

R/06/23

Minutes of a meeting of the **Resources Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. H. Mordue	Vice Chair
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	Chair
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
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. L. Burt	Project Street Life
Ms. J. Townsend	Project Street Life

Absent:

Cllr. G. Collins
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. M. Try

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

544/23 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Collins, Cllr. Mahi and Cllr. Try.

545/23 Declarations of interest

There were none.

546/23 Minutes of last meeting

Members agreed the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 11th December 2023 with the following amendment:

Minute 496/23 to state that Cllr. Stuchbury requested that it be minuted that he voted against the Proposal.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

547/23 Minutes of Communications Strategy Group

Members received the minutes of the Communications Strategy Group meeting held on 23rd November 2023.

548/23 Project Street Life update

Members received a verbal update from Ms. Burt and Ms. Townsend (Trustee) from Project Street Life:

Project Street Life (PSL) have taken over the Youth Café at Verney Close which meets every Tuesday in term time from the end of school to 5pm. Twenty five to thirty young people are regularly accessing the Youth Café, many of whom stay for the whole session. Hot

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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.

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chocolate and toasties are given to those who would like them and a lot of PSL's regular Friday helpers are volunteering.

Outreach work is still taking place every month and, whilst the skate park is being refurbished, a table is set up by Ganderton's garage and refreshments are offered to young people. This gives an opportunity to listen to young people's views on what they would like in the town and the overwhelming response is that they would really like a warm space to hang out with their friends. They would also like more youth focussed shops in the town. The outreach work will continue in February and March.

Cllr. Mordue explained that the Community Board, after talking to young people in schools, are planning on opening the Chantry Chapel as a warm space for young people. The details are being finalised and will be emailed to Ms. Townsend.

Members thanked Project Street Life for their work with young people in the town and look forward to working together, perhaps on a future skate park event and with possible question prompts to inform the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Ms. Burt and Ms. Townsend left the meeting at 7:19pm

549/23 Budget 2024-2025

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree to send the attached budget to the precept meeting.

The Town Clerk explained:

- Committees have been looking at their budgets since September 2023.
- Every budget line has been scrutinised; we have not added a blanket percentage increase. In the few instances where we did not have access to projected information then the increase is 4.5%.
- The number of taxable houses has decreased fractionally by about 10.
- It is anticipated that we will be under budget this year by about £30,000 due to the fact that we have raised considerably more income than we expected from grants and other funding sources. It is recommended that we put this money back into next year's budget and choose Option 2.2; this will be an increased cost to residents of just over £1 per month.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that recommendation 1.1 is **AGREED**, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

1.2 It is recommended that the precept meeting be asked to choose from either option 2.1. or option 2.2:

2.1. That the total funding requirement for 2024/25 to be levied on Buckinghamshire Council be set at £1,262,480. Which is an 8.61% increase

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and rises a band D property from £208.74 to £226.71 an increase of £17.97 a year.

- 2.2. That the total funding requirement for 2024/25 to be levied on Buckinghamshire Council be set at £1,230,480. Which is an 5.85% increase and rises a band D property from £208.74 to £220.96, an increase of £12.22 a year.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that recommendation 1.2 is **AGREED**, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

550/23 Budgets

Members received and agreed the budget reports:

550/23.1 Detailed Income and Expenditure report and summary of budget variances. The Town Clerk will report back to the Committee with further detail regarding 4225 - underbudgeted for cemetery rates. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

550/23.2 Purchase Ledger December 2023. The Town Clerk stated that the VAT should be recoverable for the road closure for the Christmas Parade.

551/23 Schedule of Direct Debits and Standing Orders

Members received the schedule of Direct Debits and Standing Orders.

552/23 Fund transfers

Members noted that there have been no fund transfers since the last meeting.

553/23 Additional Transactions

Christmas Parade expenditure: Members noted that the sum of £2,800 was paid to the Christmas Parade Committee as an emergency payment (before being signed off by Councillor signatories) under the authority of the Town Clerk and the Scheme of Delegation. This was because the Christmas Parade Committee needed the money immediately to secure the event.

554/23 Updates from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr. Schaefer and Cllr. Stuchbury attended Buckinghamshire Council's Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Cllr. Schaefer will send Cllr. Willett details of Buckinghamshire Council's homelessness funding.

555/23 Action Report

Members reviewed the Action Report and noted that the points for discussion are on the agenda.

556/23 Chair's announcements

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No announcements.

557/23 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 4th March 2024 (Grants)

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**.

558/23 **Debtors list**

Members received the current list of debtors over 3 months old.

559/23 **Payment endorsements**

Members noted payment endorsement sheets 8 to 10.

560/23 **Grants – credit checks**

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Harvey agreed to email the Town Clerk with details of a possible question to add to the grants pack.

561/23 **Staffing**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

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

The Town Clerk left the meeting at 8:22pm

562/23 **Motion: Cllr. Schaefer**

Members discussed Cllr. Schaefer's motion deferred from the previous meeting.

To accept the unanimous recommendation of the Town Clerk's appraisal panel, to support the Town Clerk to complete the SLCC's MA in Public Leadership.
The Town Clerk's appraisal was carried out by the Mayor – Councillor Schaefer, the Chair of the Staffing (Confidential Matters) Committee - Councillor Collins, and the Chair of the Resources Committee – Councillor O'Donoghue for the year 2022-2023. The appraisers agreed to recommend that the Town Clerk enrol for the MA in Public Leadership due to commence in 2024. The cost is £7,000 spread over 2-3 years. The first year to be paid for from EMR 901/9067 which includes the money committed to pay for the previous Town Clerk's MA (which he left before commencing). The remainder of 901/9067 and a predicted underspend from this year's training budget will cover the cost of the second year.

Cllr. H. Mordue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

The Motion was carried.

Meeting closed at: 8:44pm

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Signed

Date

DRAFT

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