

BTC/08/21

Minutes of an **Extra Ordinary meeting of the Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

Present: Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. M. Gateley Town Mayor/Chair
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. S. Hetherington
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. A. Schaefer
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try
Cllr. R. Willett

Via Zoom: Cllr. M. Cole JP

Also present: Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk
 Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

Public Session

A member of public, who has put himself forward as a host for refugees from Ukraine, suggested that separate networks of support are needed for hosts and refugees.

A local church leader noted that it was heartening that so much support has been offered by the people of Buckingham. He raised the point that refugees will need a place to socialise and to worship.

A member of the public, who runs the community lunch in the parish church on Tuesdays, has arranged a Ukrainian lunch on April 5th and surplus proceeds will go to an appropriate fund. She told the Committee that refugees would be welcome to share this lunch every week.

A member of public, who has set up a local support group which is meeting on Thursday 24th March, shared the aim of putting together a directory of key people for refugees.

Cllr. Gateley thanked the members of public for their valuable contributions.

Public session ended 19:20

748/21 Apologies for Absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Whyte and Cllr. Ahmed, and received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Cole for not being physically present.

749/21 Declarations of Interest

There were none

750/21 Ukrainian Refugees

Members received and discussed a verbal update from the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Gateley, and the Town Clerk.

Members received and discussed a written report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Gateley read out the Town Clerk's report for the benefit of the public.

Members made several recommendations:

- Meeting refugees' immediate needs: toiletries, sanitary products, toys/games for children.
- Creating a central point where resources can be collected.
- Using the Buckingham Town Council website as an information hub.
- Creating a social register for resources that will be needed prior to the arrival of refugees.
- Allocating mobile phones and sim cards to every family.
- Linking with other local towns hosting refugees.
- Creating a support network for hosts.
- Contacting Buckinghamshire Council to discuss plans for host families and safeguarding.

The Town Clerk will speak to Joanna Ford before the meeting on Thursday and will ensure that the website is updated with information. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members discussed the recommendations in the Town Clerk's report:

750.1.1 For officers and Councillors to be fully involved in any discussions about responses to the situation and support for refugees.
Members unanimously **AGREED** to add 'include discussions with Buckinghamshire council'. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

750.1.2 For the Town Clerk to provide free use of Council premises where this is possible, following discussion with the Mayor, where this would support planning for or provision of support for Ukrainian refugees, up to the Interim Meeting of the Council to be held on 9th May 2022.
Members unanimously **AGREED**.

750.1.3 For up to £4,000 of the Council's Future Planning budget 132 4500 to be used to fund immediate expenses to arrange for support for refugees if needed. For such funding decisions to be delegated to the Town Clerk to make in liaison with the Mayor.
Members unanimously **AGREED**.

750.1.4 For the Town Council to consider any further responses during the

Interim Meeting of the Council scheduled for 9th May 2022.
Members unanimously **AGREED**.

750.1.5 For Members to consider any other appropriate responses.
Members unanimously **AGREED**.

751/21 Chair's Announcements

Cllr. Gateley thanked members of the public and councillors for attending this evening.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday at 7pm and informed members that details of the meeting at The New Inn on Thursday will be circulated via email.

752/21 Date of the next meetings:

Informal meeting 28th March 2022

Full Council 28th March 2022

Special meeting 9th May 2022

Meeting closed at: 19:56

Signed Date

Town Mayor