

E/05/22

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 17th April 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. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. R. Willett Vice-Chair

Via Zoom: Cllr. Ahmed
Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager

Also present: Mr. S. Beech Compliance and Projects Manager
Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

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

Cllr. Willett chaired the meeting in Cllr. Schaefer's absence.

781/22 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Schaefer.

782/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hetherington is a resident of St. Rumbold's Field and a member of St. Rumbold's Fields Residents Management Company.

783/22 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 20th February 2023 and received at Full Council on 20th March 2023.

784/22 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

785/22 Budgets

Members received the latest figures.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the solar panels on Lace Hill Community Centre have had quite a significant impact on the electricity costs.

The Town Clerk explained to Members that the cost for roundabout sponsorship is due to the responsibility of the Town Council to provide the signage for a new sponsor.

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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

786/22 Railway Walk and Conservation Co-ordinator

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

It is recommended that Members note the current situation with the Railway Walk Conservation Group and agree for the volunteer vacancies to be strongly advertised during King Charles III's Big Help Out on May 8th, 2023.

It is recommended that if the Railway Walk Conservation Group cannot form a management committee, the group would be formally dissolved on the 31st August 2023 and the work bought back in house.

The Town Clerk explained that the Estates Administrator has worked extremely hard to find a long-term solution. Buckingham Town Council employed an organisation last year, the TCB, with the aim of equipping the Group to run independently. Unfortunately, there has been no interest within the group to co-ordinate it and no interest from the recruitment drive. A final push for recruitment will be made during the Big Help Out promotion and at the Spring Fair.

The Estates Manager confirmed that the Green Spaces Team will continue the work that the volunteers have been doing and that the team already do quite a lot of work on the Railway Walk. The Town Clerk reassured Members that we intend to continue working with volunteers but explained that it is not possible for our staff to run the group.

A vote was taken on the recommendations, and the result was:

For: 6
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

787/22 Tiny forest update

Members received and noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

The Estates Manager explained that tree wardens and volunteers will be involved in monitoring the tiny forest and that it seems to be a very successful project.

Cllr. Davies commented that it was wonderful to see such a diverse and great community effort to plant the trees. Cllr. Ahmed passed on thanks to the residents of the Best Western Hotel and all the volunteers who helped on the day.

Members discussed using a contact number, a map, or an App to ensure that Councillors can locate future events.

788/22 New Cemetery and allotments proposal

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk hoped that a formal plan would be ready to present to Members. The plan received was, however, missing important calculations and the Estates Manager has raised nineteen questions; this has been passed back to the cemetery designers.

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789/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan

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

790/22 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

Members received verbal updates from Councillors.

Buckingham Community Wildlife Project – Sue attended a meeting in February, and she noted that meeting timings are out of step with this Committee.

791/22 News releases

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested scheduling something in for the future to show the continued achievements within the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

792/22 Chair's announcements

There were none.

793/22 Date of next meeting: Monday 12th June 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. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Hetherington left the meeting at 19:49 due to a prejudicial interest.

794/22 Tingewick Road Green Spaces update

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

795/22 Brackley Road Cemetery footpath repairs

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

These repairs will take place as soon as possible.

796/22 CCTV funding

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

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797/22 Buckingham Community Centre

797/22.1 Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager. Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations and **AGREED** that an update report will be brought to the next meeting.

Members noted the following Buckingham Community Centre documents:

- 797/22.2 Lease.
- 797/22.3 Constitution.
- 797/22.4 Survey.

ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER

Meeting closed at: 20:45

Chair Date

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