

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. R. Ahmed
Cllr. M. Cole JP
Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. S. Hetherington
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Osibogun Vice-Chair
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. S. McMurtrie Town Plan Officer
Mr. S. Beech Compliance and Projects Manager

Absent: Cllr. G. Collins
Cllr. M. Gateley
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. W. Whyte

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

249/23 Apologies for absence

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

250/23 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Hetherington declared an interest in St. Rumbold's Fields (277/23).

251/23 Minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 22nd May 2023 and 10th July 2023.

252/23 Interim minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 24th April 2023 and 19th June 2023.

253/23 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 19th June 2023.

BTC/04/23

254/23 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 5th June 2023.

Cllr. O'Donoghue requested a change of wording at minute 44/23 to show that it was agreed to review the security arrangements following the Fringe Week Comedy Night event.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

255/23 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12th June 2023.

256/23 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 26th June 2023.

257/23 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Osibogun:

Regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) steps have been taken by Buckinghamshire Council to ensure that this has not impacted the academic side of schooling in affected County schools.

Cllr. Stuchbury:

The question raised at the Planning Committee regarding s106 is on the Cabinet agenda for tomorrow morning.

The Education Select Committee report into SEN goes to Cabinet tomorrow.

Tourist economy in Buckinghamshire meeting attended.

Planning and Buckinghamshire Plan growth – inference given that 60% of developable land is not within greenbelt which suggests that the greenbelt wouldn't be challenged.

Involvement in an email exchange around the inability for applications to be taken to Committee.

Attended a briefing today about the A421.

Cllr. O'Donoghue requested that anything relevant to Buckingham re. Tourist Information is included on the agenda for the Town Centre and Events Committee.

Cllr. Osibogun reminded Cllr. Stuchbury that residents' voices can be heard: comments on applications can be included online.

Cllr. Harvey requested that the link to the report is circulated to the Full Council. Cllr. Stuchbury will circulate this following the meeting.

258/23 Set up single meeting task and finish group to invite the King.

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

The Clerk explained that a proposal/bid is required to request a visit.

It is recommended that Members agree to establish a single meeting working group to compose an invitation to King Charles.

It is recommended to invite an expert from the Lieutenancy to address the working group to offer advice and the latest guidance from the palace.

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed and Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

BTC/04/23

259/23 Telephone box

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

It is recommended that Members agree an option:

- 3.1 Do not oppose the removal of the box.
- 3.2 Oppose due to exceptional circumstances, citing the distance to the nearest box (5.25 miles).

Members discussed:

Safeguarding: Someone in an abusive relationship may not be allowed access to a mobile phone or landline – some of the 35 confirmed calls may have been from a person in this situation to a friend/family member.

There could be a situation where access to the internet/phone networks are unavailable.

It may be needed in an emergency situation.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed Option 3.2 with the addition of the above concerns. Cllr.

Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

260/23 Banking and petty cash reconciliations.

Members noted that the Vice Chair of the Resources Committee has signed the Q1 banking and petty cash reconciliations as required by the Financial Regulations.

261/23 Support for Buckinghamshire Community Energy grant application

Agreed at Environment (191/23) to recommend to Full Council that it votes to support Buckinghamshire Community Energy's grant application to Buckingham and Villages Community Board.

It is recommended that Members agree to support Buckinghamshire Community Energy's grant application to the Buckingham and Village Community Board to help with the cost of organising the Energy Efficient Homes Fair in Buckingham on the 5th November 2023 at Buckingham Community Centre.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested an amendment: to check if a decision has been made in the next 24 hours before written support is sent.

Cllr. Davies Proposed the recommendation with the amendment. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

ACTION TOWN CLERK

262/23 BNDP Scenarios & Consultation

Members received a report on the progress with the BNDP and the upcoming scenarios consultation.

It is recommended that Members agree to running the BNDP scenario consultation between 30th September and 30th October 2023.

Cllr. Cole informed Members that this will be the first public consultation. There will be four scenarios.

Cllr. O'Donoghue thanked the Town Plan Officer for their work.

The Town Plan Officer clarified that this is not the plan, but an exercise to find out what people feel about development. It is an information process. Volunteers will be required for the planned events; dates will be circulated, and information will be provided for Councillors.

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

263/23 Motion Cllr. Cole

Noting that Buckinghamshire Council has already apologised for failing to notify Buckingham Town Council until late June that delegated alcohol and licensing permission was given on 31st May to Verdetto Lounge at 12/13 Market Hill, Buckingham, this Council believes that officers erred in making a comparison between this premises and the same group's Aylesbury premises.

Officers claimed that that the establishments were similar. They are not, they are totally different. The Aylesbury one (Rococo Lounge) with outside dining is in the pedestrianised entertainment district, outside the Aylesbury Conservation Area. The Buckingham one is in the Conservation Area, among town centre residential accommodation on a street used by traffic, and on two days a week by the charter markets. The pavement is unsuitable for outside dining.

There is no indication that officers took note of Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Policy EE4 which states that "the introduction of new non-retail uses (i.e. food & drink etc) will be restricted to 35% of the sum total of the primary retail frontages", into which Verdetto falls. Given the above, I propose that this Council questions how licensing officers reached the decision not to send this to the Licensing Sub-Committee, which might be considered an abuse of process which could happen again with future applications, as it would appear the officers responsible have little knowledge of Buckingham, and of its different characteristics to Aylesbury.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded.

Cllr. Cole clarified that this is in no way against the Verdetto Lounge; they have followed all planning procedures and met all requirements.

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested an amendment: asking if there has been a change of process Cllr. Cole knows that the process has not changed so did not accept the amendment.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 11
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

The Motion was carried.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

264/23 Motion Cllr. Harvey

In line with our environmental policy to reduce plastic waste and single use plastic wherever possible, this Council seeks to work with the local British Legion (in line with the emerging national practice) and all those who regularly lay (plastic) wreaths on the war memorial on Armistice Sunday, to explore options to use non-plastic alternatives this coming year. The Town Council will review what options are found by local organisations with an intention to steadily seek to reduce the use of plastic in forthcoming years to zero. This coming November, the Town Mayor will lay a memorial wreath constructed of less than 10% plastic in order to lead the way forward but will donate to the Royal British Legion the cost of a wreath.

264/23.1 Members received a letter from the Royal British Legion in relation to the above Motion.

BTC/04/23

Cllr. Harvey said that his original Motion was amended. He is happy with the local Royal British Legion's response. The question is whether we pursue it this year or next year. Cllr. Harvey circulated a wooden wreath, wrapped in biodegradable cellophane. He would like to see local florists and schools designing wreaths in the future. He suggested that this is looked at and considered again next year and suggested an amendment to the motion to reflect this. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded.

Members raised the following points:

- That we must move at the speed of the Royal British Legion.
- That we must consider the increased removal of trees.
- That we must not take anything away from the Royal British Legion, in particular we should not support the idea of different designs.
- That there are bigger single use plastic issues, for e.g. disposable vapes.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the letter from the British Legion is included with the minutes. Cllr. Davies Seconded.

A vote was taken, and the result was

For: Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Hetherington, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Willett.

Against: 0

Abstention: Cllr. Osibogun

The letter from the Royal British Legion is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

Cllr. Harvey read out the amended Motion:

In line with our environmental policy to reduce plastic waste and single use plastic wherever possible, this Council seeks to work with the local British Legion (in line with the emerging national practice) and all those who regularly lay (plastic) wreaths on the war memorial on Armistice Sunday, to explore options to use non-plastic alternatives for the next year. The Town Council will review what options are found by local organisations with an intention to steadily seek to reduce the use of plastic in forthcoming years to zero.

A vote on the Motion with the amendments was taken, and the result was:

For: Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Willett.

Against: 0

Abstentions: Cllr. Hetherington, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. Osibogun

Motion carried.

265/23 Motion Cllr. Harvey

That the Town Clerk write to Buckinghamshire Council and request that the code of conduct process be amended to allow:
That those who have a reasonable claim to have been affected by a proven breach of the code of conduct should have a formal opportunity to contribute an impact statement to the committee before sanctions are decided by that committee.

Cllr. Cole Seconded the Motion. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Motion carried.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

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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.....

266/23 ECDI Mission statement

Referred from Equality, Community Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group meeting 11 July 2023. To consider adopting the Mission Statement as Buckingham Town Council's:

"At the Buckingham Equality, Community Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, our Buckingham Town Council's mission is to create an inclusive culture where all forms of diversity are truly valued in our town. We believe identifying ourselves as a visible and voluntary working group active Town Council is vital amidst the daily challenges we face. We are committed to fostering an inclusive culture in the way we treat and perceive all differences as an integral part of our history, culture, and identity. Our aim is to create a Buckingham where everyone feels safe, supported and a deep sense of pride, passion and belonging."

Members noted that this Mission Statement would need to be amended to make it appropriate to the Town Council rather than the Working Group.

The Town Clerk suggested the following:

Option 1 – rewrite now and change the opening line to 'Buckingham Town Council's mission is' and 'active Town Council' instead of voluntary working group.

Option 2 – refer back to the Working Group for amendment.

The Town Clerk clarified that this will be a Town Council Equality, Community Diversity, and Inclusion mission statement and that it does not, therefore, need to be broader.

Cllr. Ahmed Proposed accepting Option 1. Cllr. Schaefer Seconded.

The Town Clerk suggested an amendment:

"Buckingham Town Council's mission is to create an inclusive culture where all forms of diversity are truly valued in our town. We believe identifying ourselves as a visible and active Town Council is vital amidst the daily challenges we face. We are committed to fostering an inclusive culture in the way we treat and perceive all differences as an integral part of our history, culture, and identity. Our aim is to create a Buckingham where everyone feels safe, supported and a deep sense of pride, passion and belonging."

A vote on the amended statement was taken, and the result was:

For: 9
Against: 0
Abstention: 3

ACTION TOWN CLERK

267/23 External Auditor's report

Members noted the External Audit.

269/23 New cemetery and allotments revised plan

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

It is recommended that Members agree the revised cemetery and allotments plan based on the costs projected in 4.1 as recommended by the Environment Committee on the 31st July.

The Town Clerk offered background information: following the public consultation, this is now pared back to ensure that we have a good, up and running, cemetery for the people in the town. The cost would be a 0.22% increase.

BTC/04/23

A vote was taken, and the result was:

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

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

270/23 Future planning system

Members noted the link to the DLUHC Consultation. This is a very long consultation which closes on the 19th September. Members are invited to add their own comments.

271/23 Action list

Members reviewed and discussed the action report.

The Town Clerk confirmed that there is no update on the cycleway.

272/23 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

Members noted the reports listed below:

Minutes of Buckingham Youth Clubs 14th June 2023.

273/23 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members reviewed the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Members recorded thanks to officers for bringing this to the committees.

274/23 Mayoral engagements

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

13.07.23 Judging of the best allotments

20.07.23 Launch event for Buckinghamshire 24/7 Hate Crime Helpline in High Wycombe

01.09.23 Raising of flag for Merchant Navy Day

02.09.23 Official opening of new defibrillator in Overn Avenue

05.09.23 Specsavers anniversary

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

30.07.23 Army Cadets visitors' day

27.08.23 Bandjam

275/23 Chair's announcements

No announcements.

276/23 Date of the next meeting: Interim Council: Monday 9th October 2023
Full Council: Monday 30th 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**.

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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.....

BTC/04/23

Cllr. Hetherington left the meeting at 20:49 due to personal interest.

277/23 St Rumbold's Fields.

Members received a confidential report from the Town Clerk.

Members recorded their thanks to the Estates Manager and the Compliance and Projects Manager.

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

Meeting closed at 20:58

Signed Date

DRAFT

To Buckingham Town Council.

You have asked about plastic free poppies and wreaths.

Poppies.

This year RBL has introduced plastic free poppies. I have enclosed some to the Town Clerk so that you can see the result. How durable they will be, how they are fixed, whether the military can wear them in their cap remains to be seen? So does the public's response.

They will be on sale this year along with existing stock of poppies from previous years' orders.

Wreaths.

I ordered these some time ago and they are in store in the RBL lock-up at the RLS. The order includes, as requested, a wreath with the insert of the Town Council logo. Each year I order some 50 wreaths for charities/schools, individuals and other organisations.

The wreaths delivered and in store are the ones you are familiar with from previous years. Currently there are no wreaths with paper poppies presumably because they would not survive the winter months of rain and wind at War Memorials.

If the Town Council decide to design their own wreath with a non-plastic backing and paper poppies to carry their logo, then I suggest that they gain permission from RBL Haig House to ensure that this does not infringe any copyright concerns with the poppy logo.

The Buckingham War Memorial.

We do regularly maintain the wreaths on display. They are fixed to wooden plinths made for us some years ago by "Men in sheds" so that wreaths are not blown over the car park area.

Our last tidying of the War Memorial was on Tuesday 29th Sept. Many of the wreaths were removed and recycled (as has been the case for some years) - we took them to Mr and Mrs John Rooney of March Edge who each year create a stunning display in their garden. Social media each year show photographs of their display.

During this meeting I am en route to France and send my apologies for not being present.

I hope the above is of some help and would be pleased to discuss this further, should you so wish.

A

