

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 24th October 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. P. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	Vice Chairman
Cllr. A. Mahi	Mayor
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	Chairman
Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	

In attendance:

Ms. Claire Childs	Deputy Town Clerk
Mr. L. Phillips	Green Spaces Manager
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

509/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. J. Harvey

510/16 Declarations of Interest

There were none

511/16 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th September 2016, ratified at Full Council on the 3rd October 2016

AGREED

512/16 Action Reports

To receive the report and note the updated information (386/16) Michaelmas Cottage – Cllr. P. Collins expressed concern that the matter was still unresolved. The Chair confirmed that the Town Clerk was dealing with the matter as agreed by the committee. The Chair thanked the Town Clerk and Green Spaces Manager for all their work in progressing actions and updating the action list since our last meeting.

513/16 Budgets

Bourton Park tree works – The Greenspaces Manager explained that work was underway to create an audit trail of trees throughout Bourton Park using the Council's new tree surveying software. Greenspaces Manager to survey the trees in Bourton Park **ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER**

New Cemetery – The Green Spaces Manager noted that no work for the new cemetery could commence until the plans for housing developments on the Tingewick Road were more established.

Members requested budget lines and headings for Shopmobility and the Community Centre

ACTION TOWN CLERK

514/16 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

To discuss and agree the following reports from the Deputy Town Clerk

514.1 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre Hire Agreement

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that following investigation errors had been discovered in the previous agreements documents. The Deputy Town Clerk sought Members approval to issue amended hire agreements to all those parties that have an existing agreement at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre.

Members **AGREED** for the following amendment to paragraph 45:

"A private Hirer (one-off booking) may cancel the hire in writing up to one week before the hire date commencement and in such case the Hirer shall be entitled to a refund of any deposit already paid. A private Hirer providing less than one week's notice of cancellation shall be charged the full fee"

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Gateley noted the following typographical errors:

- Paragraph 14 no apostrophe after 'highways'
- Paragraph 25 should read 'responsibilities' and not 'responsible'

ACTION DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members expressed their thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk for investigating and resolving the matter efficiently whilst being new into the role.

Cllr. Smith suggested stating the maximum capacity throughout the document.

Cllr. Stuchbury asked for consideration to increase the font size.

514.2 Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre domain name

Members **AGREED** the following recommendation. To purchase the www.lacehillsportsandcommunity.co.uk website domain name for 10 years (at a cost of £69.90) to redirect to the existing web page on the Buckingham Town Council website.

515/16 Sports Pitch Provision

To discuss the progress of this issue as request by Cllr. Stuchbury.

Cllr. Stuchbury clarified that he would like an update from the Town Clerk; this was deferred to the next meeting.

516/16 Sport in Buckingham

To receive and discuss a report from Cllr. Bates.

Members discussed the report and **AGREED** the following:

- To create 'a centralised register of exercise, activity and sports clubs/organisations, both nonproftmaking and commercial, for both the able-bodied and disabled, with contact details which could be accessed via a link on the BTC website'.

- To advertise on social media for local sports clubs/organisations to get in contact with the Town Council for participation in the exercise.
 - To identify resource from within the Town Council office to maintain the listing.
- ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Members **AGREED** to put 'on hold' the report's recommendation to organise a 'marketplace'.

517/16 Dog Waste Bins – Mary MacManus Drive

To discuss a request from residents in Mary MacManus Drive.

Proposed by Cllr. Bloomfield, seconded by Cllr. Mahi, and **AGREED** that this Council would provide a new dog waste bin at Mary MacManus Drive.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

Cllr. Newell called for a voted on this item. The results of the vote were:

6 in favour

4 abstaining

518/16 Dog Bylaws – Lace Hill and Bourton Park

To receive and discuss a report from the Greenspaces Manager

Cllr. Smith explained there had been a number of complaints on social media regarding dog fouling in Bourton Park and Lace Hill sports field.

Members **AGREED** the report recommendations with the following amendments:

- Anti-dog fouling signage should be placed at the entrance of the park/field and at suitable location throughout to remind dog owners of their responsibility.
- New signs must state (to avoid confusion) whether dogs are to be kept on a lead or, to be kept under control.
- New signs must state the legal requirement (Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005) that dog owners have to pick up their dog's faeces.
- The Green Spaces Manager is to investigate wire fencing the large paddock in Bourton Meadow to create a 'dog only' area

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

519/16 Football Pitch Maintenance Equipment

To receive and discuss a report from the Greenspaces Manager

Members discussed the report and **AGREED** the following recommendation.

To the purchase of the pitch maintenance equipment which come to a total of: £6102.00 to be taken from Lace Hill Playing Fields (4050/250).

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

520/16 Bus Shelters

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

Members discussed the use of existing bus shelters across Buckingham and Cllr. Smith asked for clarification on who owns and maintains the shelter at the bus station.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Hirons noted the increased use of the bus stop outside of Sainsburys on Chandos Road and suggested it be considered for any future bus shelter allocation.

Cllr. O'Donoghue stated that the bus shelter on Stratford Road was in a bad state of repair. The Green Spaces Manager explained the shelter was relocated from the bypass and is cleaned annually but unfortunately the Perspex material has degraded giving the shelter a misty/unclean appearance.

Members noted the report.

521/16 **Bourton Park Interpretation Boards and Signage**

To receive a report from the Greenspaces Manager

Members **AGREED** the following recommendation. To purchase three entrance signs via company C and that three interpretation boards are purchased. The Parks Development budget 901/9035 (currently stands at £4,000) is used for the cost with any further expenditure coming from the Bourton Park Maintenance Budget. **ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER**

522/16 **Access Awareness**

Cllr Strain-Clark reported an access issue at the main entrance to the Community Centre, noting there was a small step that was difficult to overcome in a wheelchair or mobility scooter. Cllr. Isham explained that the issue would be discussed at the next Community Centre Committee meeting but the responsibility for the building is that of the Town Council's.

Proposed by Cllr. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue, and **AGREED** that this Council would investigate the cost of improving access to the Community Centre entrance; Similar to the recent work undertaken on the door to the Council Chamber **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Cllr. Stuchbury explained he would be meeting with Developers to discuss the adoption of the land at Lace Hill and hoped to bring some resolution to the issue at Cotton End Steps. Cllr. Stuchbury also noted the designs for the toucan crossing at Lace Hill had now been produced.

Cllr. Strain-Clark explained that there had not a recent survey into the use of Shopmobility and Members **AGREED** the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDED to Resources Committee to undertake a survey on the current usage of the Shopmobility service.

523/16 **BCWP**

Cllr. Newell gave a verbal report of the BCWP meeting of 24th October 2016 noting the following updates:

The Railway Conservation Group has been working to clear the brush in the glade on railway walk. Members have also rebuilt two owl boxes.

The Maids Moreton Avenue Conservation Group have organised litter picks for the forthcoming months.

The Canal Society has received two successful grant applications for restoration of sites not located in Buckingham.

An updated report from AVDC Ecologist Paul Holton on the buffer zone at Clarence Park is to be appended to the BCWP minutes. To be circulated by Cllr. Newell

ACTION Cllr. NEWELL

Members **AGREED** to thank Paul Holton and Tony Finnis on their hard work concerning the restoration of the wildlife buffer zone at Clarence Park.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury suggested investigating whether any species of fish could be introduced into the railway walk pond to help dealing with the algae blooms.

ACTION GREENSPACES MANAGER

524/16 News Releases

Dog Fouling
Sport in Buckingham

525/16 Chair's Announcements

There was none.

526/16 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12th December 2016.

Meeting closed at: 19.55

Chairman..... Date.....