

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7:40pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:**

Cllr. M. Cole JP	
Cllr. G. Collins	
Cllr. F. Davies	
Cllr. L. Draper	
Cllr. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	Vice Chair
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Town Mayor/Chair
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	
Cllr. R. Willett	

**Also present:**

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk

**Absent:** Cllr. R. Ahmed

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

**644/223 Apologies for absence**

Members received apologies from Cllr. Ahmed.

**645/23 Declarations of interest**

Four Buckinghamshire Councillors present.

**646/23 22/02689/ADP: Osier Way Phase I, amended plans**

Erection of 121 dwellings along with landscaping, garages, roads, and all ancillary works (Phase I) following outline permission ref. 19/00148/AOP

*Vistry Wates (Buckingham) LLP*

Members received the Planning Clerk's report on the changes and discussed a response to the amended plans for this application.

Cllr. Cole Proposed that we continue to oppose until the developers meet all the demands of the local planning authority.

Before considering the amended plans, Members were informed that work had started on the Phase I and Phase II areas adjacent to Top Angel and Osier Way, before all the AOP conditions had been met; especial concern was expressed that the drainage Condition 14 had not been satisfied, resulting in flooding at Top Angel twice this month. Along the Phase II frontage trees had been felled and hedges grubbed out before any Phase II application had been received.

Since the initial submission of this application, Members have made response to batches of Amended Plans in September 2022, April 2023 and October 2023, opposing the application on each occasion. They considered the latest to be much more than minor amendments.

A major concern is the lack of information on drainage of the site; the recent surface water flooding on Top Angel found its way to the stream through the osier bed between the site and the bypass, and this water flows to the river via the back of Meadway and the Badgers estate and has caused flooding of housing in these areas on occasion. Members would like to see a scheme agreed by Anglian Water, the Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency before any further work is carried out. A scheme which encompasses all four Phases of the development is imperative (and removing trees and hedges does not help water retention).

A second concern is the isolation of Phase I from the remaining phase areas and their footpath connections and proposed new crossings. It could be years before the network is complete, and meanwhile children from the occupied Phase(s) will have to get to school somehow, whether in Buckingham or Gawcott. The likelihood is that parents will drive children to their school, which presents its own problems, none of the local schools having much drop-off capacity. This pre-completion problem does not appear to have been considered.

Though many of the new drawings are the result of alignment with changes addressing the extensive comments by the Landscape and Design Team, there are still concerns with this application. Members were pleased to see the Team required more reference to local designs and materials as well as compliance with the agreed Design Code.

A careless omission on the Waste & Recycling Strategy drawing was rectified on the morning of the meeting, but there were still 9 places where residents would have to take their bins to for collection because the wagon could not reach them, and experience on other recent developments shows that manoeuvring heavy vehicles on block paving damages the surface. Bin collection from residential frontages leads to better neighbour relations.

Members also observed that a number of officer consultee responses noted that previous comments had been ignored, in particular those of the Tree Officer. There is little point in planting trees in a way which does not permit them to thrive, and Members supported the Officer's latest comments.

They also commented that close scrutiny failed to find any difference between the revised street scene drawings and those presented last September despite the LPA's request for changes.

Cllr. Ralph Seconded Cllr. Cole's Proposal.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 14  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 2

**ACTION PLANNING CLERK**

IM/03/23

**647/23 Car parking charges/changes consultation response**

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

It is recommended that Members approve the draft response to Buckinghamshire Council's Parking Consultation, which **OPPOSES** the proposed changes for the reasons set out.

Cllr. Cole Proposed that we demand that there should be a full consultation before any of these charges are imposed. Cllr. Ralph Seconded. Members did not vote on this Proposal.

Members raised the following points:

- Community and business impact.
- North and South of the County have different demographics and harmonising charges do not take account of the difference between the commuter belt and market towns like Buckingham.
- Posting in the Advertiser and online is not a full and accessible consultation; this should have been held locally.
- Information available online was limited and inaccurate.
- This will drive people to park on residential streets.
- Charging up to 7pm a real concern – even in Milton Keynes charges end at 6pm.
- It will affect those on lower incomes who have no choice but to drive to work.
- Sunday public transport very limited.
- No economic impact assessment in the consultation.
- Stated Swan Pool car park is in Aylesbury which highlights inaccuracy.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed the following amendments:

Under legality and scrutiny:

The consultation did not take account of accessibility needs under the Equalities Act and it is not written in plain English.

Under economy:

No impact assessment on the economic impact on the town has been undertaken.

Cllr. Davies Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 15  
Against: 1  
Abstention: 0

**ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER**

Cllr. Osibogun Proposed two amendments: Delete the first paragraph under legality and scrutiny and include that the consultation was on the Shire Council website. No Secunder.

A vote on the recommendation with the **AGREED** amendment was taken, and the result was:

For: 15  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 1

IM/03/23

**648/23 Chair’s announcements**

No announcements.

**649/23 Date of next meetings:** Full Council: Monday 18th March 2024  
Interim Council: Monday 22nd April 2024

**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**.

**650/23 IT contract**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.  
Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

**651/23 Cemetery – amendment to the land purchase transfer agreement**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.  
Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

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