

E/03/23

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:** Cllr. F. Davies Chair  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. A. Ralph  
Cllr. A. Schaefer  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

**Also present:** Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager  
Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk  
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

**Absent:** Cllr. Ahmed  
Cllr. Gateley  
Cllr. Harvey  
Cllr. Willett

### Public session

The Chair explained that, due to the Council currently being in Purdah, Members will listen but will not be able to respond tonight to any questions raised.

A member of public attended to request clarity about the green spaces on Linden Village; they would like to know who is responsible for grass cutting and tree maintenance. They also expressed concern regarding the river at the bottom of Wittmills Oak which is so encroached that it is only 6ft wide at this point.

Similar concerns were raised by another resident who explained the importance of keeping the paths clear on Linden Village and also asked for help in understanding the responsibilities of the green space owners.

The Town Clerk asked the residents to contact the office and they will respond with details.

A resident attended to inform Members that the river warden scheme is no longer functioning and that there are serious dangers due to a lack of maintenance and repair: the exposed cable outside the children's play area poses a serious risk and the barriers that have been placed there are inadequate: they have been thrown in the river on numerous occasions. The Estates Manager will contact the resident tomorrow to discuss the issues raised.

**ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

### 327/23 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Willett.

### 328/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 329/23 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

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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 .....

**330/23 Budgets**

330/23.1 Members received the latest figures.  
The Town Clerk confirmed that any change of cost will be brought to the Committee in full at Precept. They explained that we have a budget line for CCTV and Members agreed to use the £4,000 grant, £1,500 from the CCTV maintenance budget (260/4100) and £4,500 from Earmarked reserve – Parks Development (901/9035) at the Committee meeting in June (minute 85/23).

330/23.2 Members received a report regarding budget lines for 2024/25.  
It is recommended that Members note and agree the specified changes to the budget line cost centres as part of the Environment Committee budget for 2024/25.  
The Town Clerk explained the changes and clarified why budget line 255 can be removed.  
Members **AGREED**.

**331/23 Bourton Park Bridge - Right of Way diversion application.**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Recommendations:  
Members agree to proceed with the process of applying to divert the Public Right of Way BUC/27/3 across a new 40m section of footpath to connect with RoW BUC/27/2.  
Members to agree to taking up to £6,000 from budget 262/4270 (Bridges).  
The Estates Manager clarified that this is not specifically a tarmac path at this point but a diversion of the Right of Way.  
Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

**332/23 Greener together initiative**

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.  
Recommendation:  
To support the initiative by agreeing to staff an information stall at the forthcoming event.  
Cllr. Schaefer Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

**333/23 Compliments and Complaints Log**

Members noted the report.  
The Estates Manager will check areas of grass cutting on Linden Village and responsibilities.  
Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we bring to a Committee meeting details of our mowing responsibilities. Members **AGREED**. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

**334/23 Chair's announcements**

No announcements.

**335/23 Date of next meeting:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 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**.

The members of public left the meeting.

**336/23 Update on insurance claim**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Members noted the information provided.

**337/23 Structural engineers report at St Peters and St Pauls Church**

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

**338/23 Bourton Park footpaths QS and engineer**

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.  
Cllr. Ralph Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**339/23 War memorial repair**

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.  
Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**340/23 Footpath repairs at Brackley Road Cemetery**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**341/23 Chandos Park - Play area repairs**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**342/23 Chandos Park – S106 Improvements**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**343/23 Buckingham Community Centre External Repairs**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Cllr. Schaefer Proposed, Cllr. Ralph Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

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**344/23 Bus Shelter Repairs**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.  
Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.  
Members **AGREED** a press release when Purdah has ended, and the repairs are complete.

**ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

**345/23 Memorial safety testing**

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.  
Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

Meeting closed at 20:46

Chair ..... Date .....

DRAFT