

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.
on **Monday 11th September 2017** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow,
Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Town Mayor
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

Also Present:

Mrs. K. McElligott	Planning Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk
Ms. G. Rhodes-White	Interim Director Children Services
Mr. C. Clare	County Councillor
Mr. W. Whyte	County Councillor

364/17 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Try, Bates, Hirons, P. Collins and Mrs. G Collins

365/17 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.
None

Members AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Ms. Rhodes-White to present.

366/17 Children's Home

To receive a presentation from Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr. Whyte explained to Members that Bucks County Council (BCC) had invested £2m to improve the provision of In-County Children's Homes and Buckingham was one of the four locations identified for investment. Ms. Rhodes-Whyte explained that BCC were hoping to create (in total) 20 new beds for children in care within the county. Two properties on Westfields, Buckingham have been identified as suitable for renovation and would provide care for (up to) 5 children, ranging from 11-18 years old, at any one time.

Ms. Rhodes-White explained that it was expensive and inappropriate to continue funding out of county children's homes where young people were at a distance from their families, friends and school. Children's Services had already begun consulting with the residents of Westfields and Ms. Rhodes-White **AGREED** to forward a copy of the letter to the Town Clerk.

ACTION Ms. RHODES-WHITE

Ms. Rhodes-White explained that it was BCC's wish to create a stable and harmonious environment for the children and that involved establishing good relationships with neighbours and the wider community. They wanted to ensure that local residents did not have a negative perception of the children's home. An Ofsted registered Manager would be responsible for the home at Westfields along with skilled and experience staff who would reside at the home 24 hours a day. Ms. Rhodes-White illustrated the stringent recruitment

process for hiring care staff and added that the Home Manager be responsible for more than one In-County Children’s Home but would be expected to spend ¼ of their time insitu. Ms. Rhodes-White explained that, as much as possible, the children would continue their education at their original school, though each case will be review separately and there may be situations where children need to be moved into the local Buckingham schools. Ms. Rhodes-White confirmed that the home would be subject to standard planning regulations and it was not likely to be open until May 2018. The Home would provide a safe residence for (up to) 5 children, regardless of gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. .

Following questioning from Members, Ms. Rhodes-White stated that Buckinghamshire compared favourably to its nearest statistical neighbours in terms of the number of children awaiting placement (currently 490). BCC were not expecting numbers to increase because of the early intervention work that was being undertaken. Members encouraged Ms. Rhodes-white to consult widely with Community Groups in Buckingham such as Churches Together, The Buckingham Society and The North Bucks Carers. It was **AGREED** Rhodes-White to forward the Town Clerk a list of the local services they had already been in consultation with.

ACTION MS RHODES-WHITE

Members thanked Ms. Rhodes-White for attending. All Members expressed a hope that the new provision would be a successful one and that the children and young people concerned would benefit greatly.

Ms Rhodes-White left the Chamber at 19.33

367/17 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Isham and **RECOMMENDED** to the Interim meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to consider whether the Council should apply for a judicial review.

Cllr Stuchbury spoke to the above recommendation stating that it was important for Members to consider whether it was financially viable for the Council to proceed with a judicial review and that any decision should be based on accurate costings. Members discussed and **AGREED** unanimously for the Town Clerk to approach a Barrister for the estimated cost of reviewing the Town Council’s case to see whether a judicial review would be worth pursuing or not, and for the information to be presented at the next Full Council.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr Mordue left the Chamber at 19.38

368/17 Chairman’s Announcements

Members **AGREED** to send a card to the lady injured during the incident at the Buckingham Market on Tuesday 5th September 2017.

ACTION PLANNING CLERK

Members expressed their thanks to all the Town Council staff that helped during the incident and to the Buckingham Bakery, Costa Coffee and The Kings Head for providing refreshments to those at the scene of the accident.

369/17 Date of next Meetings:

Full Council	Monday 2 nd October 2017
Interim Council	Monday 30 th October 2017

Meeting closed at 19.49 pm

Signed **Date**