

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7:05 pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
Cllr. L. Draper	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. H. Haydock	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. Ruth Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. R. Poppe	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. S. Singh	

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Events Officer
Mr S. Beech	Compliance and Projects Manager
Mrs. A. Benoy	Committee Administrator
Cllr. A Osibogun	Buckinghamshire Ward Councillor

Absent:

Cllr. T. Allen
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. R. Newall
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try

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

Members **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 21 to after the declarations of interest.

6/26 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies from Cllr. Allen, Cllr. H. Mordue, Cllr. Newall, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Try. Cllr. Osibogun apologised that he must leave the meeting early.

7/26 Declarations of interest

There were none.

08/26 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Osibogun:

From 1st June there will be a change in parking enforcements – a new team will be enforcing with an ANPR vehicle picking up violations – please make residents aware of this. If tickets are issued and the recipient feels that it is unjustified then an appeal should be made.

Cllr. Osibogun encouraged people to take part in the survey to see how we can support landowners who would like to plant more trees.

In relation to the Heartlands, Cllr. Osibogun recognised Buckinghamshire Council's responsibility for areas of repair that are still outstanding. More trees will be planted, and the Environment Agency is currently surveying the river.

Cllr. Schaefer:

At the last Full Council meeting of Buckinghamshire Council an amended motion was passed to put existing trees under more protection. At the same meeting a motion was made proposing solar panels be installed as standard on new houses in the forthcoming Local Plan – this motion fell.

Cllr. Schaefer has spent time on planning applications, including the small plot of land on Linden Village.

Members raised the following points:

- People on Hunter Street have been ticketed – is there an opportunity to look at these areas where people park?
- Well Street is a problem – what are the enforcement times?
- Can parking bays and yellow lines be repainted?
- Will enforcement apply to school parking?
- Is parking enforcement being outsourced?
- Where does the money from parking fines go?
- Will incentives be given to enforcement for the number of tickets issued?

Cllr. Osibogun responded that he has today talked to businesses on Hunter Street and further investigations regarding the parking there will take place. Regarding enforcement this is not twenty four hours, and the emphasis is on changing people's attitude to parking, encouraging more consideration. It is outsourced and the money will go back into the system; it is not used to generate revenue. The Council will not set targets and incentives to enforcement.

Cllr. Osibogun left the meeting at 7:22pm

9/26 Minutes

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** as a correct record the minutes of the Precept meeting held on 26th January 2026 and the minutes of two meetings of the Full Council held on 16th March 2026.

10/26 Interim Minutes

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Interim Full Council meeting held on 20th April 2026.

11/26 Planning Committee Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2nd February 2026 and 23rd February 2026.

12/26 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 9th February 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.....

13/26 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16th February 2026.

14/26 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2026.

Members received recommendations from the Resources Committee:

- 14/26.1 Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Equal Opportunities policy.
- 14/26.2 Members noted the unchanged Preventing Sexual Harassment Risk Assessment and completed Action Plan.
- 14/26.3 Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Financial Regulations.
- 14/26.4 Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Financial and Management Risk Assessment
- 14/26.5 Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the unchanged Scheme of Delegation
- 14/26.6 Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the revised Internal Controls document
- 14/26.7 Members received an addendum from the Town Clerk.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree the Standing Orders as recommended by the Resources Committee.

Cllr. O Donoghue Proposed and Cllr. Draper Seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was:

For: 11
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

The recommendation was therefore **AGREED**.

Cllr Schaefer thanked Officers for their work in preparing the documents.

15/26 Annual Town Meeting 26th March 2026

Members received and noted a feedback report from the Office Administrator.

Members thanked the Office Administrator for her hard work. The changed format was excellent and worked very well. Members particularly liked the summaries from the tables at the end of the meeting.

16/26 Internal audit

Councillors received for information:

- 16/26.1 Auditor's cover letter.
- 16/26.2 Auditor's observations with RFO comments.
- 16/26.3 Auditor's summary (full year).
- 16/26.4 Cllr. Davies proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** that the Internal Controls procedures from 2025-2026 were effective.

Thanks were given to officers for how the Council's finances are well-managed.

17/26 To review the independence of the internal auditor

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members agree that the internal auditor is independent and competent.

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

18/26 Inventory of Land and Assets

- 18/26.1 Members received a report from the Assistant RFO.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note and agree changes made to the Asset Register during the financial year 2025-2026.

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

- 18/26.2 Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. O Donoghue Seconded and members unanimously **AGREED** the unchanged Asset Register and Disposal policy.

19/26 Annual Internal Audit Report, the Annual Governance Statement, and Accounting Statements

- 19/26.1 Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and members unanimously **AGREED** the Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/2026.
- 19/26.2 Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and members unanimously **AGREED** the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026. The Chair and the Town Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

- 19/26.3 Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and members unanimously **AGREED** the Accounting Statement 2025/2026. The Chair and the Town Clerk signed the Accounting Statements.

Members thanked officers for their work.

20/26 Exercise of Public Rights

Members noted the dates set by the RFO for the Exercise of Public Rights as being Wednesday 3 June to Tuesday 14 July 2026.

Cllr Davies proposed, Seconded by Cllr Draper and members unanimously **AGREED**.

21/26 Review of policies and delegated arrangements as required by Standing Orders Section 5

Members reviewed, amended or confirmed the delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, employees, and other local authorities.

- 21/26.1 Committee Terms of Reference
Members agreed the unchanged terms of reference for Committees:
- 21/26.1.1 Environment Committee
 - 21/26.1.2 Resources Committee
 - 21/26.1.3 Town Centre & Events Committee
 - 21/26.1.4 Staffing (Confidential Matters) Committee
 - 21/26.1.5 Appeals Committee

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed that Members agree the unchanged Terms of Reference for the above Committees. Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

- 21/26.2 Cllr. Davies Proposed that Members agree the amended Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee. Cllr. J. Mordue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

- 21/26.3 Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** Councillor Committee choices.

- 21/26.4 Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the Arrangements with other Local Authorities.

- 21/26.5 Review of Representation
The following representatives were confirmed:

- Cllr. Harvey informed Members that the A.V. Association of Local Councils no longer exists. The Town Clerk explained that this should have been updated to BMKALC. Cllr. Harvey will be the representative.
- The Buckingham Bardic Council no longer meets and needs to be formally dissolved. Cllr. Davies to continue as the representative for now.

- Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust: The Mayor (ex officio), Cllr. Stuchbury, and Cllr. Harvey to continue as representatives. Cllr. Ruth Newell will replace Cllr. Draper as a representative.
- Buckingham Community Wildlife Project and Climate Emergency Group: Cllr. Ruth Newell, Cllr. Draper and Cllr. Haydock will be the representatives.
- Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charities (Buckingham General Charities): The Mayor (ex officio), Cllr. Haydock, Cllr. J. Mordue and Cllr. O'Donoghue will be the representatives.
- Buckingham Youth Centre: Cllr. Draper and Cllr. Stuchbury will be the representatives.
- CA (Citizen's Advice) does not currently meet. Cllr. J. Mordue advised this meeting group no longer exists. Cllr. Harvey informed Members that there is however a Buckingham Group that meets. This will be removed from the list of representatives.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Cllr. H. Mordue and Cllr. Try will be the representatives.
- Dementia Action Alliance does not currently meet. This will be checked. No representatives were appointed. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**
- Lace Hill Medical Centre Forum: Cllr. Try and Cllr. Mahi will be the representatives.
- North Bucks Community Board: Cllr. Harvey will be the representative with Cllr. O'Donoghue as deputy.
- North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium: Cllr. Try will be the representative.
- Pontio: The Mayor/Deputy Mayor (ex officio), and Cllr. Ahmed will be the representatives with Cllr. Ruth Newell as deputy.
- Super Council's Network: Cllr. Harvey will be the representative.
- Tree Wardens: Cllr. Haydock, Cllr. Ruth Newell and Cllr. Draper will be the representatives.
- Twinning Association: Cllr. H. Mordue will be a representative. Cllr. Ahmed will replace Cllr. Schaefer as a representative.
- Rural Market Towns Groups: Cllr. Schaefer will be the representative.
- River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board: Cllr. Haydock will replace Cllr. Draper as the representative.

- Buckingham Flood Action Group: Cllr. Allen will be the representative.

Cllr. Davies Proposed accepting the above representatives. Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER

21/26.6 Insurance
Members noted that the Council is insured by a three year contract to Zurich Insurance to provide insurance cover in respect of all relevant insured risks in accordance with the attached policy, the premium for policy year commencing 1 April 2026 is £19,218.62.

21/26.7 Subscriptions
Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Ahmed Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies.

22/26 Complaints Policy/Procedure
Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the unchanged Complaints policy/procedure.

23/26 Approval of the use of a banker's standing orders, BACS, and CHAPS payments

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members reapprove the use of standing orders, BACS, and CHAPS to make banking payments where appropriate.

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

24/26 Councillor Code of Conduct

Members received a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

- 1.1 It is recommended that members review and reconfirm the unchanged Councillor Code of Conduct.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

25/26 Members AGREED to adopt the General Power of Competence.

Buckingham Town Council is an eligible Council for the General Power of Competence as it meets the prescribed conditions. The Council therefore has greater than two thirds of its Members elected and the Town Clerk holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration and has completed the relevant training.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation to adopt the General Power of Competence.

26/26 To agree the ear-marked reserves

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommended EMR for the year 2026-2027.

27/26 Motion: Cllr. Davies

Buckingham Town Council notes the Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet decision of 21 April 2026 to outsource Waste Collection and Street Scene services and is concerned that the recommended option appeared to score a perfect 100 out of 100, that three of six options were scored zero on finance through a cliff-edge rather than graduated basis, and that the case rests on assumptions about outsourcing efficiencies without the support of any published evidence.

Buckingham Town Council therefore agrees to write to the Leader, requesting the qualitative scoring detail, a published performance review of the Veolia contract, the efficiency and cost assumptions used in the model with a stress test of those assumptions, and that no irreversible procurement steps be taken until this information has been shared.

Cllr Davies explained the reason behind this motion and is concerned that the only way to save money on this contract will be cutting the rights and pay of workers.

Members raised concerns about workers' rights and the quality of the service if costs are cut.

An Amendment to the motion was suggested adding the following sentence:

We also ask that town and parish councils are actively consulted on the outcomes to be used when drawing up a commissioning procurement process should that happen.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Davies Seconded and members unanimously **AGREED** the amendment.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Ruth Newell Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Substantive Motion.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

28/26 Mayoral engagements

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

20/03/26	Funeral of Dr. Chris Brown - Friend of Buckingham
26/03/26	Annual Town Meeting
27/03/26	High Sherrieff of Buckinghamshire, Nikki Ross, Declaration of Office
30/03/26	Dinosaur puppets event
12/04/26	Green and Crafts Fair
15/04/26	Lace Hill Academy 10 th Anniversary
22/04/26	Visit to Buckingham Primary School
25/04/26	Bite Club
26/04/26	St George's Parade - Buckingham and Winslow Scouts
28/04/26	High Sherrieff's STEM Launch Silverstone Museum

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Initial.....

29/04/26 SEND White Paper workshop
30/04/26 Buckingham AED Project AGM
01/05/26 May Day Celebrations Bourton Meadow Academy
06/05/26 Alliance Cup Final - Swans Whites vs Bletchley 1VX
08/05/26 Funeral of Mr. Tony Checkley – Friend of Buckingham
08/05/26 Concert for David Attenborough's 100th birthday, Radcliffe Centre

28/26 Chair's announcements – for information only

The Chair thanked Members for allowing her the honour of a second year as Mayor of Buckingham. She is looking forward to working with Cllr. Ahmed and again thanked Cllr. Mahi for his work as Deputy Mayor last year.

29/26 Dates of the next meetings

Interim: 15th June 2026

Full Council: 6th July 2026

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed Date