

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Allen  
Cllr. F. Davies  
Cllr. L. Draper Chair  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. H. Haydock  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. A. Schaefer  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

**Also present:** Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager  
Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk  
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Mr. U. Dolz  
Mr. S. Haines

**Absent:** Cllr. R. Newell Vice Chair  
Cllr. S. Singh

### Public session

Three members of Buckingham Twinning Association joined the meeting to offer information regarding agenda item 7. Mr. Dolz read excerpts from the letter, appended to agenda item 7, regarding potential sites for the court.

Cllr. H. Mordue explained that gravel, rather than sand, will be used.

Cllr. Schaefer informed Mr. Dolz that the skate park area is owned by Buckinghamshire Council and asked how often a Boules court might be used in the town. Mr. Dolz responded that it is difficult to measure potential usage but feedback regarding building a court in the town has been positive.

### 63/25 Election of Chair

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed Cllr. Draper as Chair; Seconded by Cllr. Mahi. There being no other nominations, Members unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Draper as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2025-2026.

### 64/25 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Newell and Cllr. Singh. Cllr. Schaefer apologises that she will have to leave early.

### 65/25 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr. Davies Proposed Cllr. Newell as Vice Chair; Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury. There being no other nominations, Members unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Newell as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for 2025-2026.

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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/01/25**

**66/25 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**67/25 Minutes**

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**68/25 Buckingham Community Wildlife and Climate Emergency Group**

Members noted the minutes from meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**69/25 Boules Courts**

Members noted the letter from the Twinning Society and raised the following points:

- Embleton Way would be the most practical place for a court as there are facilities, an open space, and a community. Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that we write to Buckinghamshire Council supporting this option. Cllr. Harvey Seconded.
- The Church Green should be protected, and parking is limited.
- Chandos Park and the Skate Park are both prone to flooding.
- There will be further housing development in Buckingham which may offer an option.
- The Tingewick Road development has areas of land.
- Potential s106 money could be applied for.

The Town Clerk clarified that the Estates Manager has made it clear that areas prone to flooding should not be considered due to the risk of gravel being washed into the grass, and the ensuing dangers when maintaining the area. She also explained that using s106 monies would require a significant amount of work to justify that this is what residents want. Cllr. Schaefer added that it would have to be demonstrated that residents would prefer a Boules court to alternative sporting facilities.

Cllr. Davies informed Members that the Estates Manager has confirmed that the Tingewick Road green spaces are not suitable for a court due to a lack of facilities.

Cllr. Schaefer left the meeting at 7:29pm.

The Town Clerk offered to bring a report to the next Environment Committee meeting. Members agreed.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Buckingham Twinning Society visitors left the meeting at 7:33pm.

**70/25 Buckingham Primary School – Speeding and Parking**

Members received and considered a response to correspondence from Buckingham Primary School.

Cllr. Davies declared an interest as a governor of the school. As this is not a pecuniary interest, Cllr. Davies did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

Cllr. Draper summarised the problems raised in the letter regarding traffic in Highlands Road and Foscott Way, and the School's request for a site visit.

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Cllr. Stuchbury explained that Buckinghamshire Council that would need to take this further. He Proposed that we write to ask if they would consider this. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Cllr. Harvey questioned whether this is a valid Proposal.

The Town Clerk explained that the letter requests a site visit; following this visit, a decision can be made as to how we approach this.

Cllr. Draper Proposed that in our response to Buckingham Primary School, we should accept their invitation to visit the site and offer to write to Buckinghamshire Council in support of the application, if that is what they would like us to do. Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

### 71/25 Budgets

Members received and noted the latest figures.

Members requested that thanks to the Town Clerk and office staff are minuted.

### 72/25 New cemetery and allotments

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1 Members agree to review the attached first initial 'Draft Tingewick Road Cemetery Handbook' and email any suggested amendments/queries to the Estates manager for consideration by the 4<sup>th</sup> July. An amended document will be brought to a future meeting.

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

- 1.2 Members agree in principle for the creation of a 'Derrick Isham Allotment Association' to take over the devolved management for the new allotments. With the details of which to be brought back to this Committee for agreement.

Cllr. Harvey raised concerns about an Association taking over straight away. He suggested that we manage this initially. The Town Clerk pointed Members to 3.2.6 which clarifies that the Town Council expects to work closely with the new association for the first few years.

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

### 73/25 Moreton Road Phase 3 BMX track and Rugby pitches

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1 Members agree to the attached specification for the new BMX track requesting the addition of appropriate signage as highlighted in the Rospa report.

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

- 1.2 Members to note the progress of the new rugby pitch construction.

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Members noted recommendation 1.2.

The Estates Administrator explained that the black diagonal lines on the map denote hedging/planting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Estates Manager is working closely with the Grounds Maintenance Association and the s106 officer; all are in agreement regarding the high standard expected.

Members thanked officers for their work.

#### **74/25 Benches survey**

Members received a verbal update from Cllr. Davies who explained that the young people at Furze Down Sixth Form were keen to get more involved in the town and she suggested that they undertake a bench survey. Students created an excellent video which has been circulated to Members. Cllr. Davies thanked the School for their brilliant work.

The Town Clerk suggested that a report is added to the next agenda to look at the feasibility of the options suggested in the video. Cllr. Harvey requested that feedback is given to the students and that the report includes funding options.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **75/25 Parks and Green Spaces Working Group**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

- 1.1 Members agree to form a working group to examine various matters in our parks and green spaces and to set relevant policies.

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

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

#### **76/25 Action report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The Town Clerk hopes that the Community Centre roof will be an item for consideration on the next agenda.

Cllr. Harvey noted his agreed motion regarding a Seating Strategy and would like this to be considered when reporting on the benches survey.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Davies Proposed that the land outside the Chamber comes off the action list as the Buckingham Society are now upkeeping this area. Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

#### **77/25 Compliments and complaints**

Members received the compliments and complaints log and thanked officers and the Green Spaces Team for their hard work.

Cllr. Draper noted that the Estates Team have already put up posters and social media posts regarding fat balls in the park.

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**E/01/25**

The Town Clerk noted that some of the issues that have arisen will be looked at by the Working Group.

Cllr. Harvey asked if he could see the response written to the email regarding the rules for walking dogs in public areas. The Town Clerk will look into this.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**78/25 Bridge Removal Tender**

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1 Members agree to recommend to Full Council to proceed with the tender from company 14 to remove the footbridge in Bourton Park.

Cllr. Davies noted that we do not know where the companies are located. The Town Clerk explained that this is considered in the process.

Cllr. Davies Proposed that we go with the recommendation unless number 12 is a more local company. There was no Secunder.

The Town Clerk strongly recommended that Members agree the recommendation; the scoring process has been followed rigorously. A report will be brought to the next Resources meeting to look at procurement holistically.

**ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER**

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the recommendation is agreed Cllr. Harvey Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Haydock pointed out that it is important that, whatever evaluation criteria is set out at the beginning of the process, this is what is used; changing elements of this invalidates the process and allows for it to be challenged.

**79/25 News releases**

The danger of leaving fat balls in parks.

Stoma friendly toilets - Members thanked the Green Spaces Team for actioning this.

**80/25 Chair's announcements – for information only**

No announcements.

**81/25 Date of the next meeting:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Meeting closed at 8:57pm

Chair .....

Date .....

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