

E/02/25

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 28th July 2025 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Allen	
Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
Cllr. L. Draper	Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. H. Haydock	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. R. Newall	
Cllr. R. Newell	Vice Chair
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. R. Poppe	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. S. Singh	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also present:

Ms. N. Stockill	Estates Administrator
Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr. Newell from 7:37pm

Public Session

A representative from the Twinning Association thanked the Town Council for their support regarding the Embleton Way project. He stated that the proposed Boules Court was intended for the entire Buckingham community, not just for Buckingham Twinning and as the facilities would be open to the whole town, the Twinning Association would seek guidance from the Town Council regarding funding options.

The representative noted that if Buckinghamshire County Council rejected the proposal for Embleton Way, it was important to keep the Church Green on the list. He also inquired about the condition of the toilets on the Church Green, who was responsible for maintaining or restoring them and whether they could be made available for the use of Boules Court players.

188/25 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Newell, who will leave the meeting at 7:40 pm.

189/25 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

190/25 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday, 9th June 2025.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, and Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded, a motion to bring the agenda item

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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

for the Boules Court forward for the benefit of members of the public present. The motion was unanimously **AGREED**.

191/25 Boules Court

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator. The report outlined that Section 106 funding was not currently earmarked for the development of a Boules Court. The Twinning Association would need to explore alternative funding sources, with support from the Town Council to promote their consultation.

Cllr. Davies suggested Lace Hill as an alternative site to Embleton Way, adding that Church Green should be preserved as a historic site and village green. Cllr. Mahi raised concerns about animals using the court area as a litter tray and suggested enclosing it to prevent access. It was agreed that the Twinning Association should consult with the Winslow Twinning Association to learn how they have dealt with animal waste issues.

ACTION BUCKINGHAM TWINNING

Cllr. Draper Proposed, and Cllr. Mahi Seconded, a motion to suspend Standing Orders to allow the representative from the Twinning Association to speak. The motion was unanimously **AGREED**.

The representative explained that the construction of a new Boules Court would cost approximately £5-6k and would require the installation of one or two benches nearby.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, and Cllr. Mahi seconded, a motion to resume standing orders. The motion was unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, and Cllr. Mahi Seconded an amendment to recommendation 1.2 to read:

- 1.2 It was recommended that the Twinning Association seek formal responses from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Embleton Way site and prioritise engagement with County Councillors to explore the Embleton Way proposal further. *Lace Hill would be considered as an alternative site should the Embleton Way proposal fail.*

Members voted on the amendment, which was unanimously **AGREED**. The amended motion then became the substantive motion, and both recommendations were taken together, Proposed by Cllr. Davies and Seconded by Cllr. Mahi and unanimously **AGREED**.

- 1.1 It was recommended that the Twinning Association conduct a public consultation involving a statistically significant range of park users and Buckingham residents to demonstrate genuine community support for the Boules Court over alternative options.
- 1.2 It was recommended that the Twinning Association seek formal responses from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Embleton Way site and prioritise engagement with County Councillors to explore the Embleton Way proposal further. Lace Hill would be considered as an alternative site should the Embleton Way proposal fail.

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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

Cllr. Newell left the meeting at 7:37pm.

192/25 Budgets

Members received and noted the latest budget figures.

193/25 Benches Survey Summary Report

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, and Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded the report recommendations, which was unanimously **AGREED**

1.1 It was recommended that Members note the work completed so far and the next steps for engagement.

1.2 Members were asked to volunteer to survey the current seating provisions across the rest of the town.

Cllr. Davies expressed gratitude to Furze Down Sixth Form for their involvement.

194/25 Community Centre Roof

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk, stating that twelve companies were approached with a Request For Quotation (RFQ) for the work, but only one company had responded without providing full details. The Town Clerk noted that the procurement process would be reissued, and further details would be presented at the next meeting.

195/25 Consultation – DEFRA Flood Funding

Members discussed DEFRA's "Reforming our approach to floods funding" consultation.

Cllr. Harvey proposed, and Cllr. Mahi seconded, that responsibility for completing the consultation response be delegated to the Town Clerk on behalf of the Town Council. The motion was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

196/25 Tree Tags

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, and Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded, that 'Buckingham Town Council' be added to the text on all tree tags. The motion was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed, and Cllr. Mahi Seconded, the recommendation, which was unanimously **AGREED**.

1.1 It was recommended that Members support the proposal and note that a final list and map of trees will be brought back to a future meeting for consideration.

Cllr. Haydock expressed hope that the initiative could be expanded to include other landholdings within the town.

197/25 Installation of Removable Bollards – Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, and Cllr. Davies Seconded the recommendations, which were unanimously **AGREED**.

- 1.1 It was recommended that five removable bollards be installed along the access path to the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre to prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering the playing fields.
- 1.2 It was recommended that a budget of £3,500 be allocated from Cost Centre 262/4106.

198/25 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Value of Trees: Cllr. Stuchbury requested a formula to determine the legal value of trees. Cllr. Haydock asked that carbon storage value be considered as well. Members agreed that the formula should take into account both the monetary value and carbon sequestration of the trees. This would be brought back to the next meeting. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

No Idling Zone: Cllr. Draper shared that a multi-agency meeting on clean air initiatives for schools in Buckingham was being planned by Callum Anderson MP's office.

Benches: Cllr. Newall was tasked with clarifying whether the Buckingham Society wished to pursue the issue of benches further. **ACTION CLLR. NEWALL**

Railway Walk Volunteers: The Community and Business Engagement Officer was asked to engage with local conservation groups and provide feedback in the autumn. **ACTION COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

199/25 News Releases

A news release regarding the installation of bollards would be issued once the bollards are installed.

A news release about the tree tags would be issued once the tags are in place.

200/25 Chair's Announcements

No announcements.

201/25 Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 6th October 2025.

Meeting closed at 8:22pm

Chair Date