

E/02/23

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 29th July 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. F. Davies	Chair
Cllr. L. Draper	Vice Chair
Cllr. M Gateley	
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. S. Beech	Compliance and Projects Manager
Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Ms. Z Taylor	Deputy Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Two Members of Mothers' Climate Action Network	

Absent:

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

191/24 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

192/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

193/24 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 10th June 2024.

Members **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 10:

194/24 Mothers' Climate Action Network

Members received an update from the Mothers' Climate Action Network:

The Network members raised the following points:

- The Group was set up a couple of years ago as part of a much wider network.
- Their current focus is on air pollution. Committee Members were referred to slide two with a recommendation to visit the website addresspollution.org.
- Statistics and data show the significant impact of air pollution on children's health; the Network have been working with Buckingham Primary School and their Eco Council to raise awareness of the dangers to those who drop off and pick up in vehicles.
- The work so far has had a disappointing impact and the Network have tried unsuccessfully to engage with Buckinghamshire Council.

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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

The Chair thanked the Mothers' Climate Action Network members for attending the meeting and for the work that they are doing.

Members made the following points:

- It may be worth canvassing residents who live near to schools as they are also impacted.
- Buckingham Town Council have contacted schools following a 'no idling' motion put forward by Cllr. Gateley. Only Buckingham Primary School and Buckingham Secondary School responded.
- Perhaps more emotive language may be worth trying.
- Buckinghamshire Council does have [online resources](#) for 'no idling'.
- Cllr. Stuchbury offered to assist in liaising with Buckinghamshire Council.
- The Network could consider presenting a petition at the relevant committee/cabinet meeting.

Associated link to the Buckinghamshire Council draft Air Quality Action Plan and survey for reference and to consider how to respond (closes 30 September 2024):

[Have your say on our draft Air Quality Action Plan \(AQAP\) for Buckinghamshire - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

Cllr. Davies Proposed that a group of Members meet, perhaps via Zoom, to create a response to the Air Quality Action Plan survey. Cllr. Draper Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION COMPLIANCE AND PROJECTS MANAGER

The two representatives from the Mothers' Climate Action Network left at 20.05.

195/24 Review of training needs

Members noted that relevant courses and training opportunities are circulated to Members throughout the year and that any requests for training may be made to the Town Clerk.

196/24 Budgets

Members received and noted the latest figures and thanked the officers for their work.

197/24 Bourton Park Noticeboards

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

- 1.1 Recommendation: Members agree the purchase of 3 replacement noticeboards from Company A for £5,984.39 to be taken from the cost code 252/4601 (Bourton Maintenance).

Members unanimously **AGREED**.

- 1.2 Recommendation: Members agree to re-locate one of the noticeboards from the Burleigh Piece entrance to between the two play areas.

Members unanimously **VOTED AGAINST**.

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Initial

Cllr. Gateley informed the Estates Manager that the Bourton Park noticeboard states that there is a phone box on Badgers Way; this is now a defibrillator point.

198/24 Cornwalls Meadow toilet doors

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Recommendation: Members agree to note the report and approve the engagement of company A for the repainting work from cost code 249/4709 (Cornwall's Meadow Toilets – Maintenance).

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendation.

Cllr. Gateley requested that we double check that there is nothing else going on at the other town centre toilets to ensure availability. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

Cllr. Harvey Proposed we should write to the original contractor to tell them that this work has to be undertaken due to their poor-quality work, Cllr. Gateley Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

Cllr. Ralph Proposed that we ask the Community Centre Management Committee to open the Community Centre toilets to the public during the closure. Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded. Members **AGREED**. Cllr. Mahi abstained as a member of the Committee. **ACTION ESTATES MANAGER**

199/24 Brackley Road Cemetery Lodge decoration.

Members received a report from the Estates Administrator.

Recommendation: Members agree to proceed with company B at a cost of £7,340 to be taken from the earmarked reserve budget code – Cemetery Lodge repairs (EMR 342).

Cllr. Harvey Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

200/24 Tree Surveying software

Members received a report from the Estates Manager.

- 1.1 Members agree to proceed with option B – to provide the Tree surveying software.
- 1.2 Members to agree to spend £1,550 from budget 262/4122 – Tree Work with an expectation to renew on an annual basis.

Cllr. O'Donoghue Proposed, Cllr. Stuchbury Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

201/24 Action report

Members received the report and note the updated information.

621/23 – Cllr. Stuchbury reported that Buckingham Town Council have been offered the benches that were removed from outside the Old Town Hall; these need to be collected.

ACTION ESTATES MANAGER

Members thanked Cllr. Stuchbury for his work on this.

Cllr. Harvey said that comments on social media had indicated that a lot of people would like to see the benches returned to their original place outside the Old Town Hall - perhaps Villiers could be approached to reconsider this.

Cllr. Davies explained that a lot of work by Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. H. Mordue had gone into securing the benches for the town and these will now be repurposed and suitable locations in the town will be identified.

The Happy to Talk benches are now in place and Cllr. Davies Proposed a press release with Cllr. Harvey sitting on the Happy to Talk bench. Cllr. Gateley Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**. Cllr. Davies will join Cllr. Harvey on the bench.

Cllr. Willett informed Members that 10th October is World Mental Health Day and Cllr. Stuchbury suggested that this could be added to a future Town Centre and Events Committee agenda.

202/24 News releases

Happy to Talk benches.

ACTION FOR ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

Members considered a press release on the work of the Mothers' Climate Action Network but suggested it would be better for the Network to issue one.

203/24 Chair's announcements

Buckingham is runner up in the Bucks Best Kept Village Michaelis Cup competition. Members thanked the Estates Manager, Officers who put the pack together, and the Green Spaces Team for their work over the past 12 months in raising the standards so high that second place was achieved. Buckingham also won the Community Award.

204/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 7th October 2024.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm

Chair

Date