

E/01/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Working Group** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 14th June 2021 at 7pm online via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley Town Mayor
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. S. Hetherington (from minute 121/21)
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Osibogun
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. A. Schaefer
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. W. Whyte
Cllr. R. Willett

In attendance: Mr. L. Phillips Green Spaces Manager
Mr P Hodson Town Clerk
Caroline Cornell Buckinghamshire Councillor
Mrs N. Stockill Committee Clerk

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session

115/21 Election of Chair

To elect a Chair for 2021-22
Proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Ralph to appoint Cllr. Whyte as Chair of the Environment Working Group for 2021/22.

Cllr. Harvey declined a nomination from Cllr. Willett.

As there were no further nominations a vote was taken and the results were:
9 in favour
Abstentions: 1

116/21 Election of Vice Chair

To elect a Vice Chair for 2021-22
Cllr. Harvey declined a nomination from Cllr. O'Donoghue

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Gateley and unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Schaefer as Vice-Chair of the Environment Working Group for 2021/22.

117/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Ahmed.

118/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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RATIFIED

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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.

Initial

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119/21 Minutes

Members received and **AGREED** the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021 and received at Full Council on the 17th May 2021.

120/21 Action Report

Members received the updated Action Report.

(1078/20) New Cemetery – The Town Clerk informed Members that a solicitor had been instructed to progress with the purchase of allotment and cemetery land at Tingewick Road. It was noted that further updates would be brought to the Working Group.

(897/20) Clarence Park Ramp – Members noted Taylor Wimpey’s response from the 25th May 2021 and requested the office to chase for any further updates. The Town Clerk **AGREED** to forward information to Cllr. Cornell to progress.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

121/21 Budgets

Councillors received and noted the latest figures.

Cllr. Hetherington joined the meeting at this point in the agenda.

Cllr. Whyte asked for a future agenda item on the maintenance of the ford in Ford Street.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

122/21 Motion – Cllr. Harvey

With regards to people, especially women, feeling safe in our parks and green spaces: to discuss the current provision of street lighting and decide whether to explore putting in extra illumination.

Cllr. Harvey spoke to the above motion asking for a review of the town’s parks and open spaces, in consultation with residents, to help identify areas that require more illumination. Cllr. Stuchbury said the review should encompass an assessment of the energy efficiency of the Town Council’s street lighting.

Cllrs. Schaefer and Whyte spoke in support of the motion and suggested that TVP’s local neighbourhood team are asked to identify any ‘problem areas’ in Buckingham’s parks that may benefit from additional lighting. Cllr. Schaefer stressed that any new installations should have reduced light spill, meaning they lights up roads and pavements better rather than escaping upwards or shining into people's homes or gardens.

Cllr. O’Donoghue asked for the report to take into account residential areas bordering Bourton Park.

The Estates Manager reported that the Town Council were only responsible for lighting columns in Chandos Park, where all bulbs were replaced in 2019 with LEDs, using far less electricity and directing the light down and along the path where required reducing light pollution as opposed to the old lanterns. Any recommendations for additional lighting columns could be recommended to

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Highways, who own the majority of street lighting columns across the town including through Bourton Park.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to recommend that the office conduct a consultation on the current provision of streetlights across Buckingham and to bring a report to a future meeting of the Working Group identifying the implications of installing additional street lighting in new locations across the town.
ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

123/21 Draft Community Flood Plan

Members received and discussed the draft Community Flood Plan. The following recommendations were made:

- Transport for Bucks should be listed under the section 'Role and Responsibilities'.
- A practice drill should be arranged to ensure Community Flood Wardens can be fully prepared for an event.
- Cllr. Osibogun asked for a walking tour of the areas worst affected during the December 2020 floods. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**
- Community Flood Coordinator - This role will be undertaken by the Buckingham Town Council Clerk or in their absence the Deputy Town Clerk or Estates Manager in that descending order. Whilst this role is during office hours, officers of the Town Council may undertake the role outside of office hours. In the extreme situation where an officer of Buckingham Town Council cannot fulfil this role, the role will be undertaken by Buckinghamshire Council Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO).
- A Working Group could be established to review the Flood Response Plan annually in conjunction with key stakeholders such as Buckinghamshire Council, the Environment Agency, the University of Buckingham and Anglian Water.
- Surface water drainage and over capacity storm drains should be referenced within the report.
- An action plan should be created, detailing the enactment of the Community Flood Plan and focussing on the communication of its objectives.
- The capacity of water catchment system needs review, including areas such as the sluice gates in Bourton Meadow. The Town Council needs to engage with stakeholders to ensure that any work to desilt river banks or sluice gates is paid for by the correct responsible authority.

Members recommended that the report to be retitled as the 'Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan'
ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Whyte said once the draft section 19 report was published in draft it would be a good time to compose a working group and reflect any changes to the flood plan.

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of Terry Cavender's report to Members on the options for surface water and watercourses in Buckingham (min 1067.1/20) and explained that Buckinghamshire Council had agreed to review his proposals for the town's drainage channels within the Section 19 report.

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Proposed by Cllr. Whyte, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to note the draft Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan and recommend to establish a Working Group after the publication of Buckinghamshire Council's Section 19 report. The Working Group would include representatives from all local stakeholders and their remit would be to review the Section 19 report and reflect any changes within the draft Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Members recommended that the Town Clerk write to Buckinghamshire Council asking when the section 19 might be published.

CLERK

ACTION TOWN

124/21 Bucks Health Trust

Members received and discussed a response from Greg Smith MP regarding Buckingham Community Hospital, which was a follow up to early correspondence.

Cllr Whyte requested that specific evidence on any recent change of service delivery would be helpful before a further response from the town council.

Cllr. Davies raised concern that the response did not address the specific question as to whether there were any plans to make changes to the pattern of service at Buckingham Hospital. Cllr. Whyte noted that the Committee on the 29th March 2021 had reviewed a response from Greg Smith MP citing that, at present, there are no plans to make substantial changes to the pattern of services Buckingham Hospital, and this includes the inpatient services provided there (minute 1194/20). Members accepted that the most recent correspondence originated from Councillors' concerns that key functions of the community hospital had been withdrawn on the quiet.

Cllr. Hetherington recalled a personal experience where the Swan Practice had incorrectly said there was no chest x-ray facilities at Buckingham Hospital.

Proposed by Cllr. Hetherington, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to recommend that the Town Clerk liaise with Cllr. Hetherington and form a response, citing Cllr. Hetherington's personal experience. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

125/21 Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Pilot

Members received an update on the pilot and noted that the office will follow up with any future developments.

126/21 Holocaust Memorial Stone

The Estates Manager explained that due to their increased workloads during the pandemic there have not been any expressions of interest in this particular commission from local memorial stonemasons. The general feeling has been limited interest in this kind of work from them. A local sculptor has expressed an interest in the commission and an appropriate sized piece of limestone has been located at Brackley Road cemetery. The location of the memorial stone has not been agreed and would need to be decided between the Estates Manager, the mason and the Environment Working Group. A report would be brought back to a future meeting of Environment to consider costs for commissioning the piece, the location, transport and installation.

127/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members received and discussed an updated version of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Members **AGREED** to recommend the following suggestions from Cllrs. Whyte and Ralph:

Cllr. Whyte - Review rainwater harvesting on the Brackley Road Cemetery Chapels.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Cllr. Ralph – Arrange a 2022 tree planting event with the Buckingham Society to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Commonwealth Canopy Project.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

128/21 Repair Café

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED** to recommend that the Town Council support the proposal to set up a repair café in Buckingham in the ways proposed, ie:

It is recommended that the Town Council agree to help the group setting up in terms of:

- Holding the finances for specific projects to help establish the group whilst it is getting established (estimated to be approximately a year).
- Assist in the application for sources of funding and assistance from other organisations to get the group set up.
- Provide help in the promotion of the group via social media.

ACTION ESTATES ADMIN

129/21 Recycling provision for Council premises

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Manager.

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously **AGREED to recommend:**

- to provide a mixed recyclables 1100l wheeled bin to be located in the bin store at Lace Hill Community centre and pay for collections on a fortnightly basis at a cost of £328.50 per year (budget 205/4033).
- to fund the provision of 6 bins for the collection of recyclables within the town council's properties at a purchase price of £289.86 (budget 102/4013).

130/21 Park Furniture

The Estates Manager reported on the following updates to street furniture in the town. The benches are being funded through Buckinghamshire Council's Buckingham and Villages Community Board:

- 4x Picnic benches
- 2 x Benches outside the Old Gaol
- 1x Bench along new wildflower walk next to river in Bourton Park
- 1 x Circular Tree bench in Chandos Park
- 1 x Additional litter bin near the MUGA in Bourton Park
- 2 x Litter (pole) bins on the London Road and Tingewick Road
- 7 x recycled plastic litter bins for Brackley Road cemetery

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131/21 #QuickLitterPick

Members noted a written report from the Estates Administrator and **AGREED** to recommend to seek to promote the Quick Litter Pick initiative through outside organisations.

132/21 Hydroelectric power

Members received and discussed a written report from the Estates Administrator and unanimously **AGREED** to recommend that the Town Clerk refer the matter to the Pontio group to enquire as to whether the University of Buckingham has reconsidered utilising Tanlaw Mill for the generation of hydroelectric power. Members **AGREED** to recommend that that no actions are taken to further explore hydroelectric power on the Town Council's estate.

133/21 Community Right to Bid

Members **AGREED** to recommend that the Council to submit a request for Buckingham Athletic Club to be registered as an asset of community interest for a further five years

ACTION TOWN CLERK

134/21 Greenspaces Compliments & Complaints Log

Members received and noted the 6-monthly updated log.

135/21 Access Awareness

Councillors noted that Cllr. R Willett was the group's representative on the Access4All Group and would report to Environment, under this standing agenda item, on any relevant updates from meetings of the Access4All group.

136/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project (BCWP)

Cllr. Gateley informed Members that the next meeting of the BCWP was the 26th July - preceding the next meeting of the Environment Working Group.

137/21 News Releases

Members **AGREED to recommend** for the office to issue a press release on the draft Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan.

ACTION COMMUNICATIONS CLERK

138/21 Chair's Announcements

139/21 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 26th July 2021

140/21 CONFIDENTIAL 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. **AGREED**

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141/21 Tingewick Road Green Spaces Update

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the management of the Tingewick Road Green spaces. Cllr. Whyte asked for a map outlining the scope of the land being discussed for transfer to be provided to members.

Meeting closed at: 21.04

Chair

Date