

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday, 7th October 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 Town Mayor
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Also present: Mr. L. Phillips Estates Manager
Ms. C. Molyneux Town Clerk
Ms. P. Cahill Committee Clerk

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

298/24 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

299/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

300/24 Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 29th July 2024.

301/24 Budgets

Members received the latest figures.

302/24 Motion: Cllr. Harvey

"This Committee agrees to create a Town Centre Seating Strategy - to take stock of existing provision and to consider how best to improve the availability of public benches (etc.) where there is need and demand."

Cllr. O'Donoghue Seconded the motion.

Cllr. Davies Proposed an amendment and Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. O'Donoghue accepted the amendment:

"This Committee agrees to create a Seating Strategy - to take stock of existing provision and to consider how best to improve the availability of public benches (etc.) where there is need and demand, and to take into account previous decisions about seating and benches made by this Council."

Members unanimously **AGREED** the amended Motion.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

303/24 Bourton Park footbridge update

Members received a verbal update from the Estates Manager regarding the footbridge in Bourton Park:

The footbridge will need to be removed, and we are in the process of developing the Right of Way to the adjoining bridge - the application was made in November 2023. Weekly checks on the condition of the existing bridge are being made to try and keep it open for as long as possible; repairs to the deck are undertaken as required. At some point the structure will be beyond repair and it is likely that we will have to close the bridge at short notice. We are in contact with the Rights of Way team who are taking legal advice regarding the costs of maintaining the newer bridge.

The Town Clerk reassured Members that the footbridge is not unsafe or a danger to the public and we are monitoring it closely and regularly.

304/24 Biodiversity Policy

Members received a report from the Estates Manager and Estates Administrator.

- 1.1 Members agree to recommend to Full Council to adopt a new Biodiversity Policy.
- 1.2 Members to note what action the Town Council has already taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity (in section 3.1).
- 1.3 Members agree to budget for a Biodiversity Audit of the Town Council's Land from the precept for 2025/26 up to £2000.

Cllr. Schaefer Proposed accepting the recommendations, Cllr. Gateley Seconded and Members unanimously **AGREED**.

Members thanked the Estates Manager and the Estates Administrator for their work on this.

305/24 Compliments and Complaints Log

Members received the compliments and complaints log.

Cllr. Draper explained the natural process that leads to the discolouration of the water and the smell along one section of the Railway Walk. Adding information boards along the route was brought up at a redevelopment meeting.

Cllr. O'Donoghue requested that thanks are passed, as per the final compliment, to events organisers.

306/24 Action report

Members received the report and noted the updated information.

E/03/24

Cllr. Stuchbury requested that we write to Villiers thanking them for the benches.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Harvey requested an update on the solar panels for the Community Centre. The Estates Manager explained that the leak in the roof is still being investigated; panels cannot be installed until the issues with the roof, which is problematic in heavy rain, have been resolved. Various options are being looked at and advice is being taken, including the possibility of replacing the roof with built-in panels. The drains have been checked and they are fine. Part of the floor may be lifted to check for any further issues.

Cllr. Harvey asked if there was any update regarding vehicle pollution. He asked when the letter was sent and suggested that dates are added to the action tracker. The Town Clerk will chase a response.

**ACTION TOWN CLERK
ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

Cllr. Gateley requested an update on 'no idling'. Cllr. Davies explained that we received responses only from Buckingham Primary School and Buckingham Secondary School, the latter raising mainly parking issues.

The Town Clerk confirmed that County did run a 'no idling' campaign. Cllr. Harvey suggested undertaking a survey. The Chair agreed to add 'no idling' to the next agenda. Cllr. Gateley will submit a motion.

307/24 News releases

Cllr. Harvey – seating strategy – to engage residents.

ACTION ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR

308/24 Chair's announcements

No announcements.

309/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 25th November 2024.

Meeting closed at 8pm

Chair

Date