

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:** Cllr. R. Ahmed  
Cllr. M. Cole JP  
Cllr. F. Davies  
Cllr. M. Gateley  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. S. Hetherington  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. A. Osibogun Vice-Chair  
Cllr. A. Ralph  
Cllr. A. Schaefer Town Mayor  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try  
Cllr. R. Willett

**Also present:** Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk  
Ms. L. Stubbs Deputy Town Clerk  
Mrs. K. McElligott Planning Clerk  
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

**Absent:** Cllr. G. Collins  
Cllr. W. Whyte

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

**135/23 Apologies for absence**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Mahi and Cllr. Whyte.

**136/23 Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest.

**137/23 Planning Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**138/23 Resources Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**139/23 Major application**

19/A0148/DIS Land off Osier Way East of Gawcott Road and South of Buckingham Ring Road Application for approval of details subject to condition 8 (design code) of planning approval ref 19/00148/AOP  
*Vistry Wates (Buckingham) LLP*

Members received a report from the Planning Clerk.

### **BTC/03/23**

Cllr. Cole expressed concern that the developers still have not acknowledged the Neighbourhood Plan and the Design Code. He Proposed that we continue to oppose this application. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 13  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 1

Cllr. Harvey noted the lack of a post box for the development, and also suggested that we ask if there is any scope to improve the footpath between Buckingham and Gawcott.

### **140/23 Planning Appeal**

Members received a letter from the Directorate for Planning, Growth and Sustainability in relation to planning application 20/00510/APP Land West of Moreton Road and Castlemilk, Buckingham.

Members received a report from the Planning Clerk.

Cllr. Cole reminded Members that Buckingham Town Council agreed in December 2023 to request that this was called in. Greg Smith MP approached the Secretary of State who agreed to call in the application. A planning enquiry will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Cllr. Cole Proposed that we submit in writing our reasons against the application to the Planning Inspector. A member of the Planning Committee and the Planning Clerk should attend the enquiry. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 13  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 1

Cllr. Gateley nominated Cllr. Cole to attend the management conference meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Cllr. Willett Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

#### **ACTION PLANNING CLERK/TOWN CLERK**

### **141/23 Motion: Cllr. Cole**

That this Council, recognising the increased time-sensitive workload on Planning Committee members and staff, no longer holds Planning Committee meetings on the same night as Interim Council or other Committees. Taking into account the afternoon planning briefing, those involved in Planning are now regularly meeting for 4.5 hours when Interim and Planning take place on the same day, frequently reaching the 22.00 deadline. This is putting an intolerable strain on members and staff, many of whom have other work, and I propose that Planning Committees, like Resources, Environment and Town Centre & Events, should be stand-alone.

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Cole Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** option 4.2: That Planning meetings which follow Interim meetings are shortened to consider only essential items and applications.

### **142/23 Motion: Cllr. Stuchbury**

Considering the impact of the recent heavy rain, causing pressure on the drainage system and capacity, in the recent flooding the drains and sewers were overwhelmed in several places.

The existing planning system prohibits imposing planning conditions based on Grampian conditions on water companies by planning authorities.

We propose that the Council write to the Secretary of State, seeking an understanding about whether new legislation will be introduced to give powers to local authorities to impose planning conditions in advance of agreement to ensure additional capacity is

created, funded in partnership with the water company and the developer.

In support of the proposal from the planning committee that Anglian Water be invited to attend a meeting to discuss sewage infrastructure and planning. If this is arranged, at that point it would seem logical to invite senior planning officers to that meeting to take part in discussions, to ensure all parties fully understand the issues and possible solutions. Noting that we are writing our Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and Buckinghamshire Council's work on the Local Plan.

Additional information was supplied by Cllr. Stuchbury: response to a question about Sewage Infrastructure/Capacity with planned development from Buckinghamshire Council.

Members discussed:

Grampian conditions (conditions attached to a decision notice that prevents the start of a development until off-site works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant).

Whether this is already a legal requirement under the Water Act.

The importance of this issue nationwide.

The Motion was Seconded by Cllr. Harvey. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: Cllrs. Ahmed, Cole, Davies, Gateley, Harvey, Hetherington, O'Donoghue, Osibogun, Ralph, Schaefer, Stuchbury, Try and Willett.

Against: 0

Abstention: Cllr. Mordue

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed a related press release. Seconded by Cllr. Davies. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 11

Against: 1

Abstention: 2

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**143/23 Update on Boundary Review and Town Council Boundaries**

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

It is recommended that Members request that officers submit an Expression of Interest to Buckinghamshire Council for a review of Buckingham Town Council Wards as the deadline is imminent.

It is recommended that Members choose an option below, and should members be minded to request a change in boundaries, instruct officers to prepare and present a case to Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed Option 2 with a rewording of 'return to' rather than 'reduce to'. Cllr. Davies Seconded.

Option 2: Reduce to 2 wards, adding Highlands and Watchcroft to Buckingham North and Fisher's Field to Buckingham South.

Buckingham South – 9

Buckingham North - 8

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2 **ACTION TOWN CLERK & COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER**

The Town Clerk offered to investigate if Buckingham has the correct number of Councillors. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**144/23 Licensing application for 14 Hillcrest Way**

Members received and discussed the application paperwork.  
Members unanimously expressed support for the new business.

**145/23 Civility and respect**

Referred from Resources Committee 124/23.1:

145/23.1 Resources Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that Buckingham Town Council agree to sign the joint NALC/SLCC Civility and Respect Pledge and the "Councillor-Officer protocol" once all requirements are met.

145/23.2 Resources Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that a future Full Council agenda item be requested to consider writing to the local MP asking that they back Early Day Motion 611 and have it discussed in parliament or that councillors write as individuals.

Members received an additional report from the Deputy Town Clerk.  
The Town Clerk explained that this is a joint initiative from NALC and SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). It does not suggest that we are deficient and most of the larger councils are signing up to it. There is very little that we would need to change.

1.1 It is recommended that Buckingham Town Council agree to sign the joint NALC/SLCC Civility and Respect Pledge once all requirements are met.

1.2 It is recommended that Buckingham Town Council agree the Councillor-Officer protocol.

A vote was taken on recommendations 1.1 and 1.2, and the result was:

For: 11  
Against: 3  
Abstention: 0

1.3 It is recommended that a future Full Council agenda item consider writing to our MP asking that they back Early Day Motion 611 and have it discussed in parliament or alternatively that councillors consider writing as individuals.

A vote was taken on recommendation 1.3, and the result was:

For: 10  
Against: 3  
Abstention: 1

**ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER**

Members noted the report, originally presented to Resources on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023, by the Compliance and Projects Officer and Deputy Town Clerk.

**146/23 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Members noted the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**147/23 Town and Parish survey**

Members reviewed the proposed response to Buckinghamshire Council's Town and Parish Survey.

Cllr. Osibogun noted that he will abstain from voting as this does not reflect his views.

### **BTC/03/23**

Cllr. Harvey Proposed a change on point 2: from Very to Somewhat and also that Cllr. Cole's planning responses replace the Survey responses for this section. Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that point 22 should be changed from Acceptable to Poor and cited the four way traffic lights on the A421 during Silverstone weekend as an example. Cllr. Gateley suggested that this is added to the specific example box.

A vote was taken on the recommendation with the above amendments and the result was:

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

### **148/23 Consultation on the relocation of Furze Down School's sixth form**

Members noted the consultation document and presentation slides. Members welcomed the relocation. Cllr. Gateley Proposed responding positively to the consultation. Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we write to Buckinghamshire Council, thanking them for the proposal and that we look forward to the opening. Cllr. Willett Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

### **149/23 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors**

Cllr. Stuchbury:

Is attending Cabinet tomorrow to ask questions regarding s106.

Informed Members that he has submitted a written question regarding water capacity linked to his earlier Motion in this meeting.

Attended a Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Attended Children's Services and Education regarding provision of special education.

Cllr. Mordue:

Attended two graduation celebrations at the University.

Attended 32 Zoom/Teams meetings and a further 25 face-to-face meetings.

Pushed Buckingham Banking Hub forward. This is operating temporarily from the Buckingham Library; the permanent location will be in the former Lloyds Bank building.

Cllr. Osibogun:

Has checked out mobile works and local roads for potholes, reporting any issues on FixMyStreet.

Talked to Anglian Water regarding sewage.

Urged Councillors and residents to use FixMyStreet to report any issues.

Cllr. Willett asked if there are any preliminary plans for transport. Cllr. Stuchbury confirmed that the Transport Policy will not change due to the move of Furze Down School's sixth form.

### **150/23 Action list**

Members reviewed and discussed the Action Report.

10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Page 5

*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.....

## **BTC/03/23**

Code of conduct: Cllr. Harvey Proposed that we should respond asking that the voice of the victim(s) should be heard in the process and taken into account to make it a more just process. Cllr. Cole Seconded. The Town Clerk advised that this item was not on the agenda therefore Members **AGREED** to put this on the next agenda rather than voting on this at present.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

License – Loungers. The Town Clerk put forward the request and Loungers agreed to the license change.

**ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

## **151/23 Reports from representatives on outside bodies**

No reports.

## **152/23 Mayoral engagements**

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

24.05.23 Bourton Park Junior Play Area opening  
28.05.23 Music in the Market  
01.06.23 Raising of the Pride Flag  
03.06.23 Buckingham Country Show  
17.06.23 Celebrate Buckingham Day  
01.07.23 Music and Beer Festival

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

24.06.23 Swan Trail launch

## **153/23 Chair's announcements**

Fringe Week is coming up. The Chair received an offer of two tickets to the final concert on Saturday but is unable to attend and, as they would like a representative of the Council to attend. Councillors who may like to attend should email the Chair.

## **154/23 Date of the next meeting:**

Full Council: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Interim Council: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 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**.

## **155/23 Payment endorsements**

Members noted the completed payments list.

Meeting closed at 9:18pm

Signed ..... Date .....