

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. H. Cadd  
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. R. Lehmann  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell                      Town Mayor  
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try  
Cllr. W. Whyte

**In attendance:** Mr. C. P. Wayman                      Town Clerk  
Mrs. K. McElligott

**137/12            Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllr. D. Isham for absence and Cllr. H. Mordue for late arrival.

**138/12            Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**139/12            Annual Statutory Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012. **(BTC/01/12)**

**140/12            Full Council Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012. **(BTC/02/12)**  
Cllr. Stuchbury added that AVDC had agreed Transition Towns' garden (15/12).

**141/12            Interim Minutes**

Members noted that the Interim Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 was cancelled due to lack of business to transact.

**142/12            Annual Town Meeting**

To receive the draft minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for information.  
The Mayor asked that a full attendance list be added.

**ACTION THE CLERK**

*Cllr. Mrs. Collins arrived.*

**143/12            Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 **(PL/01/12)** and Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 **(PL/02/12)**.

(96/12) Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **RECOMMENDED** that the parts of the Industrial Parks outside the parish boundary, and  
Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith, and **RECOMMENDED** that the old allotment field between the bypass and Lockmeadow Farm outside the parish boundary be included in the area boundary for Neighbourhood Plan purposes, with the agreement of the appropriate parish councils

**AGREED**

**144/12 Environment and Property Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment and Property Committee meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 **(EP/01/12)**.

(79/12) **Recommendation:** That Members agree to proceed with the works to extend the cemetery and the funds (£5,398.30) be taken from the Contingencies budget (125/4500).

**AGREED**

(83/12) Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that the Council accept all five recommendations while recognising that rolling all five out would take time and money which had not been budgeted for.

Recommendations:

1. That this Council does something to help the 250 households (or so) in Buckingham who are experiencing fuel poverty.
2. That this Council invites the local CAB to write a short article on how to tackle fuel poverty and about the support they offer. And then we publish this in our September edition of our newsletter to the town.
3. That the Town Clerk be asked to explore, given the parameters of the new Localism Act, whether we might be able to offer grants (directly or indirectly via a local grant making body) to local householders in fuel poverty to help them better insulate their homes and reduce their costs and report back in time to adjust the precept for next year.
4. That the Town Clerk be asked to write to several utility providers ('Big Six' plus the Cooperative Energy, plus several others) to ask them if they will sign up to the 'Buckingham Town Promise on Energy Supply'.  
If they agree to this – the Council will then broadcast this information for local residents to see and therefore elect to switch supplies to them. The Buckingham Town Promise would be a commitment by the energy provider to limited range of postcodes that they will always provide gas or electricity at the lowest possible tariff to reduce costs to the customer.
5. That the Town Clerk be asked to write to Brackley Community and Bicester Leisure Centres (<http://www.buckinghamtoday.co.uk/news/solar-panels-on-the-way-for-bicester-leisure-centre-1-3566182>) for a copy of the proposals whereby they recently installed solar panels onto their roof so that the funding, benefits and other arrangements behind this initiative can be understood, and that this matter be reviewed at the earliest opportunity to consider a strategy on solar panels for the Community Centre; also that this totemic change be used as a vehicle to help local residents see the value of renewable energy sources as a way to tackle fuel poverty.

**AGREED**

**145/12 Town Centre and Events Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 **(TCE/01/12)**.

Proposed by Cllr. Hiron, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **RECOMMENDED** unanimously that the Council purchase a German flag, cost to be advised.

After some discussion, Members agreed that the acquisition of a German flag would be a courtesy, voting 10 for the recommendation with 3 abstentions.

**ACTION TC&E COMMITTEE**

**146/12 Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 **(FAP/01/12)**.

*Cllr. P. Collins arrived during the following item.*

**147/12 Motion from Cllr. Stuchbury:**

That this Council implement the following policies to ensure the long-term benefit of the town:

- 1) Consider financial uplift as well as sites and policies within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2) Seek to allocate employment sites as a priority over housing sites in the same plan.
- 3) Develop affordable-housing allocation policies (in the same plan or elsewhere) that reflect local need fairly.

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan seeks to place 1000 new homes in Buckingham yet the town's interests are not in accordance with this growth requested, and will not be until it generates funding to meet public needs. We must be observant of this and start to develop policies and proposals to deal with these strategic community matters. Democratic power rests within Aylesbury on these matters, both in Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council but there is not to date an indication of how the New Homes Bonus that this growth generates will be spent locally. The Town Council's Town Plan Officer is working on a Neighbourhood Plan and this represents an opportunity to have our say on these matters. I therefore propose that the Neighbourhood Plan considers not only allocations but also how the financial uplift of developments is spent, both in terms of Community Infrastructure Levy and New Homes Bonus.

I also propose that employment sites should take precedence over new housing sites so that jobs are readily available to people taking up residence in future housing developments.

Affordable housing for local people has been an issue that has already been identified in work so far. I therefore propose that in order to take this forward, the Town Council develop our own policies of how to allocate locally and fairly according to needs. These measures will ensure that Buckingham's development will benefit all of the local populace instead of nobody as is the case currently.

Members discussed the motion, deploring the lack of attention to employment sites and feeling that AVDC's job creation figures were lamentable. Cllr. Stuchbury requested that the motion and result be sent to the Cabinet Member for Development for her information. He also called for a Recorded Vote; however Members voted unanimously for the motion.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**148/12 Annual Accounts**

To agree the Accounting Statement for Buckingham Town Council and to agree the Annual Governance Statement

Members discussed the Annual Statement and the Town Clerk answered questions. The Fixed Assets had been revalued and thus a more accurate, and lower, total was now recorded.

**AGREED** unanimously.

**149/12 Code of Conduct**

To receive the NALC Legal Briefing and to agree whether to adopt the NALC template Code of Conduct.

It was suggested that adopting the template was better than drawing up a Town Council Code.

Concern was expressed about the definition of co-opted members which seemed to exclude Members co-opted on to the Full Council following a resignation or election with an insufficient number of candidates for seats. Recognition should be made of the difference between this type of co-option, and the invitation to lay members on to a committee.

The Town Clerk outlined the necessity of including the relevant pecuniary interests of partners (including civil partners) and spouses in the Register; failure to disclose would be a criminal offence, and thus it was better to disclose than not in cases of doubt. The new Code of Conduct would run from 1<sup>st</sup> July, and the Register of Interests would be published both on the Town Council and District Council websites. In answer to a question about breaches of disclosure, the Town Clerk said that under general legislation, it behove a citizen to report any crime he believed to have been committed. In due course it might be that the District Council would form a Standards

Board to look after its constituent Parish Councils. A modified form would be sent to Councillors as soon as possible.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**150/12 2012 Committee selections and address list.**

Noted. Cllr. Harvey added that since the agenda had been sent out, the Communications Strategy Group had met; he had been elected Chairman and Cllr. Try Vice-Chairman.

*Cllr. Harvey left the meeting briefly during the following item.*

**151/12 Tourism in the Vale**

To receive information from Cllr. Stuchbury;

151.1 to discuss the imbalance of investment in supporting tourism in different parts of the Vale, given the distribution of actual visitor figures;

151.2 and to note information on the benefits brought to the area by Silverstone

Cllr. Stuchbury drew attention to the Visitor Economy Action Plan's focus on Aylesbury and disregard of the remainder of the Vale, where there were many – and increasingly – popular tourist attractions. It was noted that all the key attractions listed that were outside Aylesbury had shown an increase in visitor figures, despite all charging for admission, whereas the Bucks. County Museum, in Aylesbury, had shown a decrease of approximately 22%. Silverstone was not mentioned, even though much of the circuit was in the Vale – he contrasted S. Northants readily available information and its promotion of the local area which brought massive economic benefits – and in his opinion the budget should be spent to promote the whole Vale area.

Members thanked Cllr. Stuchbury for bringing this matter to their attention, noting that Silverstone had events throughout the summer, and conference facilities which were also used in winter months. Apart from the events such as the Buckingham Summer Festival which featured internationally known artistes, and the Town Council-sponsored events, which drew large numbers of people to the town, the countryside and its villages were as attractive as those of the Cotswolds; the Chilterns were not the only pleasant parts of the County. Much more could be done to promote the hotels and other facilities like farm shops in the north of the Vale, and destinations such as Bletchley Park as well as Stowe and the other National Trust properties. The Buckingham Visitor Information Centre was not included, though its footfall had increased over the last year. The other towns and parishes also contributed to the tourist economy; without comprehensive figures for the whole Vale, how could an Action Plan be drawn up and spending be appropriately allocated?

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Smith, that this Council recommends this report be referred back for significant revision to emphasise the huge economic and tourism potential of Silverstone and including investments made by Buckingham Town Council and other town and parish councils in the District, and to produce a prioritised Action Plan which will address these issues and produce results of benefit to all of the Vale; and that this Council submits that any alternative to this action will damage the lives and prosperity of the people of the Vale and our entire economy.

**AGREED.**

It was also agreed that a letter to this effect be sent to the Chief Executive, and an answer pursued if not immediately forthcoming.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**152/12 (883/11) Housing Allocation Policy**

Members discussed the response to the letter sent after the Interim Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to ascertain the extent that the current developments meet the housing need in Buckingham.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

**153/12 (17/12) Well Street Centre**

Members discussed the response to the letter sent after last Full Council, noting that 28 clients could be accommodated at any one time, but more sessions would be offered so that a larger total would be catered for. Cllr. Harvey would have liked to know how the plans were adapted consequent to the consultation with clients.

The Town Clerk was asked to monitor progress and changes on a regular basis.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK**

*Cllr. Mahi left the meeting briefly during item 154.3*

**154/12 Correspondence**

154.1 Olympic Torch relay – letter to residents.

Members were concerned that the public was encouraged to be in place two hours beforehand. The Town Clerk pointed out that the preceding convoy was expected 1½ hours before the torch. Liaison over barriers, toilets and other essential considerations had not been of the best. Many of the schools were giving pupils the option of time off to attend with their parents as they had insufficient staff cover for all. Criticism was also levied at the lack of locally-based torch-bearers (in Buckingham these are an American, a noted fund-raiser from Aylesbury and a Vodaphone employee). Mr. Jansz is part of the Paralympic torch event in Stoke Mandeville.

154.2 Watercourse Management Programme for 2012/2013

154.3 Aylesbury Vale Corporate Plan

Members noted, that once again, this was essentially Aylesbury-centred, rather than for the whole Vale. AVDC seemed happy if only half of residents said they were satisfied; Members would like to see the figures for how many Buckingham residents expressed a positive view of the District Council. It was agreed that a letter be sent.

**ACTION CLLR. SMITH/ TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk was asked to find out if BCC had published its Corporate Plan yet.

154.4 Buckingham Twinning Association Newsletter Spring 2012

Cllr. Whyte regretted that the Bastille Day Boules had had to be brought forward a day to avoid a conflict of use on the Cattle Pens.

154.5 B&W CAB; invitation to AGM. *Members were asked to book individually if they wished to attend.*

154.6 Matters Arising Spring 2012

154.7 The Playing Field Spring 2012

154.8 Environment Agency – notification that the permit has been issued for the Greatmoor EfW facility.

Members noted the other correspondence.

**155/12 To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Members noted the report from Cllr. Stuchbury. Cllr. Cadd had been on leave and had nothing to report.

**156/12 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

There were none.

**157/12 Mayoral Engagements**

Members noted the information listed on the agenda.

**158/12 News releases**

The Tourism Report (min.151/12) was agreed.

**159/12 Chair's Announcements**

There were none.

**160/12 Dates of next meetings**

Interim Council – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012

Full Council – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor