

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 17th February 2025 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Allen	
Cllr. F. Davies	Chair
Cllr. L. Draper	Vice Chair
Cllr. M Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also present:

Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Mr. S. Beech	Compliance and Projects Manager
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Mr. T. Cavender	Buckingham Canal Society
Four members of the Flood Action 4 Buckingham Group	

Absent: Cllr. A. Mahi

Public session

Members of the public were in attendance, but no-one spoke.

565/24 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Mahi.

566/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

567/24 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 7th October 2024 and 25th November 2024.

568/24 Canal Society

Mr. Cavender gave a presentation, outlining a partnership proposal between Buckingham Canal Society and Anglian Water. He informed Members that innovative ways to supply water to Milton Keynes over the next fifty years are being looked at, including the partnership plan of a new water treatment centre in Deanshanger, balancing lakes, and high capacity pumps to move water from the River Great Ouse in Buckingham into the canal; it will then move to the balancing lakes and on to the water treatment centre.

Mr. Cavender responded to questions from Members:

- OFWAT require organisations to make a bid. Buckingham Canal Society have made a bid and understand that there are currently no other bids.
- Buckingham Canal Society are seeking endorsement from Buckingham Town Council and will also be asking Buckinghamshire Council for endorsement.

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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/05/24

- Mr. Cavender believes that the plan will reduce flooding in the town. Anglian Water are undertaking a study of the whole river.
- Restoring/re-creating parts of the canal will be part of the plan.
- With proposals and processes, this is likely to take approximately 8 years.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that the Committee asks the Town Clerk to prepare a report to the next Environment meeting to enable Members to vote in favour of this plan. The Chair suggested that the forthcoming Motion can perhaps be amended to cover this.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cavender for attending and for his interesting presentation. She asked that he keeps us abreast of developments.

569/24 Motion: Cllr. Davies

That this Committee supports further feasibility studies to be undertaken by other agencies regarding flood mitigation and prevention strategies at sites both up and downstream of Buckingham as well as sites within the town itself.

Cllr. Draper Proposed an amendment:

That this Committee supports further feasibility studies including, but not limited to, the scheme proposed by the Anglian Water and Buckingham Canal Society partnership, and other agencies, regarding flood mitigation and prevention strategies at sites both up and downstream of Buckingham as well as sites within the town itself.

Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr. Cavender to take part in the discussion then reinstated Standing Orders.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the amendment.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded the substantive motion and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Mr. Cavender left the meeting at 7:44pm.

570/24 Budgets

Members received and noted the latest figures.

571/24 Buckingham Tennis Club

Members noted a letter from Buckingham Tennis Club.

572/24 Metal Detecting on Tingewick Road Cemetery site

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Council gives permission for detecting on the Council's land to members of the National Council for Metal Detecting who sign the model contract (example attached), at the discretion of the Estates Manager, providing the Estates Manager agrees to the timing and scope of each search.

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- 1.2. It is recommended that the agreement shall continue in force from the 17th February 2025 until the 15th April 2025.
- 1.3. It is recommended that, following the 15th April 2025, additional permission agreements will need to be sought and agreed with the Estates Manager with precise conditions and area boundaries.
- 1.4. It is recommended that one of the conditions of the permission agreement is that the Town Council can restrict access to the site should construction begin earlier than the expiry of the permission.
- 1.5. It is recommended that this does NOT include Brackley Road Cemetery, once this is obtained.

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

573/24 Action report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The Flood Action Group members left the meeting at 7:50pm

The Estates Manager explained:

- He is awaiting information from Rights of Way regarding the bridge in Bourton Park and confirmed that a press release will follow.
- Tingewick Road Green Spaces will be handed over in two stages and he is aware of drainage issues.

Cllr. Davies plans to approach a local group regarding the seating strategy survey.

574/24 Community Centre

Members received and noted a report from the Town Clerk and Estates Manager.

- 1.1. It is recommended to note this report and to further note the Town Clerk is awaiting a response from Buckinghamshire Council before putting options to Members.

Members raised concerns about the potential costs involved.

Cllr. Schaefer thanked the Town Clerk and the Estates Manager for their work.

575/24 News releases

Cllr. Harvey Proposed a press release about the presentation from Mr. Cavender. Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION COMPLIANCE & PROJECTS MANAGER

576/24 Chair's announcements – for information only

No announcements.

577/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 7th April 2025

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Meeting closed at 8:11pm.

Chair

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