

E/01/23

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:**

Cllr. R. Ahmed	Vice Chair
Cllr. F. Davies	Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Town Mayor
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. R. Willett	

**Also present:**

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Ms. N. Stockill	Estates Administrator

**Absent:** Cllr. M. Gateley

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

### 63/23 Election of Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Schaefer, Seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Davies as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023-2024.

### 64/23 Election of Vice-Chair

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue to elect Cllr. Willett as Vice Chair. No Secunder.  
Proposed by Cllr. Ralph, Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Ahmed as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023-2024.

### 65/23 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Gateley.

### 66/23 Declarations of interest

There were none.

### 67/23 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and received at Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

### 68/23 Terms of Reference

Members noted the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee, as agreed by Full Council.

### 69/23 Chandos Park

69/23.1 Tennis Club proposal – to receive a presentation from Wayne Gibbard from Buckingham Tennis Club.

Mr. Gibbard attended on behalf of the Chair of the Tennis Club. He informed Members that there is a new, fast growing sport called paddle

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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 .....

tennis which is a hybrid of squash and tennis. The Club is looking at ways to increase community participation; the courts could be accessed by local schools and the University. He presented two options for consideration:

1. Construction of one full size and one junior paddle tennis court on the grassed area (owned by Buckingham Town Council) in front of the tennis courts. These will be hard-surface courts with perspex walls.
2. To relocate the multi-use games area and put in 3 full size and 2 junior paddle tennis courts.

Mr. Gibbard has liaised with the Estates Manager regarding option 1 and also with Mr. Houston, Parks, and Green Infrastructure Officer, at Buckinghamshire Council regarding accessing s106 monies for the project. He has received a positive response from Mr. Houston.

Members raised the following points:

Parking would be difficult. Mr. Gibbard responded that the intention is that it is used by the community and bicycle racks inclusion could be considered.

Asking the University if they could make a portion of their adjacent land available.

Members thanked Mr. Gibbard for his presentation and requested that he keeps the office updated.

69/23.2 Park Improvements – to receive a report from the Estates Manager. It is recommended that Members agree to proceed with the s106 application.

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

### **70/23 Action report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. Ralph suggested at the last meeting that Bourton Park bridges should be added to the action list. The Town Clerk apologised; this will be added.

The Estates Administrator updated Members: the bridge close to the car park will be repaired and kept and the footpath aligned. The other bridge will be removed. The Town Clerk informed Members that plans to remove the bridge are progressing and a further update will be given as soon as possible.

Cllr. Harvey requested that 'no mow May' is revisited following the community responses to this year's mowing programme. Members agreed that it will be added to the next agenda.

**ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR**

### **71/23 Budgets**

Members received the latest figures.

### **72/23 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

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

Members thanked officers for their work in moving the Action Plan forward.

The next Climate Café will be held at Celebrate Buckingham Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Members commended the Town Clerk and her team for their response today to the flooding.

**E/01/23**

Cllr. Harvey referred to a talk given by Terry Cavender of the Canal Society regarding water diversion. The Town Clerk said that she would need to go back and check the minutes.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk updated Members on actions taken today. She visited Nelson Street where residents again brought up the problems with the drain on the corner. The Green Spaces Team went out with sandbags to offer help. Calls were made to vulnerable residents in the flooding area and Buckinghamshire Council were contacted. There were a number of reported issues including a drainage cover outside Wharf Yard (the Green Spaces Team put cones over the hole) and sinkage in the road by the Old Gaol – both will be inspected this evening; the BP garage, Tesco Express, Sainsburys, Waitrose, the Old Gaol, Lace Hill School and Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre suffered flooding. Homes in Western Avenue, Nelson Street and Chandos Road were also affected.

Cllr. Ahmed raised the issue of low hanging branches which may be problematic. The Town Clerk said that if it was a danger then 999 should be called. Any other issues should be reported via FixMyStreet.

### **73/23 Memorial testing at Brackley Road cemetery update**

Members noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

Cllr. Schaefer commended the team for the tremendous amount of work that has gone into this.

### **74/23 The Ford**

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

It is recommended that Members note the report and agree not to proceed with the project.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

### **75/23 Railway Walk Conservation Volunteers**

Members noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

### **76/23 Brackley Road Cemetery – Local Heritage List**

Members noted a letter from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Brackley Road Cemetery being added to the Local Heritage List.

### **77/23 New Cemetery**

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

Costings from the cemetery design company were received on Monday. The Town Clerk will need to consult with the Estates Manager when he returns from holiday before this can be presented to the Committee.

### **78/23 Actions arising from Full Council**

Members discussed representation - Tree Wardens (minute 18/23.7).

Cllr. Willett was appointed as a tree warden.

### **79/23 Updates from representatives on outside bodies**

Members received verbal updates from Councillors.

Cllr. Stuchbury updated Members: trying to move forward at Cabinet the issues surrounding the discharge of Buckingham residents from Milton Keynes Hospital. A

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report on dementia is going to Cabinet next month and the BOB 5 year plan is available for Members to read.

**80/23 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project**

Members received notes from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and discussed whether to appoint an additional member to the Committee.

The next meetings are to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr. Ahmed will contact the office if she is able to take on this role.

**81/23 News releases**

Flash flooding actions.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**82/23 Chair’s announcements**

No announcements.

**83/23 Date of next meeting:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 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**.

**84/23 Tingewick Road Green Spaces update**

Members noted the correspondence from Hampshire County Council legal team.

**85/23 CCTV**

85/23.1 CCTV Policy update – Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that members agree to adopt the updated CCTV policy.

85/23.2 CCTV Policy.

85/23.3 Purchase of new re-deployable CCTV system - Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

**86/23 Buckingham Community Centre**

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that a report is brought to a future meeting for discussion. Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

**ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER**

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Chair .....

Date .....