

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7pm 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:**

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. L. Phillips | Estates Manager                 |
| Mr. S. Beech    | Compliance and Projects Manager |
| Ms. P. Cahill   | Committee Clerk                 |

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

**298/25      Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**299/25      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**300/25      Minutes**

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and the Extraordinary Environment Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

**301/25      Budgets**

Members received the latest figures.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested further information regarding the income and expenditure lines for the new cemetery. The Compliance and Projects Manager confirmed that the income is from the agreed Public Works Loan and the expenditure is as per the payments schedule that was presented to Full Council; whilst the new cemetery is being built, it is the remit of Full Council, not the Environment Committee.

**E/04/25**

**302/25 Fees**

302/25.1 Members noted that the roundabout sponsorship fees will increase by 4.6% in line with August RPI. This is specified as part of the sponsorship contracts.

302/25.2 Cemetery – Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree for the Brackley Road and Tingewick Road cemetery fees for 2026-2027 to be as per the table in section 2.1.

The Estates Manager explained that some fees have been rounded up, and some reduced, to ensure that there are affordable options for local residents.

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

**303/25 Climate Emergency Action Plan**

Members noted that there are no updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**304/25 Value of Trees**

Members received a report from Cllr. Haydock.

Cllr. Haydock explained that there is not a defined formula. Although the CAVAT Method does offer a method for valuing publicly owned trees, it is unlikely that this is something we could use. Other options may be better such as carbon storage, celebration of our trees, and the value for flood alleviation.

Members thanked Cllr. Haydock for her detailed report and raised the following points:

- Root protectors can be used which may reduce the need to fell trees.
- If trees had a value it may deter insurance companies from taking the easy option to remove trees.
- It may be worthwhile noting where there are valuable trees in the town and compiling a list.
- Logical thinking should be used when planting trees for new developments.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that the report is sent to the Tree Officer at the Shire Council, requesting a discussion.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed an amendment: that a written question is put to the next appropriate Select Committee. Cllr. Harvey accepted the amendment. Cllr. Haydock will write the question and suggested that we also write to the Tree Officer. Cllr. Davies Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

**ACTION CLLR. HAYDOCK**  
**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2025

page 2 of 5

*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 .....

**305/25 Motion: Cllr. Draper**

Adoption of town tree and town 'animal': having attended a talk on butterflies at the Vinson Centre, I would like to propose that Buckingham Town Council adopt the black poplar as the official town tree, and the black hairstreak butterfly as the official town insect.

The black poplar is a beautiful native tree which can grow to 30m tall and live to 200 years. It is increasingly rare, with only 7000 trees thought to be left in the UK. We are fortunate enough to have a large population of these trees in and around our town and we should be proud of this.

Black hairstreak butterflies are equally rare with only around 50 sites with colonies left in the UK; they are on the endangered red list and high priority for butterfly conservation, with one of the highest density populations being in Buckingham.

Cllr. Draper explained that there would be no cost, and adoption would offer educational opportunities with local schools. Cllr. Newell Seconded.

Cllr. Haydock asked if this is the wild poplar. The Estates Manager said that there are some planted mature black poplars in the Heartlands. Cllr. Draper will check if we have any wild poplars in Buckingham.

Cllr. Newall Proposed the addition of the small tortoiseshell butterfly.

Cllr. Harvey feels that only one insect and one tree should be adopted. Cllr. Newall withdrew his Proposal.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the Motion.

**306/25 CCTV Update**

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

The Estates Manager informed Members that, following a review by Buckinghamshire Council of their CCTV coverage across the County, a meeting was held with the Electronic Surveillance Manager from Buckinghamshire Council and the local Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team. As part of this increased coverage, Buckingham town centre will be provided with 4 or 5 new fixed unit cameras which will be connected to their control centre in High Wycombe. This also opens the possibility to redeploy our own cameras. The local police team suggested locations for the new cameras. Further information will be reported to Committee when received.

**307/25 Bucks Community Energy**

Members received and noted a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

- 1.1 Members are asked to note that Buckingham Town Council has partnered with Buckinghamshire Community Energy to offer energy efficiency drop-in sessions. These sessions aim to help residents save money on their energy bills and maintain warm homes during the colder months.

**E/04/25**

Cllr. Harvey asked about promotion of the event as the first session is on Saturday. Cllr. Haydock will take some flyers to the U3A and Citizens Advice. Cllr. Davies reminded Members that the Repair Café is taking place on Saturday so flyers could also be taken there.

**ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

**308/25 Hedgehog Heroes**

Members received and noted a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

- 1.1 Members are asked to note that Buckingham Town Council has joined the *Hedgehog Heroes Roll of Honour*, maintained by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

**309/25 Action report**

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

No idling – Members are happy to revisit this now that schools have returned.

Seating – Members had agreed to survey the rest of the seating in town, but this has not yet taken place.

**310/25 News releases**

Buckinghamshire Community Energy advice sessions.

**ACTION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

**311/25 Chair's announcements - for information only**

No announcements.

**312/25 Date of next meeting:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 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**.

Cllr. Singh left the meeting at 8:18pm.

**313/25 Devolved services**

Members received a confidential report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1 Members agree not to take on the proposed part-year devolved services contract from Buckinghamshire Council detailed in section 3.1.

6<sup>th</sup> October 2025

page 4 of 5

*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/04/25**

- 1.2 Members agree to advise Buckinghamshire Council that should they wish to propose a contract for the 2026-2027 financial year, then Buckingham Town Council will make a decision based on the detail of that contract once received.

Cllr. Draper Proposed accepting recommendation 1.1. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Davies Proposed accepting recommendation 1.2 with an amendment: that plenty of time is given, prior to Buckingham Town Council's Precept meeting. Cllr. Schaefer Seconded the amendment. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** amended recommendation 1.2. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Meeting closed at 8:24pm

Chair .....

Date .....