

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 28th November 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. M. Cole JP	
Cllr. G. Collins	
Cllr. F. Davies	
Cllr. M. Gateley	Town Mayor/Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. S. Hetherington	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	
Cllr. W. Whyte	
Cllr. R. Willett	

Via Zoom:

Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Vice-Chair

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager

Due to technical errors Cllr. Mordue and Cllr. Schaefer were unable to attend the meeting.

Public session

A representative of the Buckingham Ukrainian refugees expressed her gratitude to the community, charities, churches, local businesses, and councils for providing support. She raised several pressing questions regarding:

- The end of the six-month sponsorship.
- Qualifying for Buckinghamshire Council's contribution to hosts.
- Rental accommodation and the process of private renting.
- Help with paperwork.
- A clear guide to accessing education to enhance existing qualifications.
- Accessing employment that corresponds to existing profession.

She asked if Buckingham Town Council could support the refugees in liaising with Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked that the transcript is emailed to him; he will endeavor to support the refugees and seek answers to their questions.

Cllr. Collins joined the meeting at 19:17pm.

BTC/05/22

434/22 Apologies for absence

There were none.

435/22 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Gateley is a member of the Twinning Society.

Cllr. Stuchbury is a member of the Buckinghamshire Northern Area Planning Committee.

436/22 Minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 10th October 2022.

437/22 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 23rd September 2022 and 17th October.

438/22 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 24th October 2022.

439/22 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on 11th July 2022 and 26th September 2022.

440/22 Communications Strategy Group

Members received the minutes of the Communications Strategy Group meetings held on 20th July 2022 and 13th October 2022.

441/22 Proposed development – Land west of London Road

Members received a project briefing from Rainier Developments. They raised the following points:

- They are aware that this is employment land.
- They would aim to preserve vegetation; extensive landscaping would result in a 10% biodiversity net gain for the site.
- 365 dwellings proposed with 35% affordable housing.
- All houses would have Electric Vehicle points.

Cllr. Mahi joined the meeting at 19:24.

Cllr. Cole thanked Rainier for their presentation but noted that, other than 35% affordable housing, this development has no links at all with the Neighbourhood Plan. This is the only land allocated to industry in the Neighbourhood Plan and new residents need local employment opportunities. Buckinghamshire Council is clear that there is no unmet housing need in Buckingham.

Cllr. O'Donoghue pointed out that the 800+ consultation leaflet delivered to 800+ homes was very limited. Ms. Bell agreed to share the consultation area with the Town Council and explained that the project website is still open for feedback. Cllr. Harvey requested that the results of this consultation be made available and raised the issues of connectivity, sewage, and management company fees.

Cllr. Whyte pointed out the lack of any input or consideration of infrastructure.

442/22 Friendship agreement with Valmadrera.

Members considered an agreement proposed by the Buckingham Twinning Association and received the signed agreement from Mouvaux.

Cllr. Gateley said that reciprocal visits have taken place and she Proposed that the request from the Twinning Association to form a friendship agreement is accepted. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Cllr. Osibogun declared an interest as a member of the Twinning Association. Members **AGREED** unanimously to form the friendship agreement with Valmadrera.

Lorna Joy, Vice-Chair of the Twinning Association, presented a certificate to mark the 20-year twinning anniversary with Mouvaux. She said that great thanks are given to Buckingham Town Council for the support offered over the years.

Members **AGREED** to give the other items gifted by Mouvaux to the tombola at the Community Fair.

Cllr. Gateley said that these friendships are more important than ever and echoed Cllr. Harvey's wish that a future agreement with a Ukrainian town may be made.

443/22 Banking Hub update

Members received any verbal updates from Councillors.

Cllr. Whyte informed members that he is hoping for positive news from the next meeting.

444/22 2023 Committee meeting calendar

Members **AGREED** changes to the calendar to accommodate the new Bank Holiday.

445/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan

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

446/22 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Osibogun:

Council's winter readiness: Buckinghamshire Council encourages all councils within the County to use the tools on offer, for example [FixMyStreet](#).

He reminded Members that Buckingham Library is a winter warming space available to the public.

Cllr. Osibogun is happy to put forward any further suggestions.

Cllr. Stuchbury

Attended Cabinet and raised questions about oversubscribed schools – ongoing.

Attended the Climate Change Environment Committee and raised the issue of sewage.

Fire Authority – pay rise is going to ballot.

Children's Education Select Committee – questions raised regarding Special Educational Needs.

Will attend Cabinet at the beginning of the month to ask further questions regarding fiscal responsibility for adult social care.

Cllr. Whyte

Met with Transport Bucks and raised the issue of streetlights.

Broadband issue raised to keep pressure on the two broadband companies and their impact on highways.

Reminded Members of the Buckinghamshire Council [Helping Hand](#) scheme.

BTC/05/22

Continuing to pursue the Education Department for better clarity on school-based planning in Buckinghamshire. s106 monies have helped a number of local schools to expand. Fly-tipping – the key issue is how we keep on top of this, but surveillance systems are working, and a successful prosecution has recently taken place.

Councillors requested information on:

- A FixMyStreet issue.
- Winter gritting on the Tingewick Road.
- Fire Authority report on misogyny in the London Fire Brigade.
- Updates on Swish/Gigaclear lack of co-operation.
- Repairs and the new contractor for Transport for Bucks.
- 40mph speed limit on the Tingewick Road.
- Feedback on Helping Hands and backlog.

Cllr. Osibogun asked that if there is a specific issue with FixMyStreet it should be reported to a County Councillor who will follow it up. He will check the gritting schedule for the town. He explained that, although there is no specific date set, the speed limit implementation is just awaiting signage.

Cllr. Stuchbury explained that the Fire Authority has a rigorous equalities policy, and he feels sure that the report will be discussed at the next audit and any recommendations considered.

Cllr. Whyte said that he had received positive feedback regarding the Helping Hand scheme. He has received no further information regarding Swish and Gigaclear. He explained that, although the new contractor for Transport for Bucks has been announced, the start date is 1st April 2023 and therefore repairs at present are made by the current contractor.

447/22 Action list

Members reviewed and discussed the Action Report.

Cllr. Cole queried the lack of response from the Hearings Sub-Committee regarding the Code of Conduct process. The Town Clerk will follow this up again.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members discussed pursuing the complaint regarding Moreton Road Phase III and agreed that the working relationship with partners is encouraging and a further complaint would not reverse the decision.

448/22 Great Ouse 2018 pollution incident update

Members noted the response from the Environment Agency received by Cllr. Whyte.

Cllr. Whyte expressed disappointment about the minimal information that has been forthcoming over the past four years. Whilst he is aware that the legal system can be slow, this has dragged on and on. It is, however, encouraging that the case has not been shut down.

449/22 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr. Harvey attended the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Councils AGM. Minutes will be circulated to Members.

Cllr. Willett reported that grant funding has been received to cover staffing costs at the Youth Centre.

BTC/05/22

450/22 Mayoral engagements

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

01.11.22 Lord Lieutenant's South East Reserves Awards Aylesbury
04.11.22 Furze Down School visit
04.11.22 Local Democracy Week Royal Latin School
04.11.22 BACAB Town v Gown Quiz
09.11.22 RAF Croughton Civic Day
10.11.22 Remembrance Service Aylesbury
11.11.22 Remembrance Service Royal Latin School
13.11.22 Remembrance Day Parade
15.11.22 Royal Latin School 600th Anniversary Book Launch.
18.11.22 BAFA Art Exhibition Preview
24.11.22 Buckingham Society Lecture
26.11.22 Christmas Light Switch on

451/22 Chair's announcements

Cllr. Gateley invited Members to go to the Grand Junction after the meeting and hoped to see Councillors at the Christmas Parade. She wished Members a Merry Christmas.

452/22 Date of the next meeting: Interim Council: Monday 9th January 2023
Full Council: Monday 20th March 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.**

453/22 New cemetery, maintenance depot and allotments plans and costings

453/22.1 Members received a recommendation from the Environment Committee.
453/22.2 Members received a report from the Estates Manager.
453/22.3 Members received an updated costings report from the Town Clerk.

It is recommended to carry out a public consultation on option 3 of the proposed plans, as part of submitting an application to the Public Works Loans Board for the required sum to complete the project.

A vote was taken, and the results were:

For: Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey,
Cllr. Hetherington, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Ralph,
Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. Whyte and Cllr. Willett.

Against: 0

Abstention: Cllr. Try.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

BTC/05/22

454/22 St Rumbold's Field open spaces

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Hetherington declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of the discussion and the vote. The remaining Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

455/22 Bourton Park toddler play area renovation

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

Meeting closed at 21:21

Signed

Date

DRAFT