

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 25th November 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. F. Davies Chair
Cllr. M Gateley
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Via Zoom: Cllr. L. Draper

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

Absent: Cllr. A. Schaefer

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

404/24 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Draper and Cllr. Schaefer.

405/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

406/24 Minutes

Members noted that the Environment Committee minutes from 7th October 2024 will be presented at the next Environment Committee meeting.

407/24 Budgets

407/24.1 Members received the latest figures.

The Estates Manager confirmed:

- that the delay in repairing the MUGA at Lace Hill was due to waiting for a specialist part;
- that a contract has now been set up for solar income at Lace Hill and this will be received in May 2025;
- that a full refurbishment of Cemetery Lodge has been completed.

Members thanked the officer and Clerk for the budget.

407/24.2 Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

It is recommended that Members review, discuss and agree to send the attached Environment budget 2025-2026 to the Precept Meeting via the Resources Committee.

25th November 2024

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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

E/04/24

407/24.3 Members received proposed budgets for 2025/26.

The Town Clerk apologised for two errors:

- 1) Solar panels (4118) should be expenditure only.
- 2) The agreed budget of £2000 towards the biodiversity audit has not been included so there will be an additional budget line.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Prior to the budget going to the Resources Committee the holding figure of 3.5% will be amended to the confirmed 2.7%. A budget line for income from the new cemetery will be created after Precept.

Cllr. Draper joined the meeting on Zoom at 7:07pm.

The Town Clerk explained that the majority of the Environment Committee's budget is spent on wages, but there will also be increased expenditure for the additional play areas and land that we will take on, an increase in fees for tree works and also contracting fees.

Members thanked the Town Clerk and the Estates Manager for their work.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the budget recommendation including the revisions detailed above.

408/24 Motion: Cllr. Gateley

In order to take the issue of No Idling Zones further, I propose that Buckingham Town Council Members carry out a survey to ascertain the scale of the problem, and how to proceed thereafter.

Cllr. Harvey Seconded.

Members raised the following points:

- Schools should be notified.
- This survey should be conducted at the end of the school day.
- Initial concentration should be on primary schools.
- Mothers CAN group should be consulted.
- A leaflet could be created informing people that it is an offence to idle.

All Members confirmed that they would be happy to volunteer.

Cllr. Davies and Cllr. Gateley will meet to discuss details.

ACTION CLLR. DAVIES AND CLLR. GATELEY

Cllr. Gateley Proposed an amendment to her motion:

In order to take the issue of No Idling Zones outside primary schools further, I propose that Buckingham Town Council Members carry out a survey to ascertain the scale of the problem, and how to proceed thereafter.

E/04/24

Members unanimously **AGREED** the amendment.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended motion.

409/24 S106 application for Chandos Park

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that members note the below updates and agree to proceed with the S106 application for the item detailed below.

It is proposed that the remaining balance of the Section 106 funds be used to install a new wooden picnic bench on a concrete pad along the riverbank.

The Estates Manager explained that we may need a little more money from the Chandos maintenance budget to put in the concrete pad; this will be brought back to the Committee for approval. He confirmed that the bench will be made of hardwood which is more durable.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

410/24 Bourton Park Management Plan – Improvements Plan update

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator and noted the updated Improvement Plan, including the next steps for refreshing the Bourton Park Management Plan in 2025.

411/24 Public Seating

Members received and noted a report from the Estates Administrator.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note the report, including the next steps for engagement.
- 1.2 To note and request volunteers for the Chair's proposal to have Committee Members survey the current seating provisions in the town.

Cllr. Davies and Cllr. Draper will be counting the benches in the town. Members are welcome to join them.

Cllr. Ralph will raise the possibility of a new bench at the Buckingham Society meeting.

ACTION CLLR. RALPH

412/24 Air Quality

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and noted the response.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that we should write to our MP asking if there are moves being made to address this or if these figures are just being accepted. We should ask if the levels are unsafe as they are much higher than the national average and the World Health Organisation recommendations. There are children on the new St. Rumbold's Estate who will be affected by these levels.

There was no Seconded.

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Initial

E/04/24

Members raised the following points:

- Are there simple hand held devices that can measure pollutants?
- The range of speed limits as you enter the town may increase pollutants – a steady, slower speed would be better.
- Can we apply to the Community Board to fund a mobile monitoring station?

Cllr. Davies suggested that we note the report and await the data to be published in January 2025; this can then be brought back to Committee for further discussion. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

413/24 Action report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The value of trees will be considered in due course by the Estates Manager and the work on the toilet doors will be carried out in the New Year.

414/24 News releases

415/24 Chair's announcements

Members voiced concerns that the flooding today has been awful, and many people have been impacted. The Town Clerk and the Green Spaces Team have been in the town today helping affected residents.

416/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 17th February 2025

Cllr. Allen left the meeting at 8:18pm.

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.

417/24 Buckingham Community Centre Boiler Replacement

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

418/24 Confidential report

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to send a recommendation to Full Council.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Meeting closed at 8:36pm

Chair

Date

25th November 2024

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Initial