

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 8th June 2026 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Allen	
Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
Cllr. L. Draper	Vice Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. H. Haydock	Chair
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. R. Newall	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. R. Poppe	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also present:

Ms. C. Molyneux	Town Clerk
Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Mrs. A. Benoy	Committee Clerk

Absent: Cllr. Ruth Newell

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

63/26 Election of Chair

Cllr. Draper Proposed Cllr. Haydock to be Chair, Seconded by Cllr. Davies. There being no other nominations, Members unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Haydock as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2026-2027. Thanks were given to Cllr. Draper for the last year as Chair. Cllr. Haydock took the Chair.

64/26 Apologies for absence

Members approved apologies for absence from Cllr. Ruth Newell, reason number 6, Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury.

65/26 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed Cllr. Draper to be Vice Chair, Seconded by Cllr. Davies. There being no other nominations, Members unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Draper as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for 2026-2027.

66/26 Declarations of interest

There were none.

67/26 Minutes

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Schaefer Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13th April 2026.

68/26 Budgets

Members noted the budget report.

69/26 Neighbourhood Frameworks (IMT) update.

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

The Town Clerk explained that this group had been set up by the NHS, with the full support of Buckingham Town Council, to look at ways of better achieving health related goals. The health professionals particularly wanted to focus on the issue of frailty and asked Buckingham Town Council to facilitate the meetings and connect with local community groups.

Cllr. Harvey proposed re-purposing two existing benches as Happy to Chat benches and the Town Clerk agreed to bring a report back to the next Environment Committee.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that the surgery be approached to see whether Community Health Hubs could be held in Buckingham. Town Clerk will check with local GPs for any updates.

Members recorded thanks to the Business and Community Engagement Officer for the report.

70/26 Compliments and Complaints

Cllr Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members received the Compliments and Complaints Log.

71/26 Memorial safety testing at Brackley Road Cemetery

Members received a report from the Senior Administrator.

1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report.

Members noted the report and complimented the Estates Manager on the sympathetic and sensible approach taken on identification of gravestone owners. The Estates Manager clarified that recent records are kept of graves and which stone masons have been used and appropriate advice is given if requested. Members recorded thanks to the Green Spaces Team for their work.

72/26 Christmas tree hole

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to repair the Christmas Tree hole at a cost of £4449.14 from EMR 355 Building Replacement and Repair.

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

ACTION: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members recorded thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk for the report.

73/26 Environment Agency proposals for riverbank in Bourton Park

Members received a report from the Senior Administrator.

It is recommended that Members:

- 1.1 Note the report.
- 1.2 Give delegated authority to the Town Clerk and Estates Manager to work with the Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire Council, The Buckingham & River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board, and other relevant organisations to support river restoration, pond improvements, habitat creation, tree management, and desilting works along section of the River Great Ouse, The Bourton Park Stream system and associated ponds.
- 1.3 Agree to issue a joint press release with the Environment Agency at an appropriate stage of the project.

Councillors welcomed the work to be carried out and funded by the Environment Agency.

Cllr. Davies thanked the Estates Manager and the Senior Administrator for the excellent report.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Newall Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations. **ACTION: SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR**

74/26 Mini tractor

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to the purchase of a 2-wheel tractor and 3 implements from Company A for the cost of £7,732 with the budget to be taken from EMR 354 - Machinery Replace and Repair.

Councillors thought this versatile piece of equipment was necessary, given the increasing amount of green space managed.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** this recommendation. **ACTION: ESTATES MANAGER**

75/26 Climate Emergency Action Plan

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

76/26 Action report

Councillors received the action reports and updates.

Regarding the seating strategy, Members raised the following points:

- Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Haydock will survey existing seating provision outside the town centre.

E/01/26

- The Town Clerk will contact the Buckingham Society about reserving space for a possible bench outside the Council Chamber.
- Two benches have been recovered from the Town Hall and can be used.

Regarding No Idling Zones, Members decided to revisit this in the autumn.

77/26 News releases.

None

78/26 Chair's Announcements – for information only.

The Chair highlighted Celebrate Buckingham Day on 20th June.

79/26 Date of next meeting: Monday 27th July 2026.

Meeting closed at 20.03pm

Chair Date