

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Allen	
Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
Cllr. L. Draper	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. H. Haydock	
Cllr. A. Mahi	Deputy Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. R. Newall	
Cllr. Ruth Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. R. Poppe	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Mrs. C. Cumming	
Mrs. K. McElligott	
Cllr. L. Monger	
Mr. K. Thomas	

Absent:

Cllr. R. Ahmed
Cllr. S. Singh

Public session

Cllr. Monger attended to speak on the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service On-call Improvement Programme consultation. He explained that there are three essential issues: the closure of two fire stations, the disposal of some unused fire engines and some changes to the operations of the Chief Fire Officer. The difficulties in recruiting on-call firefighters has impacted the use of on-call engines and availability has declined over the past ten years.

Cllr. Draper arrived at 7:06pm.

Cllr. Monger informed Members that there are 12 whole-time crews which cover 99.7% of requirements. There are a further 18 on-call fire engines that have varying degrees of use. Some of these engines, including one in Buckingham, will be replaced by modern, lighter, faster equipment - rural fire-fighting four wheel drive vehicles.

Mr. Thomas, who is a representative from the Fire Brigades Union and works for the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, attended the meeting to offer his view of the proposed changes. He explained that Buckingham Fire Station now has 400 to 500 calls a year (in 2003 there were 250 calls) and he is concerned about the impact of replacing the Buckingham on-call engine with a new vehicle. Buckingham will still have one whole crew

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engine, but Mr. Thomas feels that it is important to keep the two fire engines in Buckingham.

Following Councillors' questions, Cllr. Monger confirmed that one of the engines in Buckingham will be replaced with a new vehicle and that 53% of incidents are not fire related (for example, traffic accidents). Mr. Thomas said that fire deaths have increased, that Buckingham Fire Station has a whole time fire engine; this means that the crew is in the station from 9:00am to 6:00pm and that during the evening there is a five minute delay as staff are on a pager.

Cllr. Davies thanked Cllr. Monger and Mr. Thomas for attending the meeting.

442/25 Apologies for absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Ahmed and Cllr. Singh.

443/25 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Stuchbury is the Executive Member of the Fire Authority in charge of health and safety.

444/25 Minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd November 2025.

445/25 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22nd September 2025, 13th October 2025 and 10th November 2025.

446/25 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 29th September 2025.

Cllr. Stuchbury thanked staff for their work throughout the year.

Mr. Thomas left the meeting at 7:29pm.

447/25 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025.

448/25 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 20th October 2025.

449/25 Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service On-call improvement program consultation

Members discussed the Buckingham Town Council response to the consultation and agreed to delegate completion of the questionnaire to the Town Clerk based on the consensus reached during this discussion.

Members agreed the following responses to questions:

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Question 1 - Cllr Draper Proposed response 4, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 2 - Cllr. Allen Proposed response 4, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Member **AGREED.**

Question 3 - Cllr. Davies Proposed response 5, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 4 – Cllr. Schaefer Proposed response 4. There was no Seconder. Cllr. Harvey Proposed response 2, Cllr. Newall Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 5 – Cllr. Davies Proposed response 3, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 6 – Cllr. Draper Proposed response 3, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 7 - Cllr. Draper Proposed response 4, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Question 8 – Cllr. Davies Proposed response 3; Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Cllr. J. Mordue Proposed response 5. Cllr. Davies withdrew her Proposal. Cllr. Ruth Newell Seconded Cllr. J. Mordue's Proposal and Members **AGREED.**

Question 9:

Bullet point 1 – Cllr. Try Proposed response 1, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Bullet point 2 – Cllr Davies Proposed response 4, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Bullet point 3 – Cllr. Try Proposed response 4. Cllr J. Mordue Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Bullet point 4 – Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed response 4, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Bullet point 5 – Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed response 4, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Bullet point 6 – Cllr. Mahi Proposed response 4, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Cllr. Harvey Proposed that we ask that any changes brought in are properly evidence based. Cllr. Ruth Newell Seconded and Members **AGREED.** **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

450/25 Recommendations - Equality, Community Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

450/25.1 It is recommended that Members agree to support and promote Pride events in Buckingham throughout June 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.....

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members **AGREED.**

Cllr. Llew Monger left the meeting at 8:20pm.

450/25.2 It is recommended that Members agree to budget £200 for ECDI activities for the next financial year.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.**

451/25 Motion: Cllr. Haydock

In 2019 Buckingham Town Council declared a climate emergency and prepared a Climate Emergency Plan. This Plan included the aim of achieving net zero emissions from BTC operations by 2030 and outlined a series of actions to be taken. In the same year, our Mayor signed the Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy, committing to (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions on its territory by at least 40% by 2030 and (2) increasing its resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Since then, the Climate Emergency Plan has remained largely static, with no emissions tracking. Meanwhile, global greenhouse gases continue rising and climate impacts intensify locally and globally.

I propose a comprehensive 2026 review of the Climate Emergency Plan to reassess our 2030 targets and quantify BTC's emissions and reduction potential. The review should identify how BTC can support local businesses and residents in reducing emissions and building climate resilience. To do this we will form a Working Group and provide carbon literacy training to participating Councillors and Officers so they can engage knowledgably in the process.

Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members **AGREED.** There was one abstention.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

452/25 Discharge of planning obligation

The Town Clerk informed Members that this was sent to Buckingham Town Council in error and therefore does not need consideration.

453/25 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

There were no reports.

454/25 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Schaefer has attended two stakeholder meetings relating to flooding in Buckingham.

Cllr. Stuchbury has attended several Cabinet meetings, asking questions around tourism, flooding, educational cuts, transport and children's services. He has also attended Fire Authority and licensing meetings.

455/25 Action list

The Town Clerk explained that the cemetery action will take officer hours and will be completed when there is time to do so.

456/25 Mayoral engagements

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Initial.....

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Members received and noted a list of events attended by the Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

31/10/2025 Halloween disco - Lace Hill
01/11/2025 Bonfire and Fireworks
07/11/2025 RLS Remembrance service
09/11/2025 Remembrance Parade
14/11/2025 BAFA Exhibition
20/11/2025 Local Democracy event
22/11/2025 The Film Place 20th Anniversary
23/11/2025 Beaconsfield Civic Service
25/11/2025 3Bs Radio interview with U3A
27/11/2025 Christmas Lights Switch On
01/12/2025 World AIDS Day commemoration MK Rose
04/12/2025 Alms Houses Christmas celebration
06/12/2025 Grand Junction reopening
07/12/2025 Lace Hill Gymnastics Club competition
13/12/2025 Christmas Parade

457/25 Chair's announcements - for information only

The Mayor wished Members a Happy Christmas.

458/25 Date of the next meetings:

Interim Council: Monday 5th January 2026

Interim Council: 23rd February 2026 (Informal meeting precedes)

Full Council: Monday 16th March 2026

The meeting closed at 8:31pm

Signed Date