

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.03pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
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. Ruth Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. R. Poppe	
Cllr. A. Schaefer (from minute 598/25)	
Cllr. S. Singh	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Ms. N. Stockill	Estates Administrator
Ms. J. Olds	Parish Clerk
Kevin Coleman	Manor Oak Homes
Oscar Briggs	Manor Oak Homes

Absent: Cllr. R. Newall

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

596/25 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Newall and it was noted that Cllr. Draper would need to leave the meeting early.

597/25 Declarations of interest

There were none.

598/25 – Manor Oak Homes: Land to the East of Buckingham at Bourton Meadow

Members received a presentation from Manor Oak Homes regarding proposed development on land at Bourton Meadow.

Kevin Coleman addressed the Council, explaining that the site had previously been presented to the Town Council four years ago. Since that time, further work had been undertaken, including a pre-application meeting with Buckinghamshire planners, Highways officers, and the Flood Authority, as well as participation in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP). The site is allocated within the BNDP, which will guide the development proposals.

Manor Oak Homes indicated their intention to submit a formal planning application, noting that further stakeholder consultation is required. The proposal is for an outline planning application, with detailed consideration given at this stage to vehicular access, while establishing the overall development principles.

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Members were informed that the parameter plan divides the site into three main elements:

- A 0.2 hectare visitor centre;
- Approximately 2.5 hectares of two-storey housing;
- Approximately 0.7 hectares of housing up to three storeys.

The concept plan outlines land parcels, streets, landmarks, and design principles. The visitor centre is proposed as an L-shaped building, including reception, welfare facilities, exhibition and education space, and meeting rooms, with the building oriented towards the canal. Associated works include a small car park with accessible spaces, cycle parking, and electric vehicle charging points. The development is expected to encourage walking access from the local area.

Members noted that the Canal Society has been consulted on the visitor centre proposals and is expected to be involved in its future operation, potentially under a long lease arrangement.

Proposals also include landscaping, improvements to the canal towpath, and ecological enhancements. Technical and environmental studies, including archaeology, drainage, and sustainability measures, are ongoing and will inform the planning application. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), water management measures, and a sustainability and energy statement are to be included. Solar panels and other climate-conscious measures are being considered.

The proposed site access is via a priority junction with a traffic island opposite Burleigh Piece, near the school, with a pedestrian crossing point. Traffic assessments will be undertaken as part of the planning process.

During questions, Members raised a number of points, including:

- The inclusion of solar panels and wider sustainability measures;
- Water conservation, including grey water recycling;
- Ownership and long-term management of the visitor centre;
- Engagement with Buckingham Charities regarding access arrangements;
- Archaeological considerations, including potential historic features on site;
- Traffic concerns, particularly at school times, and the need for appropriate assessment and possible mitigation;
- The potential for additional pedestrian crossings and engagement with local stakeholders, including Buckinghamshire Council and local schools;
- The number and type of dwellings (approximately 90 homes anticipated, including some single-storey units);
- Provision of outdoor space for all dwellings;
- Accessibility considerations, including design for wheelchair users;
- Lighting strategy and the need for sensitive design;
- Future management of open spaces, including possible involvement of the Town Council or a management company;
- Safeguards to ensure the visitor centre remains a community facility;
- The potential for public consultation and engagement with local groups.

It was noted that Councillor Schaefer entered the Chamber at 19:20.

Councillors thanked the representatives of Manor Oak Homes for their presentation. It was agreed that presentation materials would be circulated to Members.

The representatives of Manor Oak Homes left the meeting at 19:44.

599/25 Minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 15th December 2025.

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600/25 Interim minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 23rd February 2026.

Cllr. Ruth. Newell raised that the minutes did not record the absence of Cllr. R. Newall.

The minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 23rd February 2026 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the amendment that Cllr. Roger Newell be added to the list of Councillors absent from the meeting.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

601/25 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 1st December 2025, 15th December 2025 and 5th January 2026.

602/25 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025.

603/25 Environment Committee

Members received the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 24th November 2025.

Cllr. R Newell mentioned name spelt incorrectly as being absent.

Cllr. R. Newell raised that the minutes did not record the correct spelling of Cllr. R. Newall's surname.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

604/25 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on 8th December 2025 and 12th January 2026.

604/25.1 581/25 - It is recommended that Full Council accept Bidder A to provide a three-year contract for comprehensive insurance cover.

Cllr. Try advised that the Resources Committee had considered the matter and concluded that it was not appropriate at this time to incur additional expenditure for terrorism cover.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reviewed by the Resources Committee, which declined to recommend the additional cover to Full Council.

Cllr. Schaefer supported this position, stating that it did not represent a sensible use of resources and noting that the recommendation before Council did not include terrorism cover.

Cllr. Harvey proposed an amendment that terrorism cover be added to the policy at a cost of approximately £962 per annum. This was seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury.

The Town Clerk clarified that the proposed terrorism cover would apply only to buildings owned by the Council and gave the example that, in the event of a qualifying incident at the Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre, it would cover loss of hire income. It was further explained that the Council's existing insurance already provided full cover for risks such as fire and damage, except where an incident is formally classified as terrorism.

Cllr. H. Mordue noted that the matter had been discussed at the Resources Committee and highlighted that, for an insurance claim to be paid under terrorism cover, the incident would need to be officially defined as an act of terrorism rather than vandalism or general

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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.

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criminal damage, which could be difficult to establish. He further stated that due diligence had already been undertaken by the appropriate Committee.

Cllr. Schaefer added that Members should consider both the likelihood of such an event occurring and the potential scale of damage. She expressed the view that the risk of terrorism affecting Council buildings was low and that, in the unlikely event of such an occurrence, the Council could accommodate the cost of repairs.

Cllr. H. Mordue sought confirmation from the Town Clerk that Council premises were otherwise insured for fire and damage, which was confirmed, except in cases classified as terrorism.

The Mayor advised that, should the risk profile change in future, a standalone terrorism policy could be considered, but the current decision related to the recommendation before Members.

Cllr. Draper proposed the substantive recommendation, seconded by Cllr. Schaefer.

Amendment: To include terrorism cover at an additional cost of £962 per annum.

Vote:

For – 3

Against – 11

Abstentions – 2

Result: Amendment fell.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

Vote:

For – 15

Abstentions – 1

The substantive motion was **AGREED**

ACTION: COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER

Councillor Draper left the Chamber at 20:07.

604/25.2 It is recommended that:

Full Council agree the revised Investment Strategy Policy – minute 584/25. Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Schaefer and unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Full Council agree the Annual Investment Strategy for the financial year 2026-2027 – minute 584/25.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Schaefer and unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

605/25 Recommendation from Equality, Community Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Members **AGREED** to recommend that Full Council consider inviting Lucy Hughes-Hallett, author of *The Scapegoat* (a biography of George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham), to deliver a public talk as part of Buckingham Pride Week.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghie, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury

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Vote:

In favour – 14

Abstentions – 1

ACTION: COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

606/25 Recommendation from the Local Plan Response Working Group

The Town Council agree the comments for submission to Buckinghamshire Council in response to the consultation on the Site Allocation for the Local Plan.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr. Harvey and Members unanimously

AGREED.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

607/25 Recommendation from the Communications Strategy Sub Committee:

Members **AGREED** to put the following Motion to Full Council and that a decision is made as to how we might exit from X.

Motion – Cllr. Fran Davies

Due to the recent highlighting of X's deepfake AI chatbot, Grock's questionable practice, this Council resolves that we as a Town Council cease use of X, close our account and the use of any platforms associated with X (formerly Twitter).

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Harvey seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to exit from X without putting out a press release.

ACTION: COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

608/25 Motion: Cllr. Stuchbury

Buckingham Town Council notes the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan and the likelihood of significant development taking place adjacent to, but outside, the current parish boundary of Buckingham and the area covered by the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan.

This Council recognises that it is important to ensure that the interests and representation of Buckingham residents, the residents of any new developments, as well as those living in neighbouring parishes, are properly considered as part of any future governance arrangements. Council acknowledges that, without reviewing the current electoral and parish boundary arrangements, there could be long-term financial, social and economic implications for the Town Council and for the town's ability to deliver and maintain important services.

This Council therefore resolves to request that the Town Clerk bring a report to a future meeting of the Council outlining the potential implications, options and processes associated with seeking a review of the Buckingham parish boundary, including consideration of the interests of existing residents, future residents of new developments and neighbouring parishes, as well as any financial, governance, and strategic implications.

Cllr. Stuchbury spoke to the motion, explaining that the financial benefit arising from the proposed development would enable the Council to make long-term sustainable decisions for the future. He noted that, without action, the area in question may not fall under appropriate influence or planning considerations.

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Cllr. Schaefer seconded the motion, highlighting that a development of this scale would have infrastructure implications and that future residents would rely on Buckingham and its services. She referred to the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP), including its design code, and emphasised the importance of ensuring that any expansion reflects the standards required to create a well-designed and sustainable community, rather than an extension lacking proper scrutiny.

Cllr. H. Mordue advised that decisions regarding parish boundaries are determined by the Boundary Commission and that there are currently no plans to amend parish boundaries. He noted that, should the Commission propose changes in the future, including an increase in the size of the town or number of councillors, this would be the appropriate time to bring forward a report. He added that a request for change can be made, but there is no guarantee it would be implemented.

Cllr. Stuchbury requested a recorded vote be taken.

Cllr. Schaefer clarified that the motion related to parish boundaries rather than ward boundaries within Buckinghamshire, noting that these do not have to align.

Following a recorded vote, the motion was carried.

Recorded Vote:

In favour – Cllrs. O'Donoghue, Schaefer, J. Mordue, Allen, Haydock, Harvey, Mahi, Poppe, Ahmed, Try, Stuchbury, Davies

Against – Cllrs. R Newell, Singh, H. Mordue

Abstentions – None recorded

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

609/25 Motion: Cllr. Davies

This Council resolves to support 20mph default speed limits in all villages and residential areas, and in Buckingham Town and that we write to Buckinghamshire Council urging county-wide adoption, citing the evidence previously circulated by Whaddon Parish Council. We support their combined submission with other Town and Parish councils to this effect.

Cllr. Try spoke against the motion, stating that it would impose measures on other villages within the county and that the Council's focus should remain solely on Buckingham.

Cllr. Schaefer spoke in support of the motion, stating that it would not impose views on other parishes and that there is evidence to suggest such measures can reduce risk to pedestrians, ease congestion, and improve air quality.

Members discussed the motion.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ahmed and put to the vote.

Vote:

In favour – 11

Against – 2

Abstentions – 2

Motion carried.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

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610/25 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Schaefer reported that Buckinghamshire Council is consulting on the next iteration of the Local Transport Plan. As a member of the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Committee, she is reviewing the update and noted that Buckingham Town Council may wish to engage with the Buckingham element of the plan at an appropriate stage. Cllr. Schaefer also reported attendance at the Buckingham Youth Summit, which she found to be very interesting, and at Young Carers Action Day, which she described as both enjoyable and informative. In addition, she has been engaging with HS2 Ltd construction events, with a further event scheduled to take place in Twyford.

Cllr. Stuchbury advised that the Growth and Infrastructure Committee would be meeting to discuss the Library Flex proposal. He also highlighted the ongoing consultation regarding the Fire Service Review.

Cllr. Stuchbury further reported that the Local Plan had been considered by Cabinet and expressed concern that site allocations had been developed by a small group, noting that infrastructure planning should be undertaken in consultation with parish councils. He also referred to the Government's forthcoming 10-year health plan, suggesting that it may present opportunities for a health hub in Buckingham and that the Environment Committee may wish to receive a briefing on the matter.

It was noted that Cllr. Osibogun had given his apologies for absence, as reported by Cllr. H. Mordue.

611/25 Reports from representatives on outside bodies

Members noted that no reports have been received.

612/25 Action list

Members reviewed the action report.

613/25 Mayoral engagements

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

23/01/26	Fix my street workshop
29/01/26	Opening of The Gallery Dental Studio
31/01/26	Brackley Road/ West St Residents Action Group meeting
13/02/26	Funeral of Mr Steven Heywood
19/02/26	Pancake Races
24/02/26	Installation of Dame Mary Archer as Chancellor of UOB
28/02/26	February Food Fair
02/03/26	STEM Outreach Launch Silverstone
03/03/26	Neighbourhood Plan reception
09/03/26	Commonwealth Flag Raising
11/03/26	RLS Discovery Centre 10 th Anniversary
14/03/26	Buckingham Summer Club Celebration

614/25 Chair's announcements - for information only

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Cllr. Davies announced that Dr Christopher Brown, a former General Practitioner in the town, a founding member of the Hospital League of Friends, a Friend of Buckingham, a well-known member of the community, and involved with the Rifles, had passed away.

Members observed a minute's silence in respect of Dr Brown.

615/25 Date of the next meetings:

Interim Council: Monday 20th April 2026

Annual Statutory Meeting: Monday 11th May 2026

Full Council: Monday 11th May 2026

The meeting closed at 20.59pm

Signed Date