**Item 1. Public Question Time**

Mrs. Deborah Sanders referred to the last Beaconsfield Forum meeting and to the item discussed at that meeting to use the Bucks County Council’s Localities Budget 2012/2013 for routine maintenance – footpath repairs in Maxwell Road and drainage problems in Park Lane, Beaconsfield. Mrs. Sanders urged Members to reconsider spending money on routine maintenance items which should be funded out of Bucks County Council budgets. She expressed the view that there should be more community volunteer input and communications and if Beaconsfield had a Local Area Forum (LAF) like in other parishes, there would be more public involvement, rather than decisions being a “done deal”.

Cllr. Keith replied that it had been explained to Members at the Beaconsfield Forum meeting on the 28th November 2012 at which Mrs. Sanders had been present, that in the absence of no other suggestions being made for expenditure, then the Localities Budget would be lost and Beaconsfield would not gain any benefit from it. The matter would be discussed in greater depth later in the meeting.

**Item 2. Apologies for Absence**

These were as set out above.

**Item 3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th October 2012, were received, confirmed and signed.

**Item 4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 5. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Lowen-Cooper declared an interest in Item 16 – Future of Wilton Park, as Chairman of the SBDC Planning Committee.

**Item 6. Mayor’s Report and Deputy Mayor’s Report**

Members considered a written report by the Mayor on his attendance at events and functions during the period 30th September to 2nd December 2012. Noted.

**Item 7. Report of County Council Representatives**

County Cllr. Hardy reported that Bucks County Council had been working on their budget for the next financial year, but the final settlement was expected to be announced by the Government on Wednesday, 19th December. Bucks CC would be meeting on Friday, 21st December to discuss the implications. The Cabinet would then set the budget formally in early January 2013 which would then go to Full Council for approval in February 2013.

Cllr. Hardy reported that the Civil Enforcement Parking Scheme had gone live in South Bucks District with effect from 1st December 2012. His attention had been drawn to some issues relating to tickets having been issued in the Old Town, and he agreed to investigate a complaint by Cllr. Davie about motorists having had tickets issued to them whilst they were parked on common land.

Cllr. Hardy also reported that Bucks CC had been looking at the question of resurfacing of roads throughout the county and meetings had been held with local members of the County Council to
determine resurfacing priorities for the coming financial year. Cllr. Hardy and Cllr. Busby had asked that resources be concentrated on resurfacing works on the A40 through the Old Town and also through to Holtspur for 2013/2014 or 2014/2015.

Cllr. Grover reported that there were still major on-going problems with the pothole on the A40 at the junction with Holtspur Top Lane. The pothole had been repaired on the afternoon of the Beaconsfield Forum meeting, 28th November 2012, but the repair had lasted only five days. Cllr. Hardy agreed to investigate the problems of this pothole and ensure that a proper repair was carried out.

Cllr. Lowen-Cooper referred to a problem of three kerb stones outside High March School in Ledborough Lane. When a BCC Technician had visited the site, one kerbstone had been removed from the site and the remaining two had been marked. However, since that visit, nothing else had happened. County Cllr. Hardy undertook to investigate this matter and report back.

**Item 8. Report of District Council Representatives**

There were no reports from the District Council representatives present at the meeting.  

**Item 9. Open Spaces Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 1st November 2012 be received and adopted.  

**Item 10. Community Safety Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on 15th November 2012 be received and adopted.  

**Item 11. Planning Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11th October and 1st November 2012 be received and adopted.  

**Item 12. Resources Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes and recommendations of the Resources Committee meeting held on 29th November 2012 be received and adopted. With regard to access to the Garvin Avenue Play Area, Cllr. Davie queried whether Cllr. Walters and the Town Clerk had yet been able to visit the site. The Town Clerk reported that it had not yet been possible for her and Cllr. Walters to visit the site.  

**Item 13. Bucks County Council – Localities Budget**

Consideration was given to an email dated 29th November 2012 from Emma Hildreth at Bucks County Council stating that the Town Council had £7,641.69 left unspent in the BCC Localities Budget.

Members were reminded that at the last Beaconsfield Forum meeting on 28th November 2012 it had been agreed that the remaining budget of approx. £7,600 should be spent on pavement repairs in Maxwell Road in the vicinity of The Hollies and Revolution, once Si Khan’s team had obtained a price for the necessary works. A discussion then took place on whether or not the footpath repairs in Maxwell Road had been agreed at the Beaconsfield Forum meeting, as some Members did not think that that decision had been made. The Town Clerk reported that she had received an email from Si Khan late on the previous day, stating that the repairs were estimated in the region of £9,000.

Discussion also took place on the possibility of using the money to purchase a TSID (Temporary Speed Indicator Device) which could be moved around the town to various locations, as had been discussed at the last Community Safety meeting. Mention was also made that Holtspur Youth Club had apparently approached a Councillor(s) direct to ask if money could be made available for scalplings to be laid in the car park in front of the Holtspur Youth Club. However, the Town Clerk reported that she had no knowledge of the request from Holtspur Youth Club and the matter had not been considered by any Committee of the Town Council.

Discussion also took place on the view of some Members that Localities Budget money should not be spent on repairs to footpaths. County Cllr. Hardy pointed out that Bucks CC did not have sufficient funds to repair all footpaths in all areas, but that the Localities Budget could be used for this purpose.

After further discussion and upon being put to the vote, it was
RESOLVED that the works to repair the footpath in the vicinity of Revolution and The Hollies in Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield should be funded from the remainder of the Localities Budget 2012/2013 to use up the unspent funds.

Item 14. Revised Draft Budget 2013/2014

The meeting considered the revised draft Budget recommended for approval by the Resources Committee meeting held on 29th November 2012.

Cllr. Keith pointed out that whilst the Town Council was being asked to approve the revised Budget 2013/2014, it may be necessary for certain amendments to be made to it, when more information was available regarding the Government’s settlement to local authorities and the changes that were being proposed to the Council Tax base.

A named vote was then requested by Cllr. Brown the result of which was:

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The motion was CARRIED.

Item 15. Local Strategic Partnerships

Consideration was given to a letter dated 31st October 2012 from Cllr. Adrian Busby, Chairman of the South Bucks Partnership, seeking to formally consult with the Town Council on the “Review of Local Strategic Partnerships in Chiltern and South Bucks”. The matter was referred to the Town Council by the Resources Committee meeting on 29th November 2012. The deadline for response was 13th January 2013. Members were reminded that the Town Clerk had already circulated the response form by email to all Members.

RESOLVED that no official response be submitted by the Town Council, but individual Members respond if they so wished before the 13th January 2013 deadline.

Item 16. Future of Wilton Park

(Note: Cllr. Lowen-Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as Chairman of the SBDC Planning Committee, and was invited to remain during consideration of the item).

Members considered the notes of meeting held with representatives from HardHat and Inland Homes held in the Council Chamber on 13th November 2012.

A general discussion took place on the comprehensive notes taken by the Town Clerk and Members considered that as the future of Wilton Park was such an important issue for the future of Beaconsfield, that a Special Council Meeting should be arranged in the New Year to which HardHat and Inland Homes could be invited to address the full Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to liaise with HardHat and Inland Homes regarding the possibility of them attending a special Town Council meeting in the New Year so that all Members of the Town Council could be present.

Item 17. Outside Body Report

Consideration was given to written reports by Cllrs. Legg, Pike and Saunders.

With regard to the written report by Cllr. Legg, this covered the Community Right to Challenge,
Community Right to Bid, Electronic one stop shops where local organisations could advertise free of charge, and partners of South Bucks Partnership were asked to discuss and comment as to the future of the Partnership in the light of Chiltern & South Bucks District Councils working together.

RESOLVED that with regard to the Chiltern/South Bucks Partnership, the Town Clerk be asked to respond that the Town Council hoped that the communication link with Town/Parish Councils would be maintained, as it was considered this was a valuable part of the Partnership.

Members received and noted written reports by Cllrs. Saunders regarding The Beaconsfield Society and by Cllr. Pike regarding the Curzon Centre Management Committee, Beaconsfield Twinning Association and The Reading Room.

Item 18. **Beaconsfield Forum**

At the Beaconsfield Forum meeting held on 28th November 2012 Mrs Deborah Sanders had asked if she could become a non-voting member of the Forum in order that she could update people on health issues. Cllr. Busby had suggested and it was agreed by the meeting, that as the Forum only met twice a year it would be more appropriate for her to make a report to Town Council meetings.

A lengthy discussion then took place on membership of the Beaconsfield Forum and the Town Clerk reminded Members that as the Beaconsfield Forum was not a Local Area Forum (LAF), a unique constitution had been agreed at the time that the Beaconsfield Forum had been established. The membership of the Beaconsfield Forum was exactly what the Town Council had requested at the inauguration of the Forum.

Members agreed that the question of membership of Beaconsfield Forum should be examined carefully and that a Working Group should be established to investigate the matter further and report back in writing with recommendations to the Town Council meeting on 14th February 2013.

RESOLVED that a Beaconsfield Forum Working Group be established comprising Cllrs. Bastiman, Walters, Grover, Brown, Davie and Denyer to look at future membership of Beaconsfield Forum and report back in writing with recommendations to the Town Council meeting on 14th February 2013.

**Item 19. **NALC Policy Consultation – Improving Local Government Transparency**

The meeting noted an Executive Summary from NALC entitled “Improving Local Government Transparency” which indicated that the Government was consulting on making regulations to require local authorities to publish data falling within certain descriptions of information specified in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency (“the Code”), which was issued on 29th September 2011 under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. This would apply to local councils with an annual budgeted spend or income of £200,000 or more, as proposed in the original Code.

**Item 20. **Beaconsfield Now! 2013**

Members were asked to consider whether the Town Council wished to have a stand at the Beaconsfield Now! 2013 event which would be held on the Town Hall Green on Saturday, 15th June 2013 between 10am to 2pm.

Members were reminded that the Town Clerk would be asking them near the date of the event, to volunteer to “man” the Town Council’s stand. It was considered that this was a very worthwhile event and it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to reserve a table for the Town Council at the Beaconsfield Now! 2013 event on Saturday, 15th June 2013.

(POST MEETING NOTE: ALL COUNCILLORS ARE ASKED TO MAKE AN ADVANCE NOTE OF THE DATE OF THIS EVENT IN THEIR DIARIES).

**Item 21. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Part II Town Council meeting held on 11th October 2012
Part II Minutes Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 1st November 2012
Part II Minutes Community Safety Committee meeting held on 15th November 2012
Part II Minutes Resources Committee held on 29th November 2012
CCTV Town Hall Matters
The meeting, having commenced at 7.45pm, was suspended at 9.02pm whilst the Planning Committee meeting took place. It resumed at 9.47pm and terminated at 9.55pm following consideration of the Part II items.