



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at the Methodist Hall, Queensway, Bletchley on Tuesday 20 March 2018 beginning at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Samantha Browne, Keith Ely, Richard Graham (Vice-chairman), Ron Haine, Ed Hume, Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson, Angela Kennedy (Chairman), Peter Kuling, Michael McDonald, E'Amonn O'Rourke, Linda Reeves, Shirley Rolfe, Mohammed Rohim, Lewis Webster.

Absent: Cllrs Mohammed Arshad, William Hewitt, Wajeeha Khan and Sean Porter

In attendance: Inspector Moreland, Richard Solly and two other representatives of Thames Valley Police
Cllr Martin Gowans, Milton Keynes Council
Eighteen members of the public
Alison Kennedy, Regeneration Officer and Delia Shephard, Town Clerk, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Min Ref

FC2017/18-282 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Arshad, Hewitt and Porter

FC2017/18-283 **Declarations of Members' Interests**
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
Other Interests – None

FC2017/18-284 **Public Speaking Time**
It was agreed that members of the public who wished to speak about Water Eaton Road would make their representations immediately prior to discussion of the relevant agenda item.

A member of the public noted that in the light of recent events he wished to offer support to the council on behalf of the silent majority and thanked councillors for their work on behalf of the community. He also asked when the Newton Leys Allotment site would be opening and the clerk advised the Town Council was waiting for MK Council to send letter of comfort to Taylor Wimpey so that the site could be transferred direct to the Town Council.

A representative speaking on behalf of the applicant for planning permission 18/00551/FUL – 44 Church Street, Bletchley MK2 2NY made himself known and offered to answer any questions about the proposed development.

FC2017/18-285 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 20 February 2018.

FC2017/18-286 It was **RESOLVED** to record in the minutes of this meeting that a meeting of the Town Council had been due to take place on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at the Methodist Hall in Queensway Bletchley but the only business which was transacted had been to note apologies and receive declarations of interest from members.

All members of the council were present at the meeting pm Tuesday 6 March except for Cllrs Khan and Cllr Ely. Cllr Ely had sent his apologies which were received. Several members of the public were present as was the Town Clerk. No declarations of interests were made. A



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member of the public addressed the Council for three minutes on the subject of George Street Community Centre and was critical of the Town Council and the Town Clerk's past actions. At the end of three minutes the chairman asked the member of the public on more than one occasion to stop speaking and the member of the public declined to do so. The Chairman adjourned the meeting and no further business was transacted.

FC2017/18-287

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of the HR Committee held on Thursday 15 February 2018 and the draft minutes of the meeting of the HR Committee held on Tuesday 13 March. Members then considered the HR committee's recommendation that the Town Council should ensure all employees should be paid at least the real living wage as a minimum rate per hour with effect from 1 April 2018 and it was **RESOLVED** that this would be deferred and full accreditation to the Living Wage Foundation scheme in its entirety would be considered at the next meeting of council due to be held on 3 April 2018.

FC2017/18-288

Planning Matters – Development Control

The following planning applications submitted to the Local Planning Authority for determination were reviewed by the Council.

i 18/00520/FUL – 83 Pinewood Drive, Bletchley MK2 2HU

New dwelling and associated parking provision

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments on the proposed development

ii 18/00445/FUL – 8 Vicarage Road, Bletchley MK2 2EZ

Ground floor rear, first floor side extensions and internal alterations to existing dwelling

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments on the proposed development

iii 18/00206/PNHSE – 80 Oakwood Drive, Bletchley MK2 2JQ

Single storey rear extension 6m deep and 3.3 metres wide to provide a family room

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments on the proposed development

iv 18/00551/FUL – 44 Church Street, Bletchley MK2 2NY

Proposed change of use from ancillary/ storage space (use class C1) to create three additional bedrooms with on end-suites and communal kitchen area. The applicant was asked whether this was an HMO and he confirmed that it was a hostel and tenants were vulnerable people.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments on the proposed development

v 18/00228/FULMMA – Foundry Arms, 32 Victoria Road, Bletchley MK2 2NQ

Variation of Condition1 attached to application 17/00210/FUL for changes to parking layout and access points to adjacent neighbours No. 28 and 30.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments on the proposed development

FC2017/18-289

Planning Consultations

Milton Keynes Council's Site Allocations Plan Further Consultation 21 February to 4 April 2018 was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to make no submission to the consultation which concerned only the modifications to MKC's SAP following recommendations by the Planning Inspector.

FC2017/18-290

It was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the Development Framework for South Caldecotte prepared by Milton Keynes Council to the next meeting of the Town Council and to determine whether to respond to the eight week public consultation running until 5pm Friday, 27 April 2018 on that occasion.

FC2017/18-291

The Buckinghamshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission Consultation running to Thursday 19 April 2018 was noted and it was **RESOLVED** to submit no comments to the consultation.

FC2017/18-292

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the order of the agenda and consider item 12 matters concerning Water Eaton Road next.



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Water Eaton Road

Several members of the public including the Chair of Water Eaton Residents Association expressed their concerns about traffic congestion and parking on Water Eaton Road. Residents' concerns included pollution, congestion, risk of accidents at the pinch points on the road and because of congestion and poor parking, failure to enforce apparent parking restrictions (double yellow lines) which they believe were previously enforced effectively, cars pulling on to the verges to allow passing, parking on the grass verges, lack of access for emergency vehicles, flooding of drains caused by grass/mud churn and speeding. Several residents also expressed the view that matters would become worse as proposed housing developments were constructed when construction traffic and new residents would add to the traffic on the road. The Chair of Water Eaton Residents Association expressed his disappointment that Milton Keynes Council had not taken on board all his Associations proposed measures.

A wide range of views about how the problems could be addressed was expressed. Several residents proposed amelioration measures including but were not restricted to: a consistent 30 mph speed limit on Water Eaton Road and Stoke Road, introduction of a new pedestrian crossing, 20 mph restrictions, pinch points/build outs replaced with raised humps, bollards to prevent parking, enforcement of parking restrictions believed to be enforceable based on experience in previous decades, different types of traffic calming etc. A member of the public explained his difficulties in parking anywhere near his house (including in his allocated space) and the problems this created for a disabled member of the household.

The Chair thanked all members of the public for their views and councillors then discussed draft proposals for amendments to existing traffic calming features on Water Eaton Road which had been proposed by MK Council in the light of residents' concerns about the congestion caused by priority give way build outs. Members shared residents' concerns about congestion and road safety particularly at the pinch points.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to communicate the Town Council's approval of the measures proposed by MK Council but to express concern that the 20 mph recommended zone should be replaced with a statutory 20 mph zone between the Mosque/Plough roundabout and the school and to recommend that the proposed traffic calming measures should take the form of speed cushions.

With regard to the parking problems members recognised residents' concerns and noted that this problem which was partly one of capacity which should not be considered in isolation from the congestion problem. Moreover residents had differing views about how the problems should be solved. It was **RESOLVED** to write to MK Council to emphasise this point, to seek a consultation with residents by MKC and to clarify the best course of action to try to resolve the problems.

The Chair reminded the meeting that MK Council's proposals were subject to availability of funding.

FC2017/18-
294

Briefing from Thames Valley Police

Richard Solly, Community and Diversity Officer from Thames Valley Police (TVP) gave a short presentation on work being undertaken to deal with hate crime in the local community and across Milton Keynes. Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or anyone else to be based on a person's perceived or actual religion, race, sexual orientation, disability, or transgender status is categorized as a hate crime and is prioritized by TVP and taken very



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seriously. Inspector Moreland emphasised the importance of reporting hate crime and hate incidents which are generally believed to be under-reported in Milton Keynes for a range of reasons including fear and belief it won't be taken seriously. In particular disability hate crime is a serious problem and very under-reported. Mr Solly also described the work of hate crime champions and how to report incidents and possible crimes.

Inspector Moreland noted frustrations with the 101 service and agreed that it could be difficult to report via 101, he also discussed the work which was being done by TVP to engage more directly with the community in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and thanked the Town Council for its funding of the lights at the MUGA in the Lakes which were now fully functional.

FC2017/18-295

Grant application

Members reviewed and discussed an application for a community grant submitted by Bletchley Town Bowls Club. The Club had requested any contribution up to a sum of £3,000 to assist with purchase of a new lawn mower which would enable them to keep their greens at a good standard. Members noted that a grant had been given by the Town Council for a new lawnmower in 2012 and that the Club had a healthy balance in the bank. It was **RESOLVED** that on this occasion no grant would be awarded.

Financial Matters

FC2017/18-296.i

It was **RESOLVED** to note that the bank statements, bank reconciliations and cash books for the year to 31 January 2018 and to 28 February 2018 have been reviewed and confirmed as correct by a member of council

FC2017/18-296.ii

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify a list of payments made or due to be made since the last meeting of council.

FC2017/18-296.iii

It was **RESOLVED** to note a price amendment to waste collection and recycling services contract with the Town Council effective 1 April 2018

FC2017/18-296.iv

It was **RESOLVED** to note price amendments and changes to terms and conditions of the postal services currently used by the Town Council with effect from 26 March 2018

FC2017/18-296.v

It was **RESOLVED** to note price amendments and changes to terms and conditions of the council's WorldPay account

FC2017/18-296.vi

Financial management reports showing detailed income and expenditure for the financial year to the end of February 2018 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were reviewed and compared to the planned budget. The clerk reported on difficulties being experienced with the payroll service currently being provided by Milton Keynes Traded Payroll Service delivered by LGSS and advised that a further report would be available at the next meeting. Members were advised that the payroll provider had accepted responsibility for all late payments to HMRC none of which were due to the Town Council and would pay all interest charges. It was **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

FC2017/18-296.vii

It was **RESOLVED** to note the balance sheet at 28 February 2018 which had been circulated in advance on the meeting.

FC2017/18-296.viii

It was **RESOLVED** to note the market income for the year to date which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.



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FC2017/18-297

Bletchley Market

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the agenda item to consider the progress of the Market Working Group and to determine future working arrangements for the group to the next meeting of the Town Council due to be held on 3 April 2018. The Clerk expressed her concern that a rent review agreed in 2017 had not yet taken place.

FC2017/18-298

Vision and Strategy Workshop

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange for the third Vision and Strategy Workshop (due to be held on Saturday 24 March at Spotlight commencing at 9 am) to be postponed and a possible date of Tuesday 24 April 2018 was proposed.

FC2017/18-299

It was **RESOLVED** that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following two items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted which was either commercially sensitive or of a confidential nature concerning members of staff.

FC2017/18-291

Property Matters

A confidential report from the clerk concerning negotiations about the use of office and community space in Bletchley Library was discussed in detail.

It was **RESOLVED** to commit (subject to contract) to the terms proposed in the report and to authorise the Clerk to continue working towards occupation of space at Bletchley Library and management of the Community Space at the Library as laid out in the confidential report.

FC2017/18-292

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk on behalf of the council to instruct solicitors accordingly.

FC2017/18-293

Members noted repair work (required to be undertaken by the tenant under the terms of the council's lease of 74-76 Queensway) to two skylight windows in the roof and it was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation from Bailey roofing in the sum of £1,660.00 and with the landlord's permission to remove all five flat roof windows and repair the roof as detailed in the quotation.

FC2017/18-294

George Street Community Centre

The Chair led members through a short confidential presentation on the recent history of a dispute with the George Street Community Centre Charity and their first response to the heads of terms for a new lease was discussed. The Chair drew attention to the offer of informal mediation from Cllr Hannah O'Neil of Milton Keynes Council and debate followed.

During the debate the Clerk drew attention to the most recent advice of the Town Council's solicitors.

Following debate amongst members it was **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Council's legal solicitors to follow a specific course of action with regard to this matter. A recorded vote was requested.

Members who voted in favour of the resolution: Cllrs Ely, Graham, Haine, Kelly-Wilson, Kennedy, McDonald, O'Rourke, Reeves, Rohim

Members who voted against the resolution: Cllrs Rolfe and Webster

Members who abstained from voting: Cllrs Browne, Hume and Kuling

FC2017/18-295

Allotments

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the notes from an informal meeting held with allotment tenants on Wednesday 27 February 2018.



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The meeting closed at 9.27 pm

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Approved by Chairman
3 April 2018