



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Bletchley Library, Westfield Road MK2 2RA on Tuesday 2 October 2018 beginning at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Samantha Browne, Richard Graham (Vice-chairman), Ron Haine, William Hewitt, Ed Hume, Angela Kennedy (Chairman), Wajeeha Khan, Michael McDonald, Sean Porter, Shirley Rolfe and Lewis Webster

Absent: Cllrs Mohammed Arshad, Keith Ely, Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson, Wajeeha Khan, Peter Kuling, E'amonn O'Rourke, Mohammed Rohim
(One casual vacancy)

In attendance: Five members of the public. Delia Shephard, Town Clerk.

Min Ref

FC18/19-174 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Arshad, Ely, Kelly-Wilson, O'Rourke and Rohim.

Apologies for absence had not been submitted by Cllrs Khan and Kuling.

FC18/19-175 **Declarations of Members' Interests**

- i Pecuniary interests – None declared
- ii Other interests – None declared

FC18/19-176 **Public Speaking Time**

No representations were made at this time though the Chairman noted that she would invite representations before the grants were considered.

FC18/19-177 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last full meeting of council held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 as a correct record of proceedings.

FC18/19-178 **Minutes of Committee Meetings**

- i It was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of a meeting of the HR Committee held on 11 September 2018
- ii It was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Planning Committee held on 18 September 2018
- iii It was **RESOLVED** to note that the meeting of the Newton Leys Pavilion Committee on 25 September 2018 did not proceed for lack of a quorum. It was further **RESOLVED** that the problems with obtaining a quorum would be subject to discussion and possible changes to the scheme of delegation at the next full council meeting.

FC18/19-179.i **Bletchley Market and Bandstand**

It was **RESOLVED** to note increased requests from groups for charity, party political and religious stalls on Bletchley Market and to confirm the council's current policy that all market stalls must be **selling** goods or services (in order to comply with the case law definition of a



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market as a concourse for buying and selling) and that no reduced fees would apply to charities selling goods on the market.

It was **RESOLVED** that no religious groups, political parties or pressure groups would be permitted to have market stalls and that charities which took market stalls must be selling goods and pay the full rent.

FC18/19-
179.ii

A request to use Bletchley Bandstand for Rock and Roll parties hosted by Radio Love to support The Food Bank on dates in October, November and December was considered. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to permit Radio Love to use the bandstand at no charge for the purposes of promoting the radio station and collect tins and packets for the Food Bank and funds for Milton Keynes Hospital Radio on 12 October, 10 November and 29 December 2018 as requested subject to the following conditions:

- 1 That the hours of performance from the bandstand would be the same as those permitted for regular bandstand performances (ie 11am – to 2pm) and would be required to comply with the usual terms and conditions including those about electrical equipment
- 2 That Radio Love would complete a litter pick around the bandstand after the events
- 3 That Radio Love would be responsible for obtaining its own licence for a street collection and would provide sight of this to the Town Council
- 4 That any tables or stalls in Stanier Square would be required to pay the usual market rates and comply with market terms and conditions and must be selling goods and/or services.

FC18/19-180

Casual Vacancy

It was **RESOLVED** to note the existence of a casual vacancy in Eaton South Ward of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council following disqualification from office of former Cllr Reeves through lack of attendance. The clerk advised that the vacancy had been declared to the unitary authority and notices would be put up on 3 October 2018 giving the electorate 14 days to demand a poll. The notice period would therefore end on Tuesday 23 October 2018.

FC18/19-
181.i

Grant Applications

Following discussions and questions to representatives of the Lakes Residents Association it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £3,150 to the Association for the provision of a community firework display on 3 November 2018.

FC18/19-
181.ii

Following discussions and questions to representatives of Milton Keynes Christmas Day Party for the Elderly concerning the number of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Residents who have attended their events in the past it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £300 to MKCDPE. The organisation was asked to provide information about how many residents from the parish participated in the event and to ensure that the event was promoted in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

On behalf of the Town Council the Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance and for their work for the community.

FC18/19-
181.ii

It was **RESOLVED** to note that a request for further funding from BFF due to be considered on 2 October 2018 would be deferred to the meeting on 6 November 2018 to allow further consideration of integration of services and provision of additional financial advice.



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Christmas Event

- FC18/19-182 The Chair of the Christmas Event Working Group gave an oral update to support the written notes which had been circulated on preparations made for the Christmas lights switch on event to be held on 24 November. The chair of the group advised that good progress had been made by the working group and detailed arrangements already made. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a quotation from IPS in the sum of £2,370 for hire of a stage for the event. (Cllr Webster declared a personal interest in this matter as he had a business relationship with the provider and abstained from discussion or voting on this matter.) Several members reported that although they had spoken to stores about donations for the event they now required letters from the Town Council to formally request the donations and the clerk confirmed that details of the recipients and the contents of the letters would be needed from the councillors involved. It was noted that arrangements for sale or serving of alcohol had not been finalised at this stage and work to obtain additional performers, arrange the shop window treasure hunt, secure stalls and volunteers and arrange a raffle remained to be done.
- FC18/19-182 Discussion about the future of the working group followed and a recommendation to disband the group was put forward by the Chair of the working group. However it was **RESOLVED** to note the report of the group and to make no change to the current arrangements.

Council Property and Premises

A written report on progress with the council's move to Bletchley Library had been circulated before the meeting and the clerk gave an oral update which was discussed. Completion of legal work was anticipated in October 2018.

- FC18/19-183 It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment of a retainer of £2,000 per month to MK Council for use of the premises with effect from 1 October 2018 prior to the formal signing of the lease and the commencement of full rental payments.
- FC18/19-184 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the lease for occupation of the library premises subject to two minor amendments namely the correction of the Town Council name to Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council and amendment to show that the lease permitted Town Council signage to be added to the building by agreement with the landlord. It was **RESOLVED** to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council to approve the signing of the sub-lease for 74-76 Queensway as a date before the next full council meeting yet to be determined.
- FC18/19-185
- FC18/19-186 It was **RESOLVED** to note a written report on work to Manor Road Cemetery chapel which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The clerk also informed the council that the practical completion date for the Newton Leys Pavilion building had been pushed back to 18 October 2018 and it remained to be seen whether this date could in fact be met. Progress had been made with Newton Leys Allotments as the taps had been reinstalled and the water meter installed but the ridings were not yet made good and bicycle racks remained to be installed. Members again discussed the option of entering premises by licence but this approach was not favoured.

- FC18/19-187 It was **RESOLVED** that that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted which involved personal sensitive data.

FC18/19-188 Recruitment and Selection

A confidential written report from the clerk had been provided to the council on behalf of the recruitment panel acting for the HR Committee to select new employees to the posts of



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Support Services Manager and Environment and Premises Manager. Members of the panel commented on the high standard of applicants interviewed and the thoroughness of the process adopted.

It was **RESOLVED** to make offers of employment to the panel's preferred candidates for the Support Services Manager post and the Environment and Premises Manager post at the pay scales included in the report.

Landscaping

A written report on preparations for the Town Council's decision making process to determine whether or not to take over provision of landscaping services in the parish from Milton Keynes Council from 2020 was discussed. The clerk noted that Milton Keynes Council required a decision by 31 October 2018 but as essential TUPE information had not been provided until after the council's September meeting this deadline would be difficult to achieve.

- FC18/19-189 It was **RESOLVED** to invite Cllrs Ely and O'Rourke together with Cllrs Webster and Graham to attend a meeting with the council's existing landscape contractor. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss an illustrative quotation to be prepared by the contractor to assist the council to understanding the likely costs and the tendering requirements anticipation of any future formal tendering process which might take place. The meeting would also permit members to talk through issues relating to the mapping, quantities and practical implications for the council of outsourcing the landscaping work to an external contractor at a future date. A fee of £275.00 for this work had been negotiated with the contractor and it was **RESOLVED** to approve this payment. The group of councillors would then work with the clerk to produce a report for full council.
- FC18/19-190
- FC18/19-191 It was **RESOLVED** that a consultation about whether the Town Council should take over responsibility for the landscaping should be undertaken when sufficient information was available for a meaningful consultation and before a final decision was made.
- FC18/19-192 It was **RESOLVED** that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted which involved a legal dispute.

George Street Community Centre

The chairman gave a confidential oral report on the current position on the discontinuation of recent legal proceedings in respect of occupation of George Street Community Centre by the George Street Community Centre charitable trust and lengthy debate followed. It was noted that MK Ward Councillor Emily Darlington had offered to act as an informal mediator in order to help resolve the dispute between the parties.

It was proposed that the council should enter into immediate mediation proceedings and a recorded vote was requested. The proposal was not carried. Those members voting in favour of the proposal were Cllrs Browne, Hewitt, Hume, Porter and Rolfe. Those members voting against the proposal were Cllrs Graham, Haines, Kennedy, McDonald and Webster. The Chairman's casting vote was exercised against the motion.

- FC18/19-193 It was **RESOLVED** that a written report should be provided for members laying out possible options and the financial and legal risks and advantages of alternative courses of action in resolving this dispute. The clerk was instructed to seek further legal advice to inform the report.
- A recorded vote had been requested and Cllrs Browne, Graham, Haines, Hume, Kennedy McDonald, Porter and Webster voted in favour of the proposal. Cllr Rolfe voted against the proposal and Cllr Hewitt abstained from voting.
- It was **RESOLVED** that this report would be presented at the forthcoming extraordinary



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meeting of the council provided the timescale permitted.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm