

Minutes of a meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 23rd March 2009** in Room MB1 in the Masons Building, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. H. Mordue – Chairman

Cllr. H. Cadd
Cllr. Mrs G. Collins
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. Mrs P. Desorgher
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. R. Lehmann
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. Mrs R. Newell
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs P. Stevens
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. W. Whyte

Also present: Anne Wilson - Town Clerk
Chris Wayman – Deputy Town Clerk

Members had a presentation from the Anne Taylor of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) on keeping trade local before the Town Council Meeting.

3275/08 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note apologies from Councillor Loftus and Councillor Bloomfield.

3276/08 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that Cllr. Whyte declared an interest in agenda item 14 as he is a Trustee of the Old Gaol.

3277/08 Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes confirm the recommendations contained therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2009.

Cllr. Lehmann asked that although he liked the new format of the agenda that in future the order of the agenda be associated with the requirements under Standing Orders.

Councillors would also like to see who proposed and seconded motions contained within the minutes.

3278/08 Interim Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and the recommendations contained therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2009.

Councillor Stuchbury and Cllr. Isham asked that their names be attributed to comments they made under minute no. **3266/08**.

3279/08 Planning Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and the recommendations contained therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 9th February 2009.

FURTHER RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and recommendations contained therein on Monday 2nd March 2009 subject to the agreement of the Terms of Reference being deferred to the next meeting of Full Council to allow Councillor Lehmann's motion

“That this Council agrees that decisions relating to planning applications of substantial housing, retail and industrial developments, that will impact on the town, should be made by the Council and that the terms of reference of the Planning Committee be amended to reflect that recommendations must be made to the Council for housing applications for more than 20 units and any new retail and industrial developments.”

to be discussed fully before a decision can be made.

3280/08 Environment and Property Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and the recommendations contained therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 16th February 2009.

3281/08 Events Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and the recommendations contained therein of the Events Committee meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2009.

Cllr. Stuchbury expressed concern about the Events Committee paying for the hire of a room for their additional meetings. It was agreed that each committee should pay for their additional meetings out of their budgets.

It was agreed that this was something that the Finance and Administration Committee should

Members felt it was unfair that District and County officers charged the Town Council for their time if they attended joint meetings in Buckingham.

Cllr. Stuchbury reported that agenda no.: 17 terms of Reference for the Events Committee was not needed on the agenda as he was able to confirm that they had gone through full Council in December 2008.

Members however **RESOLVED** that the name of the Events Working Party be amended to Town Centre and Events Committee.

3282/08 Finance and Administration

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes and confirm the recommendations contained therein of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on Monday 9th March 2009.

Councillor Stuchbury pointed out that under minute no.: **498/08** the Town Clerk would be reporting to the Events Committee first with regard to markets before further discussion takes place.

3283/08 Appointment of Deputy Town Mayor

RESOLVED that Members confirmed the official appointment of the Deputy Town Mayor.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Buckingham Town Council alter its Standing Orders to appoint a Deputy Mayor/Vice-Chairman of the Town Council. His/her duties are to deputise for the Town Mayor as and when required.

FURTHER RESOLVED that any member who holds the post of Deputy Town Mayor cannot expect to automatically become Mayor – the two posts are separate offices.

3284/08 Aylesbury Vale Property Investment Project (AVPIP) – Proposed Joint Venture

RESOLVED that Members noted the attached correspondence from Aylesbury Vale DC with regard to the proposed extension to the Town Council offices and the provision of public toilets.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he had not replied to any of the questions contained within the letter from AVDC of the 12th February 2009.

The contents of the letter were found to be less than satisfactory by the Town Council given that the Community Centre is a community asset to the Town of Buckingham and the Town Council. The centre was funded initially by the Town Council, Buckingham Borough Development Company and a further funder of the third of the costs believed to be the District Council.

The Town Council did not agree that a joint venture partnership is the correct way forward for the community centre and felt that this would be detrimental to the town. Members agreed that community assets should stay local and not be in private ownership. The Council felt that there may be a morality issue at stake with the District Council selling local assets from under them and would work with them to carry this matter through in the best interest of the residents.

Members confirmed that the Town Council, having obtained planning permission, would progress the extension as soon as the right of passage issue is resolved but the Community Centre application was still in the progress of going through the system. The Town Council was not funding both extensions only their own. Therefore it was unlikely that the two schemes would run concurrently.

The Town Council has an existing 99 year lease which Aylesbury Vale DC has already agreed would be renewed on the same terms at the time the Town Council extension is completed. The Town Council understood that the lease cannot be broken without a two way agreement of the same. The Town Council was nervous about signing up to what is in effect a private company lease.

It was also noted and felt that another of the areas that may go into private funding was the swimming pool, again a local asset towards which the Town Council contributed a large sum of money. Again members asked what happens to the originals stakeholders in the provision of such services and why should local money fund private partnerships?

3285/08 Buckinghamshire County Council – Energy From Waste Initiative

RESOLVED that Members noted the latest update on this initiative.

3286/08 Thames Valley Police

RESOLVED that Members noted the attached information on the local crime figures for December 2008 and January 2009. The Town Clerk was asked to write for clarification on the different “AG” areas mentioned in the statistics.

3287/08 Flooding in Buckingham

RESOLVED that Members noted the attached correspondence from John Bercow MP with regard to the meeting with the Flood Defence Committee, the notes from the meeting held with Gary Dawson on the 24th February 2009 and a report from the Environment Agency with regard to Buckingham Flood alleviation Scheme.

Concern was expressed about the £700 charged by AVDC to residents to assist them in times of flooding. Cllr. Stuchbury stated that it is possible for a District Council to charge up to £700 so he was not surprised to see that Aylesbury Vale was charging the full £700. He felt it was like a tax on being flooded! Concern was also expressed about the lack of help for small businesses.

Councillor Stuchbury thanked John Bercow MP for all his work with regard to flooding. A further meeting was being held on the 2nd April to discuss flooding locally.

3288/08 Purchase of a new civic wig for the Town Clerk

RESOLVED that Members agreed to the purchase of a new civic wig for the Town Clerk at a cost of £ 495.00.

Members were not keen to purchase a wig stand to donate the old wig to the Town Museum.

3289/08 Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils Training

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Newell, Councillor Isham, Councillor Mahi and the Deputy Town Clerk would attend the bespoke training session on the “Roles and Responsibilities of Parish and Town Councils” .

3290/08 RBS Accounting Solutions

RESOLVED to confirm that Members agreed to purchase the following software from Rural Business Solutions:

- Earnie wages package at a cost of £175.00 plus £155 per annum maintenance and updates
- Year End closedown accounting services for the Town Council at a cost of £220 plus mileage (30p per mile)

3291/08 Terms of Reference for the Events Committee

RESOLVED that Members noted that the Terms of Reference for the Events Committee had in fact been confirmed under minute no.: 3218.4 of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 15th December.

3292/08 Town Council Offices Extension

Councillor Lehmann proposed “That this Council accepts that the residents of Buckingham should know the detail of the costs of the Council extension and public toilets before the Council takes its decision whether to proceed or not.”

Cllr. Lehmann stated that he understood the sensitivity of the situation but felt that the residents of the town should be kept fully informed and he currently felt that there was no transparency or clarity in the process.

Cllr. Stuchbury said that he understood that it was a tender situation but he too felt that the costs should be put to the public. Cllr. Mordue responded by stating that the results of the tender process would be evaluated by the Property Committee and further questions needed to be asked. Once the tenders have been agreed by Council then the name of the company appointed would be in the public domain. Cllr. Whyte stated that for a fair process and democratic decision to take place then the name of the tenderers had to be kept confidential at this stage. Cllr. Mordue stated that the contract could be awarded until all the legal issues are resolved but he assured those present that this was a positive redrawn proposal taking into account the wishes of the residents to incorporate public toilets and that the public would be kept informed.

Cllr. Lehmann proposed and Cllr. Newell seconded the proposal above. There were two in favour of the motion and ten against the motion.

3293/08 Report on the Practitioners Conference

RESOLVED that Members noted the report from Chris Wayman, Deputy Town Clerk with regard to the SLCC Practitioners Conference he attended in February 2009.

3294/08 AVDC Consultation on Funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector for 2010-2013

RESOLVED that Members asked the Town Clerk to write to AVDC with regard to the funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector asking them to ensure that all local groups are told about the funding.

3295/08 AVDC Core Strategy and Direction of Housing Growth at Aylesbury – Decision Making Process

RESOLVED that Members noted the letter with regard to the Core Strategy Document.

3296/08 Lions Club – Message in a Bottle

RESOLVED that Members noted the information with regard to the Message in a Bottle Scheme and suggested that the Town Clerk contact the Lions Club asking them to write a short article that could be placed on the Town Council website.

3297/08 Parish Paths Partnership

RESOLVED that Members noted the paperwork with regard to the Parish Paths Partnership.

3298/08 Aylesbury Area Consultation on Schools

RESOLVED that Members noted the response from BCC with regard to the Aylesbury Area Consultation on Schools in relation to Buckingham.

The Town Clerk was asked to write in response to this consultation why Buckingham children are not given first choice to attend the local schools. It was acknowledged that Members were very disappointed that local children were bussed out to other towns for education.

3299/08 Buckingham County Council

RESOLVED that Members noted the following Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting Orders for various roads in Buckingham.

Members were disappointed that both their and the police's comments had been ignored with regard to the positioning of a taxi rank in the lay by by the old gaol. It was noted that the lines for this rank were already in and traffic wardens had already given out tickets. This could affect the Charter Fair.

Members also asked that any amendments made in the Conservation Areas be made sympathetically e.g. thin yellow lines.

3300/08 NALC and DEFRA Funded Initiatives

RESOLVED that Members noted the report with regard to new funding available for Local Councils and acknowledges its benefits to Buckingham Town Council, a Quality Council.

3301/08 Standards Committee

RESOLVED that Members noted the agenda and supporting papers for the AVDC Standards Committee Meeting for their meeting on the 9th March 2009.

3302/08 Accounts

RESOLVED that members received and confirm the schedule of accounts for payment and the invoices paid in between meetings

3303/08 Car Parking in Buckingham

Councillor Stuchbury updated members on his concerns with regard to car parking in the town and stated that the Town Council had been offered a meeting with Cllr. McPartland and two officers at AVDC. The Town Clerk would be arranging this. He continued by stating that as Aylesbury Vale had announced no increase in the Vale for car parks then he would be querying why there was an increase proposed in the amount that the Town Council paid toward the free parking in Cornwall's Meadow car park.

Cllr. Smith stated that he sees car parking as a local authority essential service integral to any transport strategy and therefore innovative parking structures need to be applied. Cllr. Isham stated that he did not necessarily agree with free parking as all the Town Council were doing was trying to help traders in the town and not take into consideration the much needed additional parking for shoppers, visitors or locals.

Cllr. Whyte stated that the Buckingham Plan sees charging for car parking as managing the space.

Cllr. Stuchbury also stated that the traders had also asked for a meeting with AVDC with regard to parking issues in Buckingham.

3304/08 Members Allowances

RESOLVED to confirm that that the Members Allowance for the 2008/2009 Council Year will be £480.00.

3305/08 Invitation to the next Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED that Marcus Busby be invited to a future Full Council meeting to make a presentation on "What next for Buckingham?" subject to their being new information available.

3306/08 District Councillors and County Councillors

RESOLVED that there were no comments from District and County Councillors.

3307/08 Reports from representatives on Outside Bodies

RESOLVED that Members received reports from representatives on outside bodies from the following organisations:

- Buckingham Community Centre
- Twinning Association

The reports of the NAG and the Buckingham Economic Partnership would be e mailed out to all Members.

3309/08 Correspondence.

RESOLVED that Members noted the following correspondence received by the Town Council and agreed action where necessary.

- NHS Oxfordshire – Introduction to the Better Healthcare Programme Buckinghamshire Local Involvement Network (previously copied to Cllr's. – 9th Feb)
- Buckingham New Start
- AVDC – News for the Parishes (previously circulated to Cllr's.)

3310/08 Removal of the public payphone – Westfields, Tingewick Road

RESOLVED that Members noted the correspondence by way of a reply to our letter dated 5th February 2009 with regard to the removal of a public payphone.

3311/08 Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards 2009

RESOLVED that Members would nominate PCSO Steve Staley for the Thames Valley Police Awards.

3312/08 Newsletters, Magazines and Items of Interest for Members

RESOLVED that Members noted that the following correspondence is available for members in the offices:

- NALC - Local Council Review Magazine - March 2009
- Wyntock Ltd - Health and Safety News
- BCC Buckingham Area Newsletter
- Options for the Well Street Centre
- Aylesbury Town Council – Aylesbury Town Matters
- BCC – Buzz Youth Magazine
- Standards Board - Town and Parish Standard
- Drug Awareness –
- The Spire - St Peters and Paul Church magazine
- MK18 – connecting local people and local businesses
- European Union - en inforegio
- Direct Information Service no.'s 702 and 703
- Zurich Municipal Insurance – Court Circular March 2009
- Helen and Douglas House News
- ME Essential – Magazine of the ME Society
- Zurich Municipal Insurance - News and Views

3313/08 Decisions on Planning applications

RESOLVED that in light of the Planning Terms of Reference being deferred for confirmation that Cllr. Lehmann would defer the proposal of the following motion.

“That this Council agrees that decisions relating to planning applications of substantial housing, retail and industrial developments, that will impact on the town, should be made by the Council and that the terms of reference of the Planning Committee be amended to reflect that recommendations must be made to the Council for housing applications for more than 20 units and any new retail and industrial developments.”

3314/08 End of Year Accounts 2008

Following the visit of the RBS accountant on Friday 19th March 2009 it has been found that an item needs amending and approving with regard to the Community Plan - Circular Walk Account as the issue relates to the financial year ending 31st March 2008.

On the 31st March 2008, there was a transfer of £19681.25 shown between the Current Account Cash Book and the Circular Walk Cash Book. This transfer had never been reflected through the actual Bank Accounts, resulting in the Current Account Cash Book showing an unrepresented payment of £19681.25 and the Circular Walk Cash Book showing an unreceived receipt of £19681.25

RESOLVED that members noted that it had been established that the transfer should have been made, by reference to the previous Clerk, and that the Town Council approves the transfer between the Bank Accounts.

3315/08 Mayors Announcements

The Town Mayor reminded those present that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre.

3316/08 Date of the next meeting: Interim Council - Monday 20th April 2009
Full Council - Monday 11th May 2009

3317/08 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED 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, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

Signed Date
Town Mayor

Amendment made to minutes at the meeting before ratification:

Min. no. 3281/08

Councillor Stuchbury asked that the minutes reflect the fact that it was agreed that an item needs to be placed on the Finance and Administration Committee agenda to consider from which budget or committee budgets the cost of the hiring of a room for a meeting should be coded to.