E/02/26

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 27th July 2026 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:	Cllr. T. Allen	
	Cllr. F. Davies	Town Mayor
	Cllr. L. Draper	Vice Chair (from Minute 173/26)
	Cllr. J. Harvey	
	Cllr. H. Haydock	Chair
	Cllr. A. Mahi	
	Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
	Cllr. R. Poppe	
	Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Also present:	Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
	Ms. Z. Taylor	Deputy Town Clerk
	Mrs. A. Benoy	Committee Clerk
Absent:	Cllr. Newall	
	Cllr. Schaefer	
	Cllr. Ruth Newell	

169/26 Apologies for Absence
Members received and approved apologies from Cllr. Newall, reason number 3, Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury.
Members received and approved apologies from Cllr. Schaefer, reason number 5, Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Harvey.
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170/26 Declarations of Interest
Cllr. Haydock is a Member of the Railway Walk group.

171/26 Minutes
Members unanimously **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 8th June 2026, Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue.

172/26 Budgets
Members received and noted the latest figures.

It was clarified that the 80% spent of the budget for Lace Hill Repair and Maintenance has been spent on the heating system and interior and exterior lighting.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Harvey Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** to ask the Estates Manager for a report to be brought to the next Environment committee meeting detailing the structural repairs and their cost carried out over the last 5 years to the Buckingham Community Centre and what is planned to be spent in the next fiscal year. **ACTION: ESTATES MANAGER**

7:15pm Cllr. Draper entered the chamber.

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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173/26 Shop Mobility

173/26.1 Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on New Scooters.

1.1 It is recommended that Members note the report which informs Members of the changes to the Shopmobility scooters following the failure of one of the existing scooters, and outlines the costs incurred and value achieved.

Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for the report. Cllr. Davies asked that SJ Mobility be thanked for their generosity in selling a nearly new scooter to the council for a low price and also a local family be thanked who donated a nearly new scooter to SJ Mobility, which was subsequently passed on to the council.

ACTION: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

173/26.2 Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on Hire and Terms.

1.1 Members are asked to approve the following updates to the Registration/Hire Form and Terms and Conditions

Proposed by Cllr. Draper, Seconded by Cllr. Davies and Members **AGREED** the recommendation**.**

174/26 Lace Hill Banners

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

1.1 It is recommended that Members approve the proposed update to the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre (LHSCC) Banner Policy.

The current policy charges £25 per month for not-for-profit organisations and £50 per month for all other businesses and organisations. Feedback suggests these charges are too high and therefore there is little to no uptake. It is therefore proposed that the policy be revised to charge commercial long-term hirers of LHSCC £10 per month, charitable and not-for-profit organisations £5 per month and all other businesses and organisations £25 per month.

Proposed by Cllr. Draper, Seconded by Cllr. Harvey and Members **AGREED** the recommendation. Cllr. Davies abstained.

ACTION: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

175/26 Railway Walk Group

Members received a report from the Senior Administrator.

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1.1 It is recommended that the Environment Committee notes the progress made in re-establishing the Railway Walk Conservation Group.

1.2 It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees that the Greenspaces Team and office continue to work in partnership with the Railway Walk Conservation Group to support practical conservation work along Railway Walk

1.3 It is recommended that the Environment Committee approves funding of £3,050 in total, with £2,240 coming from budget code 262/4276 and £810 to come from EMR 353. Which will be used for:

Public liability and contents insurance for the group (estimated £250 per annum)

The purchase of a secure tool shed (£2,300)

Equipment including wheelbarrows, first aid kit, padlock etc. (£500)

Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Draper and Members **AGREED** all recommendations**.** Cllr. Haydock abstained**.**

ACTION: SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Members thanked the Railway Walk group for their progress thus far and also the Senior Administrator and the Business and Community Engagement Officer for their work on the project.

176/26 Cemeteries and Allotments

176/26.1 Members received a report from the Estates Manager on Tingewick Road Cemetery.

It is recommended that Members agree to approve the Cemetery Handbook for Tingewick Road Cemetery

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree to allow the pre-purchase of burial plots at Brackley Road Cemetery once Tingewick Road Cemetery is opened.

1.2 It recommended that Members note the information in the report.

176/26.2 Members received the Tingewick Road Cemetery handbook.

176/26.3 Derrick Isham Allotments – to agree to raise a steering group.

The cemetery and allotments are likely to be open towards the end of September once the water has been connected. Cllr. Davies thanked the Estates Manager and the Green Spaces Team for everything they have done.

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Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and Members **AGREED** all recommendations. **ACTION: ESTATES MANAGER**

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177/26 Happy to Chat benches

Members received a report from the Senior Administrator.

1.1 It is recommended that Members approve the replacement of two 'Happy to Chat' plaques on existing benches located in Chandos Park and Riverside walk, at a cost of £47.20 per plaque, to be funded from budget 262 4101 Seats and Bins.

OR

1.2 It is recommended that Members approve the installation of two new 'Happy to Chat' plaques and the replacement of the existing two plaques, at a cost of £47.20 per plaque to be funded from budget 262 4101 Seats and Bins.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, Seconded by Cllr. O Donoghue and Members unanimously **AGREED** option 1.2.

ACTION: SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

178/26 Speed Indicator Device (SID) proposal for Buckingham

Members received a report from the Estate Manager.

1.1 It is recommended that Members agree to the proposal from the Brackley Road Action Group for Town Council's formal support and sponsorship for the installation of an interactive speed sign (Speed Indicator Device/ MVAS) on Brackley Road.

1.2 It is recommended that Members agree to allow the Greenspaces team to install the sign following the agreement from Highways

1.3 It is recommended that Members agree to budget £120 for future maintenance/replacement of batteries.

Cllr. Davies informed the committee that the Brackley Road Action Group have received a grant from Thames Valley Police to fund this. It was suggested that the Estates Manager write to the group re the siting of the sign suggesting that a second pole be installed on the other side of the road near Stowe Avenue making it possible for the sign to be moved to either side of the road as both East and West bound traffic needs to be reminded of their speed. Cllr Stuchbury will write to the other 2 county ward councillors and ask that they support this.

Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and Members **AGREED** the recommendations. **ACTION: ESTATES MANAGER**

179/26 Motion: Cllr. Allen

I propose that the Town Council undertakes a series of biodiversity surveys across its estate during the spring and summer. These surveys will provide this Committee with quality

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evidence to help inform future estate management decisions. Where possible, members of the public will be encouraged to take part in the surveys, helping to raise awareness of Buckingham's biodiversity.

Cllr. Allen spoke to the motion explaining that there is, currently, a UK wide survey being undertaken to monitor the quantity and type of Butterflies found. The survey is taking place in 3300 locations and over 90,000 people have responded so far. Butterflies are a good indicator of a hedgerow conditions, flower conditions, fauna conditions and changes to them over the years. The diversity survey in Buckingham would be conducted over a 5-year period starting in the spring and summer of 2027, where a respondent would go down same track, on the same route, monitoring what time of day it is and what the conditions are. They look at 5 metres either side of the path and record what is seen on an app but could also keep a paper record. This could lead on to a dragonfly and damselfly survey in the future.

Seconded by Cllr. Harvey and Members **AGREED**.

180/26 Action Report
Members received and action report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. Harvey updated Members on the seating survey. Cllr. Haydock and himself are mapping how many benches there are currently and how many there could be on roads leading to the Town Centre to be presented at a future Environment Committee meeting.

Cllr. Davies passed on a compliment about the town centre planting to the Estates Manager and the Green Spaces team.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Christmas tree hole has been completed.

181/26 News releases
None to report.

182/26 Chair's announcements – for information only.
The Chair hoped everyone had enjoyed the Fringe Week events.

183/26 Date of next meeting: Monday 12th October 2026

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION
Exclusion of public and press
RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded, Proposed by Cllr. Davies, Seconded by Cllr. Draper and Members **AGREED**.

184/26 Confidential Update
Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

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An insurance claim has been received and is being assessed by our insurance company.

8.20pm: Cllr. Draper left the meeting citing a conflict of interest.

Meeting closed at 8.29pm

Chair …… Date ……..

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