

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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. L. Draper	
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	

**Also present:**

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

**Absent:** Cllr. G. Collins

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

#### **621/24 Apologies for absence**

Members received and noted apologies from Cllr. Ahmed as she will be a little late.

#### **622/24 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **623/24 Minutes**

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### **624/24 Planning Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

#### **625/24 Town Centre and Events Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the Extraordinary Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

#### **626/24 Environment Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**BTC/09/24**

**627/24 Resources Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**628/24 Licensing applications**

Members received and discussed the [application paperwork for Verdetto Lounge](#).

Cllr. Cole raised objection to the New Year's Eve licence for live music until 2am. There are apartments above the Verdetto Lounge, and he Proposed that this application is opposed – midnight should be the limit. Cllr. Harvey Seconded.

Members raised the following points:

- This is a once a year event and we do want to support local businesses.
- This is a residential area.
- This is a special occasion, and we can allow this to be an exception.
- We want to breathe life into our town centre.
- The Verdetto Lounge was established before the flats above were built.
- A compromise would be a 1pm finish.
- There is already a lot of noise on New Year's Eve so the impact would be minimal.
- What licences do other town centre venues have?

Cllr. Cole is happy to amend his Proposal to 1pm. Cllr. Harvey agreed. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 5  
Against: 9

Members received and discussed the [application paperwork for Asda Esso Station](#).

Members raised the following points:

- There is nowhere in Buckingham that sells alcohol 24 hours. This may stop people driving out of town to purchase alcohol.
- People may be tempted to drive to the Esso Station.
- We could request a temporary licence and review it.
- It is not necessary to have 24 hour alcohol sales; we should not be encouraging this.
- We opposed a similar licence, so it is difficult to justify supporting this.
- Licences can be suspended at any time if any element of the licence is broken.
- There is no precedent in the town for this and we will be setting a precedent if we support this.

Cllr. Ahmed arrived at 7:37 pm

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we oppose this licence. Cllr. Allen Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 13  
Against: 2  
Abstention: 1

**ACTION PLANNING 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.....

**629/24 New cemetery and allotments**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note that Ground Control have been advised that the Council have agreed to proceed with their tender to construct the new cemetery and allotments at a cost of £990,370.52 and that detailed arrangements are being finalised.

1.2 It is recommended that Members agree to authorise the Town Clerk to make payments as required to proceed in the construction of the new Cemetery and Allotments as explained below (in the report).

The Town Clerk explained that the contractor will complete some work, the quantity surveyor will inspect the work and sign it off if the work is acceptable; it is only then that the payment will be released.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we accept the recommendations, Cllr. Cole Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Members thanked officers for their work.

**630/24 Motion: Cllr. Harvey**

Recently Arriva reduced its timetable of X6 buses such that early morning and late night journeys between Buckingham and Aylesbury and Milton Keynes have been stopped. This is having a very negative impact on our hospital's ability to recruit and retain staff. No doubt other local services and businesses are similarly affected.

This is part of a wider concern of late night/early morning connections on the Stagecoach X5 as well - along with our ongoing efforts to persuade National Express to allow the 737 service between Stansted Airport/Luton Airport and Oxford to stop at Buckingham en route.

This Council resolves to write to all these companies urging them to consider the town's employees/employers, residents and visitors to the town and the whole local nighttime economy, when deciding timetables, and to invite them to meet with Town Council officers/members to discuss these matters further.

Cllr. Harvey declared an interest as a Trustee of the League of Friends of Buckingham Hospital.

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

For: 15  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 1

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**631/24 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors**

Cllr. Stuchbury:

- Buckinghamshire Council has recently agreed to change its constitution; this means that not all planning documents will be automatically available to view.

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Initial.....

**BTC/09/24**

- Gave historical information on the Railway Walk and looks forward to seeing the renovations starting and progressing.

Cllr. Osibogun:

- Raised concerns regarding the comments being removed from planning applications and therefore the lack of residents' engagement.
- Feels that Buckingham Town Council should look at the impact of the new Planning and Infrastructure Bill; this removes our right to comment on applications for developments of more than 100 houses.

Cllr. Mordue:

- Explained that Buckinghamshire Council is removing comments due to GDPR rules and their duty to protect the details of the people who comment. Views may still be put forward and will be considered in the same way.
- Comments made by parish councils or statutory bodies will still be published.

Cllr. Harvey suggested that we ask that the Town Clerk to seek clarity on this. The Town Clerk will circulate the information that she has received to all Councillors; it is not appropriate to put this to the Planning Committee during the Purdah period.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Harvey asked what happened to the Adult Social Care part of the precept as it was not shown on his Council Tax bill.

Cllr. Schaefer:

- Clarified that the precept does include a 2% precept for Adult Social Care.

**632/24      Representatives on outside bodies**

632/24.1      Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Ralph Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Draper as the representative on the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board

632/24.2      Cllr O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Draper as the representative on the Buckingham Youth Centre.

**633/24      Reports from representatives on outside bodies**

Cllr. Harvey informed Members that the AGM for the League of Friends takes place at the Hospital at 7:30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – all residents and Town Councillors are welcome to attend.

Cllr. Gateley reported a very successful twinning weekend with visitors from Valmadrera, (including firefighters), Neukirchen-Vluyn and Mouvaux; the visitors enjoyed the Buckingham Ablaze event.

**634/24      Climate Emergency Action Plan**

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

**BTC/09/24**

**635/24      Action list**

Cllr. Harvey suggested that, as planning permission has now been granted for the new health centre, this might be a good time to consider hosting a meeting about health and care in the town.

Cllr. Harvey requested an update about the land in March Edge becoming common land. The Town Clerk explained that she wrote to Buckinghamshire Council as requested and reported back to Full Council.

Cllr. Mordue has submitted the evidence for the application.

**636/24      Mayoral engagements**

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

27/01/25      Holocaust Memorial Day event

Additional events attended by the Mayor during this period will be included on the next agenda.

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

04/02/25      Buckingham Local Command Unit, Commander's Commendation Award Ceremony

20/02/25      Pancake races

22/02/25      Opening of Buckingham Ablaze

**637/24      Chair's announcements - for information only**

The Chair thanked everyone who was involved in the successful Buckingham Ablaze events.

The Mayor presented the signed twinning agreement from Valmadrera to the Town Clerk.

**638/24      Date of the next meeting:**

Interim Council:      Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Annual Statutory Meeting:      Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Full Council:      Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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**.

**639/24      Payment endorsements**

Members noted payment endorsement sheet 32.

**BTC/09/24**

**640/24          Proposal to the Town Council**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed an amendment to the recommendation: that preparatory work is completed for registration as an Asset of Community Value in case this becomes necessary. Cllr. Davies Seconded the amendment.

Members unanimously **AGREED** Cllr. Harvey's amendment.

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

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**641/24          Section 106**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members **AGREED**. There was one abstention.

The Chair reminded Members that we are entering the pre-election Purdah period. The Town Clerk clarified that we can continue with time-dependent necessary business. We need to take care and be aware that our meetings are broadcast live. Agendas will be shortened during this time to necessary business only.

Meeting closed at 8:58pm

Signed .....

Date .....