

Minutes of a meeting of **The Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Present:

Cllr. R. Ahmed	
Cllr. M. Cole JP	
Cllr. F. Davies	Vice Chair
Cllr. L. Draper	
Cllr. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. H. Mordue	
Cllr. J. Mordue	
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. A. Osibogun	
Cllr. A. Ralph	
Cllr. A. Schaefer	Town Mayor
Cllr. R. Stuchbury	
Cllr. M. Try	

Also present:

Mr. S. Beech	Compliance and Projects Manager
Mr. L. Phillips	Estates Manager
Ms. P. Cahill	Committee Clerk
Ms. S. McMurtrie	Town Plan Officer
Ms. L. Haim	O'Neill Homer, Planning Consultants

Absent:

Cllr. G. Collins
Cllr. R. Willett

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

135/24 Apologies for absence

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Collins and Cllr. Willett.

136/24 Declarations of interest

There were none.

137/24 Minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting and the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th May 2024.

138/24 Interim minutes

Members agreed as a correct record the minutes of the Interim Council meeting held on 22nd April 2024.

139/24 Planning Committee

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22nd April 2024 and 20th May 2024.

BTC/03/24

140/24 Town Centre and Events Committee

Members received the minutes of the Town Centre and Events Committee meeting held on 8th April 2024.

735/24.3 - Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the Committee makes a recommendation to Full Council to note how many free children's events, and activities for young children at other events, are organised by the Town Centre and Events Committee and how well attended they are. This should be considered when planning the Precept next year. Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Cllr. Osibogun arrived at 7:02pm.

Members noted the recommendation.

141/24 Environment Committee

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

142/24 Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 4th March 2024.

143/24 Bank signatories

Members formally **AGREED** the bank signatories as Cllr. Schaefer, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Stuchbury and Cllr. Davies and **AGREED** the signing schedule.

144/24 Cemeteries update

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and Estates Manager.

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note the updates to the new cemetery project.
- 1.2 It is recommended to proceed with the work to be carried out in-house in the autumn/winter of 2024 detailed in section 3.5.
- 1.2 It is recommended that authorisation for a maximum of £12,000 of expenditure, to be taken from the Ear Marked Reserve 326 – Cemetery Development for the purchase of materials, equipment and works outlined in section 3.5. This expenditure is expected and budgeted for.

The Estates Manager gave a further update: initial approval, in principle, has been received for the drainage; there are six conditions to meet and liaison with the designer and engineers will take place in the coming weeks.

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

145/24 Motion: Cllr. H Mordue

'That the land off March Edge on Linden Village is registered by Buckingham Town Council as common land with Buckinghamshire Council, under Section 15(1) application under the Commons Act 2006.'

Members received a report from the Town Clerk.

8th July 2024

Page 2

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.....

BTC/03/24

It is recommended that Members note this report and the two linked DEFRA guidance documents when deciding on the above motion.

Cllr. Osibogun Seconded the Motion.

Members raised the following points:

- Concern that this could become a resource commitment.
- The landowner may not give consent.
- Officer time concerns.
- Some residents have been mowing the grass.
- Registration of the land as common land would not create an obligation to maintain the land, but it would allow the land to be maintained if a scheme of regulation could be made (currently doing so would be trespassing).
- The Estates Manager and the Town Mayor have tried unsuccessfully to contact the owner, Blue Sky Properties.
- If this is successful it would apply to this land only and would not address the other untended green spaces.
- It would reduce the value of the land significantly.

Ms. Haim arrived at the meeting 7:26pm.

Cllr. Harvey Proposed an amendment: To add at the end 'and then the Town Clerk pursue this process within the precepted resources currently available to her, within the scrutiny of the Environment Committee'. Seconded Cllr. Davies.

Cllr. H. Mordue did not accept the amendment and reminded Members of the history of the land, including the refusal of a planning application 30 years ago and the sale of the land in 2023. Blue Sky Properties, the new owners, are exceedingly difficult to liaise with as they do not respond to calls, letters or emails. If this is registered as common land it could be maintained as a public recreation space. There are limited implications for the Town Council as they do not have the power to request registration; this responsibility will be for the unitary council.

Cllr. Harvey withdrew his Proposed amendment and Proposed a change of wording suggested by Cllr. Schaefer that the motion be amended to:

"Buckingham Town Council makes a formal request of Buckinghamshire Council to register the land off March Edge as Common Land under Section 15(1)" [of the Commons Act 2006].

Cllr. Mordue Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED.** **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

The Estates Manager left the meeting at 7:50pm.

146/24 To receive and question reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr. Stuchbury has submitted a question to Cabinet regarding the changes to the Library. They will be attending the Fire Authority and Health and Scrutiny meetings.

Cllr. H. Mordue cleared a resident's path, undertook some scything work, and continued with informal and formal planning work.

BTC/03/24

147/24 Library Flex

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and a report from Buckinghamshire Council.

- 1.1 It is recommended that a single meeting working group is established and delegated to write the Town Council's formal response to the consultation.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members read the attached report from Buckinghamshire Council and consider responding to the consultation in an individual capacity.

Cllr. H. Mordue declared an interest as Treasurer of the Friends of Buckingham Library and will abstain from voting.

Members discussed the importance of Buckingham Library to the community: it offers a lot of services to residents over and above being a lending library, including being a warm space, offering baby and toddler events and Alzheimer's Society events. Buckingham Library is a community hub. For some residents an automated service will not work. Cllr. Harvey urged Members to read the equality impact statement.

Cllr. Osibogun Proposed that the recommendations are agreed. Cllr. Cole Seconded.

Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed an amendment: that this Council responds to state that it opposes the changes to the Library and resolves to establish a single working group to create a formal response to the consultation. Seconded by Cllr. Harvey.

Cllr. Osibogun suggested that the working group should write the formal response. Cllr. Davies agreed.

The Compliance and Projects Manager directed Members to the Clerk's recommendation that the Working Group establishes the formal response.

A recorded vote was taken on the Proposed amendment, and the result was:

For: Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Draper, Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Mahi and Cllr. Stuchbury.

Against: Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. J. Mordue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Try and Cllr. Schaefer.

Abstention: Cllr. H. Mordue

Members **AGREED** recommendation 1.1. Cllr. H. Mordue abstained.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stuchbury requested that consideration is given to the timing of the working group meeting to ensure that employed Members have access to the meeting where possible.

148/24 Action list

Members reviewed and noted the action report.

149/24 Mayoral engagements

Members received a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

22/06/24 Celebrate Buckingham Day (attended but not in an official capacity)

BTC/03/24

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

26/05/24 Buckingham Live

22/06/24 Girl Guiding Association event (attended but not in an official capacity)

150/24 Chair’s announcements

None.

151/24 Date of the next meeting:

Full Council: Monday 16th September 2024

Interim Council: Monday 14th October 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. Members unanimously **AGREED**.

152/24 BNDP

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and the Compliance and Projects Manager.

Cllr. Cole introduced the report and Ms. L. Haim from ONH presented details to Members.

Cllr. Cole Proposed, Cllr. Ralph Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

Cllr. Cole requested a recorded vote. The result was:

For: Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Draper, Cllr. Ahmed, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. Stuchbury, Cllr. O’Donoghue, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. J. Mordue, Cllr. Osibogun, Cllr. Ralph, Cllr. Try, Cllr. H. Mordue and Cllr. Schaefer.

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Cllr. Cole thanked Ms. Haim and the Town Plan Clerk for their work.

Cllr. Try reminded Members that volunteers are needed to man stalls for the consultation.

The Town Plan Clerk and Ms. Haim left the meeting at 8:51pm.

153/24 Payment endorsements

Members noted payment endorsement sheet 7.

Meeting closed at 8:53pm

Signed Date