

E/01/24

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 10th June 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. F. Davies Chair
Cllr. L. Draper
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. A. Schaefer
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. R. Willett

Also present: Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager
Mr. S Beech Compliance and Projects Manager
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

Absent: Cllr. M. Gateley

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

74/24 Election of Chair

Proposed by Cllr. O'Donoghue, Seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Davies as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2024-2025.

75/24 Apologies for absence

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. Gateley.

76/24 Election of Vice Chair

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, Seconded by Cllr. Willett and unanimously **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Draper as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for 2024-2025.

77/24 Declarations of interest

There were none.

78/24 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15th April 2024.

79/24 Terms of Reference

Members noted the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee, as agreed by Full Council.

Cllr. Schaefer suggested that Members use first names in Environment Committee meetings.

The Chair explained that the Bowls Club lease will be brought forward as the Mayor has to leave the meeting early.

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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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80/24 Bowls Club lease

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Members reviewed the new lease agreement which will be signed by the Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the Bowls Club.

The Estates Manager explained the amendments: the length of the lease has increased from 10 to 15 years; there is an annual RPI increase; rent reviews will take place every 5 years; a break clause has been included where either side can terminate the lease with 6 months' notice; a minimum of one rink will be kept open and available for public use.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed, Cllr. Mahi Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the new lease.

The Mayor signed the lease.

Cllr. Schaefer left the meeting at 7:10pm

81/24 Budgets

Members received and noted the latest figures.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that Members accept the latest figures. Cllr. Willett Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

82/24 Boules Court

Members received a verbal update from the Compliance and Projects Manager on behalf of the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk and Estates Manager met with the Twinning Association. The Estates Manager raised the possibility of using a part of the St. Rumbold's Fields green space and a report will be brought to Committee if this takeover goes ahead.

. Members noted the verbal update.

83/24 CCTV maintenance agreement.

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

It is recommended that Members agree to proceed with the data, service, and support agreement for the 2 re-deployable CCTV cameras with WCCTV at a cost of £1,260 per year for 5 years.

The Estates Manager clarified that the cameras have a hard drive that is constantly recording and the 5GB means that we can connect to the camera and download from the office.

Cllr. Davies Proposed, Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

84/24 Happy to Chat Bench signs.

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Members received a written report from the Estates Administrator.

It is recommended to install 'Happy to Chat' plaques on the proposed benches at Cornwall Meadow, Riverside Walk and Chandos Park - at a cost of £47.20 each (total £141.60) to be taken from budget 262 4101 - Seats and Bins.

Cllr. Davies Proposed a white background rather than blue. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded. Members unanimously **AGREED**. **ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR**

The Estates Manager clarified that there are two benches and that the total amount is therefore incorrect.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

85/24 Re-lettering of war memorial.

Members noted that the war memorial is being cleaned and re-lettered.

86/24 Climate Emergency Action Plan

Members received and discussed updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Cllr. Draper informed Members that they had found some wild orchids in Buckingham which shows that our town is maintaining a traditional ecosystem. Details will be forwarded to the Estates Manager.

87/24 Compliments and complaints log

Members received the compliments and complaints log.

Cllr. Davies explained that an initial meeting has taken place for the improvements to the Railway Walk and further details, when available, will be brought to the Committee.

The Chair applauded the Green Spaces Team for the compliments received.

88/24 Action report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

Cllr. Harvey requested an update on the Buckingham Community Centre leaking roof and solar panel installation. The Chair explained that permission has been given to use some of the funding to repair the roof on condition that any used is reimbursed towards the solar panels. An extension for fund use to 31/03/2025 has been granted.

Cllr. Davies suggested writing to Buckinghamshire Council to request that the area outside the Chamber is not strimmed or sprayed.

Cllr. Stuchbury is awaiting a response regarding the benches removed from outside the Old Town Hall.

89/24 News releases

There are no press releases.

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90/24 Chair's announcements

No announcements.

91/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 29th July 2024.

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. Member unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Mahi declared an interest in the next agenda item and left the room.

92/24 Advice update

Members noted a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

Cllr. Mahi returned to the meeting at 8:05pm.

93/24 Advice from Zurich

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

Cllr. Draper Proposed, Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Chair

Date

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