

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. S. Hetherington
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. W. Whyte Chair

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

Public Session

Two members of the public attended and expressed concerns about pollution and noise levels on the A421, A422 and A413. They have contacted DEFRA and Environmental Health but feel that responses were inadequate (responses have been circulated by Cllr. Stuchbury). A letter has been written to Greg Smith MP and a holding letter has been received.

Cllr. Whyte thanked the members of public for attending and proposed swapping items four and five on the agenda so the members of public could listen to the Town Council's discussion. Members agreed.

822/21 Apologies for absence

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Willett, and Cllr. O'Donoghue.

Members received apologies from the Estates Manager and the Estates Administrator.

823/21 Declarations of interest

There were none.

824/21 Minutes

Members received and agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28th February 2022 and received by Full Council on the 28th March 2022.

825/21 Motion: proposed by Cllr. Whyte

To ask Buckinghamshire Council what measures it has in place to measure air pollution and particulates in and around Buckingham (including the town centre and the A421), and what steps it is taking to deal with any unsafe levels of pollution.

Cllr. Whyte read the motion and explained that the motion resulted from points raised at the Annual Town Meeting. Cllr. Harvey seconded.

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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

Members discussed:

Requesting an assessment before and after the new development.

Researching areas in other counties with similar situations and outcomes.

A more specific request to Buckinghamshire Council.

Including pollution consideration for multi-house applications.

East/West divide: East Buckingham measured and West neglected.

Awaiting a response to the motion before requesting specific action.

Cllr. Davies proposed an amendment:

To ask Buckinghamshire Council to conduct a new survey into the levels of noise, air pollution and particulates, particularly on the A421, and furnish Buckingham Town Council with the results of all previous surveys on record and what steps it is taking to deal with any unsafe levels of pollution.

Cllr. Stuchbury seconded.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour 4

Against 2

Abstentions 0

The amended motion was **AGREED. ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Ralph suggested that consideration of noise and air pollution be included alongside other environmental questions when developments are put before the Planning Committee of Buckingham Town Council. Members requested that this be considered as an agenda item for the next Planning Committee meeting.

ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK

826/21 Action Report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

The Town Clerk updated members on actions:

- Funding was found to provide seeds which were given out at the Spring Green Fair.
- Flood response: Emergency response is the statutory responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council. The Town Council has done some good work with the Emergency Response Team on our Emergency Flood Plan. As a Council we do not provide 24/7 response. Buckinghamshire Council have this responsibility although there is at this point no agreement in place as to how this would work in practice.

E/06/21

Cllr. Ralph commented on 543 Castle Hill information board: he has contacted The Buckingham Society to request an update. No reply has been received and he will contact them again.

The Town Clerk apologised that the report regarding the Community Centre Structural Survey, prepared for the confidential section of the meeting, was not included in the agenda pack.

827/21 Budgets

Members received the latest figures.

The Town Clerk clarified that, although there were some unavoidable expenses, for example in response to the flooding, the underspends balanced the Committee budget for the year.

828/21 Bridges in Bourton Park

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

The Town Clerk explained that the bridge repairs were taking longer than anticipated due to contractor work commitments. There may be some moderate additional costs to report at the next meeting. Cllr. Whyte queried which bridge was being discussed and it was agreed that clarification of the specific bridge will be sent to members.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

829/21 Access awareness

Cllr. Harvey noted that there were a number of social media posts regarding accidents on the pavement around the King's Head. He has inspected this and some of the paving is raised by approximately 1cm.

Cllr. Whyte expressed concern that Councillors were not always contacted if there was a problem and asked that members of public affected contact him.

Cllr. Stuchbury commented that input from Access 4 All would be helpful. The Town Clerk reported that he had had recent correspondence with the group who are not currently meeting.

830/21 Climate Action Plan

Members received an updated version of the Climate Action Plan.

Cllr. Stuchbury commented on the success of the Spring Green Fair.

Cllr. Whyte raised the point that it would be helpful to update the Action Plan if deadline dates are drawing near.

Concerns were raised regarding plastic on stalls and the diesel engine of the ice cream van running all day at the Spring Green Fair.

831/21 Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

Deferred.

832/21 News releases

Vandalised trees.

Particulates and air pollution.

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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

E/06/21

833/21 Chair's announcements

There were none.

834/21 Date of next meeting: Monday 20th June 2022.

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE 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.**

835/21 Tingewick Road Green Spaces

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

The Town Clerk explained that Barratts were happy to offer all the green spaces but not all the money requested. The division of the three spaces is open for discussion. Members felt that the priority is St. Rumbold's Well then the play areas.

Members discussed the following:

It would be helpful to understand what will be adopted by Buckinghamshire Council. Public footway through the park – would this be part of the responsibility for the park? A map is required of sufficient accuracy to properly identify the exact boundaries under consideration.

Is there a covenant on the land or any future restriction?

The nature and health of all trees must be established before any agreement is reached.

The lines need to be drawn more pragmatically to include some of the green spaces around the play areas.

The Town Clerk advised that there is a need to temper expectation around the pitch areas. It will be a green play space with no parking.

Members noted that St. Rumbold's Well is not in the correct position on the map.

Members **AGREED** the recommendations and for the Town Clerk to request a more detailed, accurate drawing and information regarding the trees. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

836/21 Community Centre structural survey

Members **AGREED** to defer to Resources.

E/06/21

837/21 Make A Difference awards

Members received and discussed correspondence.

It was AGREED that individual Councillors could make nominations. The Town Clerk will email information to Councillors. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Meeting closed at: 9:00 pm

Signed Date

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