

E/03/22

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 19th December 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. Mrs. M Gateley
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Osibogun
Cllr. A. Schaefer Chair
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Via Zoom: Cllr. R. Ahmed

Also in attendance: Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager
Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session.

501/22 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Hetherington, Cllr. Ralph and Cllr. Willett.

Cllr. Osibogun arrived at 19:01.

502/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

503/22 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 31st October 2022 and received at Full Council on 28th November 2022.

504/22 Action report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she is in receipt of the Community Centre constitution.

505/22 Budgets

505/22.1 Members received the latest figures.

505/22.2 Proposed budget savings

Members discussed and **AGREED** the proposed budget savings to the 2023/24 budget.

It is recommended that members agree not to re-new the Community payback scheme, 'service level agreement' for 2023/24. Saving £11,006 from the annual budget.

It is recommended that members agree not to continue with the Social Enterprise scheme (grass cutting) in 2023/24. Saving £7,500 from the annual budget.

The Estates Manager informed Members that it has been a number of years since the Social Enterprise has taken place and there will be minimal

impact on staffing; savings may be used towards the cost of additional machinery.

Members discussed grass cutting services and the lack of an increase from Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

505/22.3 Members received and discussed the updated proposed budget figures for 2023/24.

Members discussed the predicted expenditure for Lace Hill electricity. The Town Clerk confirmed that there is limited excess energy from the solar panels as they were designed to meet the needs of the building. The percentage increase is high due to underbudgeting and increased costs.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that this is the last time that the Committee will consider the budget.

506/22 Fees 2023 – Lace Hill

Members received a report from the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre Coordinator. It is recommended that Members agree the increased room hire rates as proposed below from April 2023 and continue to offer '10 for the price of 9' as a booking incentive.

It is recommended that Members agree to increase the sports pitches hire rates by 4%.

It is recommended that Members agree the hire rates to be reviewed again in December 2023, for the following financial year.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

507/22 Bourton Park

507/22.1 Bourton Park removal of bridge no.2

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that it is agreed in principle that bridge number 2 is removed and not replaced due to the proximity of bridge 1 that already crosses the river.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

It is recommended that it is agreed to allow the office to proceed in obtaining proposals and quotes to remove the bridge.

Cllr. Gateley Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

It is recommended that £45,000 is budgeted for in the next year financial for the removal of the bridge.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed an amendment: to agree in principle but await additional information about the cost of the removal. Budget for half of the cost next year and the other half the following year. Cllr. Osibogun Seconded. Members voted on the amendment and the results were:

For: 2
Against: 4
Abstention: 0

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed and Cllr. Gateley Seconded to **AGREE** the recommendation.

A vote was taken, and the results were:

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

507/22.2 Bourton Management plan

Members received a report regarding the updated Bourton Park Management Plan and **AGREED** the recommendations.

It is recommended that Members receive and agree the updated Bourton Park Management Plan and Bourton Park Improvement Plan

Members to agree for Officers to identify funding opportunities to address priorities identified within the Bourton Park Improvement Plan.

The Estates Manager explained that Access will cover footpaths, bike racks and benches. The renovation of the stream system project has been scaled down with the focus on the Otters Pond and bank work. Funding will be sought from s106 and other environmental schemes.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Compliance Manager will be looking at s106 and other funding streams to ensure a coherent strategy.

The Estates Manager said that the management plan has been adapted in the light of the Green Flag Award comments.

Cllr. Gateley Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

507/22.3 Tiny Forests

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

It is recommended that Members discuss and agree, in principle, to participate in the Tiny Forest project, subject to due diligence.

If agreed there will be a site visit in the new year and planting will take place over the winter.

The Estates Manager responded to Members' questions and explained that the area allocated for the Tiny Forest is where the old willow walk was; it does not encroach on the paddock but is an addition to the existing woodland. The scheme is cost free. Unless a tree falls, the Tiny Forest will need no maintenance. Consultation regarding tree species will take place.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations and **AGREED** a press release.

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

E/03/22

508/22 Brackley Road cemetery right hand chapel

Members received a verbal update regarding a subsidence insurance claim. A crack has appeared under one of the large windows. Loss adjusters have inspected the damage; this is the second subsidence claim. Surveyors have been asked to do an initial survey. It is a work in progress and updates will be brought to Committee.

509/22 Lost property policy

Members noted the lost property database.

510/22 Buckingham Community Flood Plan

510/22.1 Members reviewed the [Section 19 Flood Investigation report](#) into the December 2020 Buckingham flood.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that he was surprised to see that the water diversion idea was omitted from the report. The Town Clerk will email the County Officer and request further information/clarification. **ACTION**

TOWN CLERK

510/22.2 Members received a report about recommendations made in the Section 19 Flood Investigation report into the December 2020 Buckingham flood. It is recommended the Buckingham Flood Resilience event is used to seek updates from partner agencies about the recommendations identified in Section 19 flood investigation report from partner agencies.

510/22.3 Members noted the Buckingham Community Flood Plan review – aside from a numbering correction there are no changes.

511/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members received and discussed updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Estates Manager responded to queries from Members:

- Bulb planting has not taken place since 2020.
- The eco-audit was received incomplete – no payment was made.
- There will be new areas of wildflower planting in 2023.
- Community gardening sites will be looked at and brought to a future meeting.

512/22 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

Members received verbal updates from Councillors.

513/22 News releases

Tiny Forests – timing to be decided.

514/22 Chair's announcements

Members thanked the Green Spaces Team for their hard work throughout the year.

515/22 Date of next meeting: Monday 13th February 2023

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of public and press

RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded. **AGREED.**

516/22 St Rumbold's Field Green Spaces update

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk regarding St Rumbold's Field green spaces.

Meeting closed at: 21:02

Chair Date

DRAFT