. Be moved up the agenda. Members **AGREED**

Members deviated from the Agenda Order

767/14 Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan

767.1 (731/14) To receive the consultation statement and agree any changes to the Neighbourhood Plan

767.2 To agree to submit the BNDP and associated documents to AVDC

The Town Clerk presented a copy of the finalised Plan and informed Members of changes made to areas including allotments, housing and employment land. The Town Clerk informed Members that he felt the Plan was in a good state and once evidence of consultation events was added the Plan would be ready to submit to AVDC the next day.

The Town Plan officer informed Members that the Plan does not get treated as material consideration by AVDC at this stage; however should the Secretary of State call in a planning decision the BNDP would be a material consideration for him when making a decision. The Town Clerk explained that this had been seen in practice by other Councils at similar stages with their Neighbourhood Plans.

Members thanked the Town Clerk and Town Plan officer for their hard work and those officers that had previously been involved with the plan but had since left the Council, including Sam Dix. Cllr Whyte pointed out that the comments raised during public consultation had been addressed and the Plan shouldn't have a problem at the referendum stage.

Members felt that given other Councils successes in having planning decisions called in that contravened Neighbourhood Plans the Council was now in a good position to fight development which opposed the Neighbourhood plan.

Cllr. Isham stated the Plan showed the Council taking initiative and deciding how it wished to see the town progress.

The Town Clerk thanked Councillors for their support, especially those who gave up their time to help formulate the plan.

A recorded vote was requested:

767.1

FOR

Cllrs Bloomfield, Cadd, Collins, Harvey, Isham, Mahi, Mordue, Newell, O'Donoghue, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Try, Whyte

AGAINST

None

ABSTAINED

Cllr Lehman

767.2

FOR

Cllrs Bloomfield, Cadd, Collins, Harvey, Isham, Mahi, Mordue, Newell, O'Donoghue, Smith, Strain-Clark, Stuchbury, Try, Whyte

AGAINST

None

ABSTAINED

Cllr Lehman

Members returned to the Agenda Order

768/14 Planning application 15/00314/AOP

Land South Of The A421 West Of Far Bletchley North Of The East West Rail Link And East Of Whaddon Road Newton Longville

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for a mixed-use sustainable urban extension on land to the south west of Milton Keynes to

provide up to 1,885 mixed tenure dwellings; an employment area (B1); a neighbourhood centre including retail (A1/A2/A3/A4/A5), community (D1/D2) and residential (C3) uses; a primary and a secondary school; a grid road reserve; multi-functional green space; a sustainable drainage system; and associated access, drainage and public transport infrastructure.

SWMK Consortium [Taylor Wimpey, Henry Boot, Hallam Land Management, Connolly Homes, William Davis Homes, Bellcross Homes]

Members discussed and thanked Katharine McElligott for producing the attached report on how the application would affect Buckingham. Cllr Whyte confirmed he was attending a meeting about the application and would feed back any relevant information that arose. Members agreed it would be useful to receive any information on the traffic and education figures for future consideration.

769/14 Action List

To receive the action list and discuss any changes

(647/14: Red Cross Centre) A Community Right to Bid application has now been fully submitted to AVDC.

(643/14: Cycling Signage) The Town Clerk reported he had a productive meeting with representatives from County Council and Stowe National Trust regarding new Cycle paths in the town.

(133.1/14: Festival of Health) Cllr. Whyte informed Members that this was beginning to move forward and that the Town Clerk should continue to explore.

Cllr Mordue left the meeting at 8:15pm

770/14 Public Toilets

(725/14) To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk following a meeting with Andrew Grant of AVDC.

The Town Clerk updated Members on the results of his meeting with AVDC's Andrew Grant. The Town Clerk informed Members that Mr Grant could not give a definite reason as to why the project could not go ahead on the site where planning permission has been granted. The Town Clerk explained AVDC are looking at a 'weighted' argument between the site granted planning permission and the alternative site they have proposed, despite the Town Council never formally considering this alternative site. It was agreed at the meeting that AVDC officers would contact additional consultees in regards to their proposed site. Mr Grant was not able to provide any confirmation that should consultation show more negatives for their proposed site that permission would then be granted for the site proposed by the Town Council. The view of AVDC is that it is their land to make the decision over.

Members discussed investigating the possibility of arbitration. Members also noted that AVDC's proposed site ignored issues regarding pedestrian safety when entering from the Heartlands.

Concerns were raised that to some the matter may look like a battle between the Town and District Council, which was not the case.

Members agreed to remain committed to providing public toilets in Buckingham.

771/14 To discuss and agree whether to appoint any Honorary Freemen of Buckingham in 2015

Members are reminded that a special one-subject meeting will have to be called, and a 2/3 majority vote of support recorded.

To discuss and agree whether to appoint any Friends of Buckingham (to be awarded a silver salver at the Mayor's Reception in May)

Councillors confirmed there were no candidates eligible for Honorary Freemen of the town in 2015.

Cllrs. Newell proposed Mr Keith Croxton be awarded friend of Buckingham for his numerous voluntary works with Bucks Box, the Young Careers, Project Street Life, Chapter 1 and the Hospital Car scheme.

Cllr. Whyte 2nd the Proposal. The Proposal was **AGREED**.

772/14 Dispensation Request

To agree the attached application

Cllr. Stuchbury proposed to agree the application, Cllr. Smith 2nd the proposal.

The application was **AGREED**

Cllr. Isham explained that when the Community Centre was originally built it was part funded by the rate payer. The legislation did not exist for the Town Council to fund the project so AVDC did so on their behalf. The centre has remained with a company related to AVDC ever since.

Cllr. Isham proposed that the Clerk investigate whether the Community Centre might be transferred to the Town Council. Seconded by Cllr. Collins and **AGREED**.

Action: Town Clerk

773/14 Correspondence

773.1 Bucks County Council

Members noted the Correspondence.

773.2 NHS – Thames Valley Primary Care

Members noted, although questioned the correspondence's relevance to Buckingham.

774/14 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that a report on Child Services in Bucks was being carried out by Red Quadrant but it would be unlikely it would be published before May. Cllr Stuchbury stated the Recovery Plan would be examined.

Cllr. Stuchbury informed Members he had attended a meeting, at which Cllr Whyte and Cllr Harvey had also been present, in regards the by-pass and issues surround the roundabout. Cllr. Stuchbury report it had been a constructive meeting and action would be taken to make the road markings clearer. Cllr. Stuchbury confirmed a further follow up meeting would take place and the correct line markings of the roundabout were been checked. Cllr. Stuchbury concluded by saying he was concerned

Cllr Stuchbury and Cllr Isham have asked AVDC about internet provision in the Vale and the County's planning website. Cllr Stuchbury informed Members he was concerned that he had been told there were no internet provision problems and that

no complaints had been received about the planning website, despite the Town Council putting complaints forward.

Cllr. Isham apologised he was unable to be at the meeting with Cllr. Stuchbury, but stated Councillors were correct to keep pushing the issue.

Cllr Whyte reported 48 post codes in North Bucks were deemed as having poor or no internet provision. Cllr Whyte confirmed LAF have put forward funding to AVDC for internet trials and that rural areas should see improved internet soon.

The next LAF meeting will be 9th June 2015.

Cllr Whyte informed Members that the MK Health Review event would take place on Wednesday 11th at 6pm in the Community Centre.

Cllr Whyte went on to inform members that he and Cllr. Smith had completed Speed Safety Watch training, but it was disappointed that no one else from the Buckingham area had. Cllr. Whyte encouraged Members to become involved and suggested the Town Clerk could help book the equipment.

Buckingham Car Parking is on Transport for Bucks works list, including extra space and getting rid of the loading bay outside the Old Gaol. Also looking to reduce 1 hour spaces to half an hour.

Cllr Whyte reminded members that his County Council select committee dealt with sc106 funding and decisions, and that BCC are looking to improve Members involvement in the process.

Cllr Whyte concluded with an update on cycleway infrastructure, reporting the 1st phase from Buckingham to Winslow has government funding and he is confident it will be delivered.

775/14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members noted the reports listed below:

Buckingham Twinning Association Minutes 7th January 2015

Destination Buckingham Group Minutes 13th January 2015

Buckingham Economic Group Minutes 14th January 2015

North Bucks Planning Consortium Minutes 28th January 2015

Buckingham & Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Action Group Minutes 28th January 2015

776/16 Mayoral Engagements

Cllr. O'Donoghue apologised for not getting a list of engagements to the office on time for the agenda. Members noted the information.

777/14 News Releases

The following was agreed:

1. (769) Neighbourhood Plan

778/14 Chair's Announcements

Cllr. O'Donoghue apologised that a motion requested by Cllr. Stuchbury had been missed off the agenda and stated this would be included on the next appropriate agenda.

779/14

Date of the next meeting:

Annual Town Meeting Wednesday 25th March 2015

Interim Council – Tuesday 7th April 2015

Full Council and Annual Statutory Meeting - Monday 11th May 2015

Meeting closed at 9:05pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor