

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 following the Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. R. Ahmed	
	Cllr. F. Davies	
	Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
	Cllr. A. Osibogun	
	Cllr. A. Ralph	
	Cllr. A. Schaefer	
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
<b>Via Zoom:</b>	Cllr. A. Osibogun	
	Mrs. N. Stockhill	Estates Administrator
<b>Also present:</b>	Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
	Mr. P. Hodson	Town Clerk
	Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk

### Public session

A member of the public requested an update regarding the request for the measurement of pollution on the A421. He asked if there was any new information on the Section 106 for Gawcott Fields houses, whether Buckingham Town Council would be supporting the movement of the bypass and when the Neighbourhood Plan will be implemented. Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the Section 106 has not been made public as it is still in draft form and negotiations are ongoing.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council will next week be considering the timescale for the Neighbourhood Plan; the process will take approximately 18 months to get the revised version in place.

The President of the Students' Union voiced her concerns regarding a lack of suitable lighting in Chandos Park. She informed members that some female students had reported feeling unsafe and uncomfortable walking back to campus where they live, with one reporting catcalling and being followed. She asked if further lighting could be added including to the play area.

### 78/22 Election of Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Davies, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Schaefer as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2022-2023.

### 79/22 Election of Vice-Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Willett as Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee for 2022-2023.

### 80/22 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies from Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Hetherington.

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*PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.*

Initial .....

### **81/22 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

### **82/22 Minutes**

Members received and agreed as an accurate record the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and received at Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **83/22 Chandos Park lighting**

It was agreed that agenda item 10b be brought forward to accommodate members of the public.

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the member of public to respond.

She said that there are already teenagers at night on the park and this was the area where students reported being most fearful. Cllr. Stuchbury has not received letters from residents in the area complaining about problems at the park at night and he said that residents would likely be opposed to additional lighting the area. The Estates Manager confirmed that CCTV is moved around the town, including the park area. Cllr. O'Donoghue asked what the University are doing regarding personal safety. The University have added further lighting to the grounds of the campus, the President of the Student Union is in contact with the Safety Community Officer and personal alarms are being introduced. Students can also log any concerns and issues.

The Estates Manager referred to his report. He informed members that the heads on the park lights had been replaced recently and an electrician has been appointed to service them. The lights are designed to only point downwards to avoid light pollution. Lower level lights would be at greater risk of vandalism. He confirmed that there is one faulty light to be repaired which does not turn off. He explained that the lights are designed to focus on the ground to minimise light pollution. It is not the Council's practice to light up play areas as it could encourage people to go there at night and this may affect the residents of Chandos Road.

The Estates Manager confirmed that the lighting from Chandos Park along Berties Walk is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council. Members AGREED that the Estates Manager will complete a short lighting survey in Chandos Park and report back to the next meeting with options to consider.

#### **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council will inform the University of the outcome of the lighting survey.

#### **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### **84/22 Action Report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested an update on the purchase of land for the new cemetery and allotments site. The Town Clerk has instructed a solicitor and agreed the land transfer document. The solicitor is completing checks on the covenant. The acquisition is progressing and hopefully will be complete in the next few months.

### **85/22 Budgets**

Members received the latest figures.

Cllr. O'Donoghue requested information regarding roundabout sponsorship. The Estates Manager confirmed that all the roundabouts are now sponsored and there is a waiting list.

The Town Clerk informed members that the figures in the budget do not show the impact of rising fuel and utilities costs; the Council did not budget for the extraordinary rises now being experienced.

### 86/22 Compliments and Complaints Log

Members received and noted the log of recent Green Spaces compliments and complaints. It was suggested that a Suggestions category be included.

### 87/22 Railway Walk

a. Footpath

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager.

The Estates Manager explained that there is a dipped area in the concrete on the Railway Walk. The plan is to dig a small channel and lower the water table if weather allows this summer. It did not dry back sufficiently for this to happen last year.

### 88/22 Chandos Park

a. Public art in Chandos Park

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator.

The Estates Administrator confirmed that this would be permanent art. The circulated briefing note goes into a little more depth about a potential local artist. An ear-marked reserve is in place to fund the art. Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations:

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report and, should an application be successful, receive funding from the Community Board toward the commissioning of a sculpture for Chandos Park.
- 1.2. It is recommended that members agree to match fund £5,000 from ear marked reserves for Parks Development (901 9035).
- 1.3. It is recommended that a working group be set up, consisting of councillors and partners, at the appropriate time.

### 89/22 Bourton Park Toddlers Play Area

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator.

The Estates Manager informed members that he is awaiting prices from suppliers before putting in an application to Section 106. Reshaping of the design is being considered to minimise potential flood damage. Cllr. O'Donoghue requested that the report is amended at 3.2 as it refers to older children. Members **AGREED** the recommendations for:

- a. Development of tender documents for the supply and installation of play area equipment and safety surfacing in Bourton Park's toddler play area.

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- b. Application to be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council to access Section 106 funds (12/02104/APP Market Hill) to fund the project.

## ACTION ESTATES ADMINSTRATOR

**90/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan**  
Members received and discussed an updated version of the Action Plan.

### **91/22 Litter Picking Equipment**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator. Litter pickers have been distributed successfully to various schools and a press release is going out tomorrow. The Estates Administrator explained that a litter station does not restrict the area in which it can be used and requested that members promoted the use of the litter pickers where possible.

### **92/22 Access Awareness**

Cllr. Stuchbury reported from the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting the request to monitor Gigaclear's work. The Estates Manager asked that any issues are reported directly to him or Transport For Bucks (TFB)

### **93/22 Update from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Nothing to report.

### **94/22 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

Nothing to report; no meeting had been held since the Committee last met.

### **95/22 News releases**

Litter pickers  
Lighting

### **96/22 Chair's announcements**

No announcements.

**97/22 Date of next meeting:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## 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**

Cllr. Osibogun left the meeting at 20:54.

### **98/22 New Cemetery and Allotment Site**

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Initial .....

- a. Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the purchase of the land.
- b. Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on progress with costs for the project.  
It is hoped that a costed proposal will be provided for the the Environment Committee in September 2022.

### **98/22 Railway Conservation Group Coordinator**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator. Work has stalled due to the retirement of the Co-ordinators and funding is requested for input from the Trust of Conservation Volunteers. Cllr. Schaefer made it clear that it is not the intention of Buckingham Town Council to provide permanent funding. Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation:  
To fund [The Trust of Conservation Volunteers](#) to deliver the activities outlined within section 2.5, at the cost of £2,100 from budgets 255 4120 and 255 4709.

### **100/22 Chandos Play Area**

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager. Quotes within budget have been received and Option A has been chosen for play value, quality, and environmental impact. Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations:

- 1.1. installation of option A detailed below using the funds made available from the insurance claim for the damaged caused.
- 1.2. This is subject to the evaluation of any further quotes received that are within budget and have a better evaluation score, members agree to allow officers to proceed with the best quotation received.

### **101/22 Tingewick Road Green Spaces**

Members **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council a proposal to take on green spaces subject to confirmation from the Council's solicitor that no issues of concern have been identified. The Town Clerk referred to 4.1 of the report. These areas need to be resolved before transference of ownership. A tarmac path will also be constructed to the Well which will then be adopted by Highways. Solicitors have not yet been instructed.

Cllr. Ralph asked who is responsible for the edge of the park by the Well which leads to the fence on the border of the scenic walk. The Estates Manager is looking into this.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations:

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree in principle to adopt the greenspaces around St. Rumbold's Field including 3 play areas, a MUGA, an open space 'kick about area' and St. Rumbold's field open space indicated on Plan A.
- 1.2. It is recommended that Members agree that this will be subject to confirmation from the Council's solicitor that no issues of concern have been identified.
- 1.3. It is recommended that members agree in principle to the proposed commuted sum for adopting the open spaces.

### **102/22 Further Devolved Services**

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Initial .....

E/01/22

Members received and discussed a verbal report from the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk informed members that a new Project Manager was appointed by Buckinghamshire Council in the Autumn. More staff have been taken on and a project team is being put together. Officers will continue to update Members of any progress.

### 103/22 Buckingham Ford

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager.

Members **AGREED** the recommendations:

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report and, should an application be successful, receive funding from the Community Board toward the extraction of silt from the Buckingham Ford.
- 1.2. Should a funding application be successful, it is recommended that members agree for the Estates Team to liaise with Highways to coordinate the necessary road closure orders, public notices and project plan.

Meeting closed at: 21:31

Chair

Date