

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 16th December 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. T. Allen	
Cllr. M. Cole JP	
Cllr. F. Davies	Vice Chair
Cllr. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Town Mayor
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

Via Zoom: Cllr. L. Draper

Also present:

Ms. Z. Taylor	Deputy Town Clerk
Mr. S. Beech	Compliance and Projects Manager
Mr. L. Philips	Estates Manager
Mrs. K. McElligott	Planning Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Members of the Buckingham Flood Action Group	
Ms. J. Thompson	Trustee of Buckingham Old Gaol Trust

Absent: Cllr. G. Collins

Public session

The Buckingham Flood Action Group representative raised the following points:

- The Group represents residents and business owners affected by the recent flooding.
- The Group would like to work with agencies to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Residents and business owners have undertaken flood resilience work on their own properties; this is a lot of work, involving moving furniture upstairs and setting up flood defences.
- It can take days, and sometimes months, to repair the damage caused by flooding.
- It is not acceptable to simply say 'Buckingham floods'; flooding is becoming more frequent.
- There are numerous causes of flooding, not just climate change. A lack of maintenance of drains and culverts and the building of additional houses have also had an impact.
- A clear statement of accountability is needed. The Environment Agency and the riparian owners are neglecting the river. Dredging, weed clearance and blockage removal needs to be undertaken to keep the water moving.

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- Options must be investigated for long-term solutions but, in the short-term, the Group want to work with Buckingham Town Council to look at the Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan.
- Residents and businesses need more support: road closures, sandbags, a rest centre and the clearing of roads and signs following the flood.

Members **AGREED** to bring forward Cllr. Stuchbury's Motion about flooding.

456/24 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies from Cllr. Draper.

457/24 Declarations of interest

There were none.

458/24 Motion: Cllr. Stuchbury

Following the 1998 flooding in Buckingham, there were proposals for a flood alleviation scheme to be constructed at Tingewick Mill, using the railway embankment to hold back the water in a 100 year flood situation. This scheme failed to secure funding.

It is proposed that Buckingham Town Council agrees that the 1998/2001 scheme should be re-evaluated and that, in the light of the increased flooding incidences in the town, we write to Buckinghamshire Council, Milton Keynes Council, the Environment Agency, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Water and Flooding), seeking all documentation available from the original scheme, including proposals and construction plans.

Following an evaluation of the historical information, we seek the support of Milton Keynes Council and Buckinghamshire Council (flood authorities) to make a bid to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Water and Flooding), on behalf of Buckingham Town Council, to reconsider the 2001 Flood Alleviation Scheme. This is particularly important due to the increased incidences of flooding and the likely future growth of North Buckinghamshire.

Cllr. Davies Seconded the Motion.

Cllr. Osibogun Proposed an amendment:

- 1) That Buckingham Town Council review the current Buckingham Town Council Flood Plan to take into count the points raised by residents.
- 2) An investigation of riparian ownership is undertaken to ensure maintenance of banks.
- 3) Engage with the Environment Agency regarding dredging the river.

There was no Secunder.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested a recorded vote.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey,
Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. H. Mordue, Cllr. J. Mordue, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Ralph,
Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Try.

Against: 0

Abstention : Cllr. Osibogun

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.....

The Buckingham Flood Action Group left the meeting at 7:31pm.

459/24 Interim minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 14th October 2024.

460/24 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14th October 2024 and 11th November 2024.

461/24 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 30th September 2024.

Members thanked Officers and the Green Spaces Team for their hard work and which made the events possible.

462/24 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 21st October 2024.

463/24 Budget line – Equality, Community Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

It is recommended that Full Council agrees the Resources Committee recommendation (minute 443/24.3) that a budget line of £200 be created within the Resources budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 from which the ECDI Working Group may make specific requests to the Full Council for funds.

The Compliance and Projects Manager explained that, although the Resources Committee can hold the budget for the Working Group, requests must be made to Full Council.

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

ACTION TOWN CLERK

464/24 Museum Environment Improvement Project

Members received a presentation from Ms. Thompson, Trustee of Buckingham Old Gaol Trust:

- It is hoped that Buckingham Town Council will support the Heritage Grant application.
- The Charity needs a heritage partner, or the building will fall into a state of disrepair.
- More volunteers and trustees are needed to ensure that the Museum can remain open; a Treasurer must be appointed by October 2025 or the Museum will close.
- The Trust would like Buckingham Town Council's assistance to highlight the issues raised.

Members voiced their support.

Ms. Thompson left the meeting at 7:45pm.

On 9th December 2020 Buckinghamshire Council agreed to look at the provision of social housing and key worker housing across Buckinghamshire. This called on Cabinet to instruct officers to commission a report, detailing both current and future possible affordable housing delivery models, including local authority owned social housing.

It is Proposed that Buckingham Town Council ask Buckinghamshire Council for the potential timeline of when this report will be delivered; this could have vital information on the long-term provision of additional social housing for Buckingham and Buckinghamshire, especially given the Government's recent announcements on an additional £500m for affordable new homes, including houses for social rent.

We must ensure, on behalf of Buckingham residents, that Buckinghamshire Council are in the best possible position to take full advantage of any additional funding available for social housing across Buckinghamshire. Any decisions that are made may have a positive effect on the provision of social and affordable housing numbers in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested a recorded vote.

Cllr. Harvey Seconded the Motion and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. H. Mordue, Cllr. J. Mordue, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Try.

Against: 0

Abstention : 0

ACTION TOWN CLERK

466/24 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Due to time restrictions, Cllr. H. Mordue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Schaefer deferred their reports.

467/24 New Cemetery Tree Planting

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

It is recommended that Members approve the receipt of £5,873 in funding from Groundwork's Community and Environment Fund (CEF).

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

468/24 Sewage pump at Chandos Road toilets

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that members agree to proceed with the purchase and installation of a replacement sewage pump for Chandos Park Toilets using company B with the funds of £8,990.00 being taken from budget Chandos Park Toilets - Maintenance (254/4709).

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

469/24 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

Members noted the report from the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards.

Cllr. Davies Proposed that we apply to become a co-opted member of the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

470/24 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members noted that there have been no new updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

471/24 Action list

Members noted the action report.

472/24 Mayoral engagements

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

08/11/24	Act of Remembrance, Royal Latin School
10/11/24	Remembrance Sunday Parade
28/11/24	Christmas Lights Switch On
09/12/24	Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity presentation
14/12/24	Christmas Parade

473/24 Chair's announcements – for information only

No announcements.

474/24 Dates of the next meetings:

Interim:	Monday, 6 th January 2025
Precept:	Monday, 27 th January 2025
Informal & Interim:	Monday, 24 th February 2025
Full Council:	Monday, 17 th March 2025

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**.

475/24 Recommendation from Environment

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk to the Environment Committee.

Members discussed the options and **AGREED** the subsequent recommendation from the Environment Committee.

Cllr. Davies requested a recorded vote. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Schaefer.
Against: Cllr. J. Mordue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Try and Cllr. H. Mordue.
Abstention: Cllr. Ahmed and Cllr. Mahi.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

476/24 New Cemetery and Allotments Tender Package

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

477/24 Debtor

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

ACTION FINANCE OFFICER

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Signed Date