

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.
on **Monday 8th June 2015** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. P. Hirons Deputy Mayor
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi Town Mayor
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try

Also in attendance: Mr C P Wayman Town Clerk
Mrs C Bolton Committee Clerk
Mr K McElligott Planning Clerk

115/15 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Cole and Mordue.
Apologies were also received and accepted from Ms J Bates who was due to speak at item 5, co-option.

116/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.
Cllr Harvey declared a prejudicial interest in item 6, Public Toilets, items 8&9, Planning Applications 15/01601/App and 15/01603/APP.

117/15 Minutes

To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th April 2015 ratified at Full Council on Monday 11th May 2015.
Agreed.

Members agreed to move to item 5, Co-option

118/15 Co-option of Councillor for Buckingham Town Council

To receive applications and a short presentation from:

1. Mr J Quayle

Members had read Mr Quayle's written presentation. Cllr Hirons asked Mr Quayle how he would be able help people through being elected to the Town Council.

Mr Quayle stated that he believed his skills set was well placed to serve the people of Buckingham, that he would be able to give insight to the Events committee due to his current job role. Mr Quayle also said he was very well versed in emerging technology and felt there were a number of ways he could help the Council achieve transparency. Mr Quayle said he believed in transparency, honesty and integrity and could also help bring younger people's interests to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously **AGREED** that Mr Quayle be elected to Highlands and Watchcroft ward.

Cllr Quayle took a seat at the table.

2. Ms. J Bates

The Town Clerk informed Members that Ms Bates was not present due to a prior engagement, but had submitted a written presentation for consideration.

Members discussed whether to vote on the co-option or adjourn to the next Full Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Try and **AGREED** by 7:6 with 1 abstention to defer Ms Bates's presentation to Full Council on 29th June.

Ms Bates would be invited to the next Full Council meeting on 29th June.

ACTION: JUNE FULL COUNCIL AGENDA

119/15 Motion – Cllr Hirons

That Buckingham Town Council endeavours to obtain long term possession of the old 'Red Cross' building as its Office, Council Chamber, etc in the town. This would enable the Council to vacate both of the existing, rented premises.

Cllr Hirons expressed concern that the existing Council offices in Verney Close were not easily accessible to the public. Cllr Hirons said that the town was increasing in size; new residents should be able to contact the Town Council. More Councillors would be elected onto the Council – there would be a requirement for more space for Members, presentations and public meetings. Cllr Hirons said that the 'red cross' building may well be a one off opportunity that should be investigated thoroughly.

Cllr O'Donoghue seconded the Motion.

Members briefly discussed that the Council had already but in a 'right to buy' bid on the building, and that the County Council had already indicated it would not be in a position to sell the building for up to 2 years.

An amendment proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, accepted by Cllr Hirons and **AGREED** that the Town Council also request temporary use of the building for public meetings and Council use in the short term.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders and move to item 7, developer presentations

120/15 To receive presentations from the following developers:

Chris McGough – Tingewick Road Industrial Estate (West)

Mr McGough and Mr Lunnon attended to discuss the proposed site following an earlier presentation in October 2014. Mr McGough expressed he was keen to engage with the Council, the public and interested parties to achieve the goal of submitting a formal application to AVDC by the end of 2015.

Mr McGough noted that the Environment Agency had amended their flood plans and the site was not in a flood plain area.

Mr McGough was keen to express that he had been gathering information and was continuing to do so; that the current site plan was a concept plan in nature and would bring forward all considerations of the Neighbourhood Plan and required supporting evidence.

Members commented they were keen for Mr McGough to consider the following – S106 agreements to include provision of educational needs.

A well thought out traffic management plan – with particular consideration to Bath Lane and Hunter St.

To consider making the new site a 20mph zone.

To look very closely at Estate Management fees that could arise, with a view to ensuring residents did not end up in a double taxation situation – as had happened in parts of Lace Hill and Embleton Way.

To incorporate innovative/contemporary design in house types.

A mix of house type including those for people with mobility issues and the elderly.

Essential broadband connectivity.

Members felt that 45 dwellings per hectare was too high, and that 38 dwellings per hectare as per the Neighbourhood plan should be adhered to.

Adequate green space and play areas.

Mr McGough was thanked for his presentation.

Alder King – West End Farm

Mr Matt Halstead and Associates attended on behalf of Alder King Planning consultants.

Mr Halstead handed out a presentation and spoke to Members about the aspirations to provide a care village for the land at West End Farm. The intention was to provide purpose built accommodation for people requiring a varying amount of support. The proposed care village would allow the elderly and those with specific needs to have other options than a care home. The proposed development would accommodate married couples, people with physical, mobility and mental needs. Accommodation would be specifically designed for older people with care issues. Mr Halstead said that their assessment showed that Buckingham had a population of approximately 5000 elderly or people in need within a 7.5 mile range. 85 dwellings of 2 storey high were proposed, exiting on the existing road. The site would provide a shared village hub with treatment areas, café, library and similar.

Members commented that connectivity to the town would need to be provided by way of a continuous footpath. Mr Halstead was also requested to contact the Bucks County council Cabinet Member for Care for further discussion.

Mr Halstead and associates were thanked for attending.

Hallam Land Management – Tingewick Road Triangle

A letter addressing BTC concerns is attached

No representation was made.

Standing Orders were reinstated and Members returned to item 6

121/15 Public Toilets

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk, and discuss the way forward.

The Town Clerk reported he had attended a meeting with Jane Heyward and Andrew Grant of AVDC who confirmed they would definitely not grant permission for use of the land on the Town Council's proposal for public toilets. The Town Clerk also said he and Cllr Newell would be meeting Angela Macpherson (AVDC - cabinet member for Leisure, Communities and Civic Amenities).

122/15 Planning Application 15/01601/APP

Land at Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow

Erection of shopmobility unit

Planning Application 15/01603/APP

Land at Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow
Erection of toilet block and shopmobility unit

Members discussed both applications together
15/01601/APP

OPPOSE AND ATTEND

Land at Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow [Council Chamber shrubbery area,
facing Waitrose]

Erection of shopmobility unit

15/01603/APP

OPPOSE AND ATTEND

Land at Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow [Shrubbery by flagpole and traders'
car park]

Erection of toilet block and shopmobility unit

Members felt that the main foot access routes to the shopping centre were not suitable for public toilets, and the design was unattractive for such an important entrance to the town centre. Insufficient information on the siting – distance from the Community Centre in the one instance, and from the car park wall and its pedestrian exit in the other – had been provided, and the opportunity to amalgamate both services into one building had been missed, leaving a gap between the buildings of unknown dimensions which would collect litter and weeds and provide opportunities for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. There was no indication of safety measures to prevent passers-by being injured by the outward-opening doors of the toilet block, and if these were in fact proposed whether sufficient space remained (on the second site) for pedestrian traffic to get by when the walkway between the gutter and the Community Centre was occupied by, for example, the Blood Transfusion Service's vehicle.

No evidence for the need to move Shopmobility from its present position had been presented, and Councillors commented that this proposal had not been thought through. The door of the Shopmobility building was on its end, in each case facing away from the nearest parking ranks, and the building was the further of the two from the parking on each site. Members wondered how the staff were supposed to watch for the arrival of clients and ferry a scooter or chair to them (either locking up the building while they did so or having an assistant to go back and forth). This was easy from the existing site, which also provided a quiet area for new clients to practice driving a scooter.

Cllr. Strain-Clark reported from that afternoon's meeting of Access for All that there had been much criticism of the proposals; not all clients who rented a scooter were accompanied, so would be unable to reach either site to collect a vehicle. They would presumably be expected to phone the staff and indicate where they were parked so the scooter could be brought to them. There was no disabled parking space on the car park access road which was the nearest to the second site. It seemed obvious that no-one involved in mobility issues had been asked for input.

123/15 Chair's Announcements

None

124/15 Dates of next meetings

Full Council - Monday 29th June 2015

Interim Council - Monday 27th July 2015

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed **Date**