

E/04/22

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:**

Cllr. F. Davies	
Cllr. Mrs. M Gateley	
Cllr. S. Hetherington	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Chair
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. R. Willett	Vice-Chair

**Via Zoom:** Cllr. R. Ahmed

**Also present:**

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.

#### **607/22 Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

#### **608/22 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

#### **609/22 Minutes**

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

#### **610/22 Action report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The Town Clerk updated Members following the receipt of an email regarding the Buckingham Community Flood Plan.

It was Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury that the lease, survey, and constitution of the Community Centre be brought to the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Davies. Members unanimously **AGREED.**

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **611/22 Budgets**

Members received the latest figures.

Members noted next year's budget as agreed by Precept.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that any underspends that are not in the Precept report may be moved to earmarked reserves. The Town Clerk clarified that this would be subject to Financial Regulations. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED.**

The Estates Manager explained that electricity costs for Chandos Park are under continual review to ensure that we are getting the best contract.

**612/22 Buckingham Climate Café**

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

The Estates Manager informed Members that the Estates Administrator met with the Climate Café group. This is a national initiative. The aim is to hold regular Saturday meetings in the library. The group is asking the Town Council to promote the group and for representatives to attend the first few meetings.

**613/22 Benches in public places**

Members received and agreed a new policy.

3.7 - Cllr. Davies Proposed that this is amended to state that a 50% deposit of the cost of the bench is required prior to the Town Council ordering the bench. Seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

3.1 – Cllr. Ahmed asked if there should be an upper limit on the number of benches per year. 3.6 covers this.

Cllr. Gateley Proposed that an additional heading is created regarding requests for benches on land not owned by the Town Council and a paragraph to include a suitable phrase that Buckingham Town Council will facilitate where possible. Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

A vote was taken, and the results were:

For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 1

**614/22 Brackley Road cemetery**

614/22.1 Cemetery Handbook update

Members received a report regarding the [updated Cemetery handbook](#).

It is recommended that Members agree the amendments to the Brackley Road Cemetery Handbook.

Cllr. Gateley noted that 2.10 refers to not riding a bicycle in the cemetery. She asked if bicycle racks could be considered. Members **AGREED** the wording will be reconsidered to look at 'riding' and the inclusion of scooters; bike racks at the cemetery will be considered at a future Committee meeting.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

614/22.2 Memorial testing update

Members received a verbal update.

The Estates Manager informed Members that a professional stonemason has already completed a check on all headstones over 1.5 metres. One third of the rest were inspected today and the remainder will be checked over the coming weeks.

**615/22 Vandalism cost for the year**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that members note the increase in vandalism across the town and the impact that this is having on the Town Council in terms of maintenance time and costs. The Estates Manager referred to the impact on the Green Spaces Team due to the considerable time spent repairing the damage. Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the CCTV

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policy is reviewed and the possibility of applying for external funding for further cameras. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. The Town Clerk said that she is currently reviewing this with the Compliance Officer.

Cllr. Willett asked if any further action can be taken to deter vandals. The Town Clerk said that we need to accept that the police will take appropriate action. She is in communication with the local neighbourhood team and has questioned, when appropriate, if the deterrent does not seem proportionate.

Members unanimously **AGREED** Cllr. Stuchbury's Proposal.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**616/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Members received and discussed updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**617/22 Updates from representatives on outside bodies**

Members received verbal updates from Councillors.

Cllr. Stuchbury informed Members that the Buckinghamshire Fire Authority's urban rescue facility in Aylesbury, which has equipment for major fires, terrorism, plane crashes etc., is in danger of being closed due to the grant cuts. This would be a major loss for the area.

Cllr. Hetherington stressed the importance of recruiting someone from our community to take on the Railway Walk Conservation Group. The Estates Manager informed Members that unfortunately no one has stepped forward, but we are still working on finding a volunteer to take this on.

Members discussed the possibility of advertising the role on the Buckingham University media channel.

**618/22 New Cemetery update**

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

The Estates Manager informed Members that we will go back to the Cemetery Management Company to get proposals for Option A: access road and car park etc. and to discuss phasing the project. Regular updates will be brought to the Committee. The Town Clerk noted that this is now back to being an Environment project.

**619/22 News releases**

**630/22 Chair's announcements**

No announcements.

**631/22 Date of next meeting:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**Exclusion of public and press**

20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

DRAFT

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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 .....

**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.**

**632/22 Rent review for Chandos Bowls Club and Tennis Club**  
Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Cllr. Gateley Proposed, Cllr. Willett Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**633/22 Request for oversize Memorial**  
Members received a request for an over-sized memorial at Brackley Road Cemetery. It is recommended that Members agree to the request for an oversized memorial.  
Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**634/22 Tingewick Road Green Spaces updates**  
Cllr. Hetherington left the meeting at 20:23 due to a potential conflict of interest. Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

Meeting closed at: 20:36

Chair ..... Date .....