

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 9th 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 7th April 2025.

68/25 Buckingham Community Wildlife and Climate Emergency Group

Members noted the minutes from meetings held on 16th October 2024 and 12th 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 4th 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 28th July 2025

Meeting closed at 8:57pm

Chair

Date

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