

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm on Monday 9th January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. M. Cole JP	
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. A. Schaefer	Vice Chair
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Deputy Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk

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

517/22 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Mordue, Cllr. Try and Cllr. Whyte.

518/22 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Stuchbury is Chair of The Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust. Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Hetherington are members of the Trust.
Cllr. Stuchbury is a member of the Buckinghamshire Northern Area Planning Committee.

519/22 Manor Oak Homes – land to the east of Buckingham at Bourton Meadow

Members received a presentation from Manor Oak Homes; they shared their vision statement with Members:

Tourism and heritage – the creation of a visitor attraction at Bourton Meadow.

Accessibility – improved connectivity for existing residents.

Ecology and wildlife – new woodland, wetlands, and wildlife ponds.

Recreation and education – seating and play areas, information boards and hides.

Living – traditional in style and including 25% affordable housing.

Members thanked Manor Oak Homes for their presentation and responded with the following points:

- Concerns about building on flood plains.
- Lack of information regarding the number of houses.
- Percentage of affordable housing should be 35%.
- Dangers of crossing the busy bypass road.
- Parking – this is already very problematic.
- The area is already accessible and used frequently by Buckingham residents.
- Lack of school places.

IM/05/22

Manor Oak Homes responded that flood plains will not be built on, that the number of houses have not been decided, that there will be a small parking area at the visitor centre, pedestrian crossings on the bypass and ecological benefits of managing the site.

520/22 Bourton play area

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that Members agree to pay the initial costs for the renovation of Bourton Park Play area, of up to £125,500 from the General Reserve. These costs will then be immediately claimed back from the S106 application which has already been submitted and approved. The money should be fully refunded in around 14 days. Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

521/22 Motion – Cllr. Stuchbury

Following a request for an additional bench in the Railway Walk I would like to propose that Buckingham Town Council establish a mechanism for members of our community to sponsor additional benches in appropriate public places, where people can meet and spend time with others. This could enable new friendships and also address issues of loneliness and promote better mental health.

We could establish a fund to which members of the public could contribute, so there would be minimal cost to Buckingham Town Council. It could also be possible to dedicate a bench by means of a plaque with the person's name for example.

The Environment Committee would need to take this forward in partnership with the community.

A vote was taken, and the results were:

For: 11
Against: 0
Abstention: 0

The motion was carried.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

522/22 Chair's announcements

523/22 Date of next meetings: Precept: Monday 30th January 2023
Interim Council: Monday 27th February 2023

Meeting closed at 19:37.

Signed Date