



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 8 January 2019 beginning at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Mohammed Arshad, Samantha Browne, Keith Ely, Ron Haine, Ed Hume, Richard Graham (Vice-chairman), Gary Kenworthy, Sean Porter, Michael McDonald, E'amonn O'Rourke, Shirley Rolfe and Lewis Webster

Absent Cllrs William Hewitt, Ethan Kelly-Wilson, Angela Kennedy (Chairman) Peter Kuling, Mohammed Rohim and Lewis Webster
(One casual vacancy)

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

Min Ref

FC18/19-263 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hewitt, Kelly-Wilson, Kennedy and Kuling.

Apologies for absence had not been received from Cllrs Rohim and Webster.

Cllr Graham (who was chairing the meeting) welcomed Cllr Gary Kenworthy to the council and confirmed that Cllr Kenworthy had made his declaration of acceptance of office before the Town Clerk prior to the meeting. The Chair reminded members that an election was due to be held in the Fenny Stratford Ward in February 2018 and nominations must be received by Milton Keynes Council by 18 January 2019.

FC18/19-264 **Declarations of Members' Interests**

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

FC18/19-265 **Public Speaking Time**

Several residents of Eaton Avenue were present at the meeting and two representatives spoke on their behalf. Concern was expressed about the continued problems with traffic speeding in Eaton Avenue despite the presentation of evidence collected over one year ago from SIDs reports that speeding was a serious problem at that time. The residents had been in contact with Cllr Khan of MK Council but this had led to no observable progress and residents feared for their safety and that of their children as motorists continued to use the road as a rat run. The roots of several of the trees in the road were raising the footway and their height had not been attended to for some years. Problems with the trees and the pavements were causing water to drain into gardens and indeed houses. Recent work to install fibre cabling to enable high speed broadband delivery had also had a detrimental effect on paving and water pipes causing flooding.

FC18/19-266 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 4 December 2018 as a correct record of proceedings.



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Minutes of Previous Committee Meetings

- FC18/19-267 i It was **RESOLVED** to note that draft minutes of the meeting of minutes of the Newton Leys Pavilion Committee held Wednesday 5 December 2018 commencing at 2.30 pm were not yet available
- FC18/19-268 ii It was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee held on 18 December 2018 and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation at minute reference FF18/19-69 to make the following changes to the names of existing earmarked reserves.
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 300 | Current Year Fund | Funds held to be spent by year end |
| 310 | General Reserve | Current general reserve for unspecified and unanticipated expenditure and working capital (ie cash flow) |
| 313 | EMR-Lakes Estate | Balance of funds left from Neighbourhood Plan earmarked for expenditure on the Lakes Estate |
| 314 | EMR – Devolved Services | Previously named Service Transfer this reserve is for expenditure on any forthcoming devolved services or asset transfers (eg landscaping) |
| 316 | EMR – Repairs and Maintenance | Reserve for general repairs and maintenance – equipment (eg vehicles) |
| 318 | EMR – Newton Leys | Reserve funds earmarked for Newton Leys Ward consisting of profit from temporary Community Centre |
| 320 | EMR – Property and Premises | Reserve for capital expenditure and repairs on premises |
| 322 | EMR – Newton Leys Pavilion S106 | Balance of S106 lump sum funding for Newton Leys Pavilion |

Members noted that the recommendation to approve the budget (minute reference FF 18/19-70) would be considered later in the meeting.

Planning Matters

The following planning applications submitted to the Local Planning Authority were reviewed and discussed.

- FC18/19-269 i **18/02929/FUL 105 Hunter Drive**, Bletchley, MK2 3LY. Single storey rear extension
- It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the proposed development.
- ii **18/02960/LBC 29 Mill Road**, Bletchley, MK2 2LB. Installation of 2No. conservation Velux roof windows and alterations to 2No. windows.
- It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the proposed development.

FC18/19-270



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- iii **18/03030/OUT 16-26 Tavistock Street**, Bletchley, MK2 2PF. Outline application for the demolition of all existing buildings and the construction of up to 24 dwellings with all matters reserved.

FC18/19-271

It was **RESOLVED** to comment that there were no objections to the proposed development in principle but the Town Council reserved the right to comment further at the reserved matters stage regarding parking and road access, noise and associated lack of amenity and inadequate information on other matters for example lack of engineering report and groundwork information

- iv **18/03044/DISCON Land east of Jersey Drive**, Arran Way, Newton Leys, MK3 5JU. Erection of new build public house with associated access, landscape and parking.

FC18/19-272

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the proposed development.

18/03084/FUL Land to rear of 12-14 Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, MK18 2NA (formerly Chalky Whites Repair & Service Ltd). Demolition of existing dilapidated buildings and erection of 29 apartments including a change of use from B2 to C3.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of this application and invite the developer to attend a meeting to explain the project.

FC18/19-273

Report from Christmas Event Working Group

Cllr Hume introduced a written report prepared on behalf of the Working Group which included details of expenditure up to 30 November 2018 and a spreadsheet showing detailed learning points from discussions held after the event. Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that

- i the working group be re-established for the 2019 for the 2019 event to include community members as well as councillors and a meeting of all interested parties would be held in early February
- ii the event date would be the weekend of the 23 November 2019
- iii the event would again focus on being family friendly and child orientated
- iv the working group would review the time of the event and the time of the switch on
- v a budget of £20,000 be allocated for the event in 2019
- vi written terms of reference and membership and chairmanship of the group be agreed by council following the first meeting of the group

FC18/19-274

Town Council Business Plan

An updated version of the draft Council Plan identifying the Town Council's business priorities for the remainder of the current term was considered. Following discussion it was recognised that the plan was a work in progress and would need further adjustment in the future but it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the plan (including the priority themes and the action plan) *and* to review progress against the plan on a monthly basis.

FC18/19-275

Landscaping

A written report on the history and on next steps for taking over provision of landscaping services in the parish from 2020 had been circulated before the meeting. There was extensive discussion of the financial and other implications of taking over control of landscaping services for the parish and concern was expressed about the long term impact on precept. Members noted the importance of developing a longer term financial plan in order to manage the potential additional cost to the council.

A motion that the council should withdraw from its current commitment to Milton Keynes Council to take over landscaping service provision for the parish in 2020 and that no



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further officer or council time should be spent on exploring this course of action was proposed by Cllr Ely. A recorded vote was requested. The motion was not carried.

Members voting in favour of the motion: Cllr Rolfe, Cllr Browne, Cllr Ely, Cllr Porter and Cllr McDonald.

Members voting against the motion: Cllr O'Rourke, Cllr Kenworthy, Cllr Arshad, Cllr Hume, Cllr Graham and Cllr Ron Haine.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the council would continue exploring all options for landscaping service provision in the future and that as soon as sufficient information was available to make consultation meaningful a public consultation would be held on all options before a final decision was made by the council.

Budget 2019/20

FC18/19-276

The chairman and members of the Finance and Planning Committee introduced the recommendation from the meeting of 18 December 2018 that the draft budget approved by them on 18 December 2019 should be adopted. Attention was drawn to the fact that most carried forward sums had been removed from the budget in the expectation that unspent funds already raised for work which was not yet completed (eg redecoration of bandstand) would be transferred to a relevant earmarked reserve (EMR) on the end of the financial year. The recommendation included the addition of a sum of £500 for a Chairman's allowance to meet the expenses of office and the creation/retention of the following earmarked reserves for the capital budget:

- 311 EMR - Regeneration
- 312 EMR - Elections
- 313 EMR – Lakes Estate
- 314 EMR – Devolved Services
- 315 EMR – George Street
- 316 EMR – Repairs, Maint, Equip
- 317 EMR - IT
- 318 EMR – Newton Leys
- 319 EMR - Bandstand
- 320 EMR – Property and Premises
- 321 EMR – Sport England
- 322 EMR – Newton Leys Pavilion S106
- 350 EMR – Repairs and renewal
- 351 EMR – New/Add Building Work/R&R
- 352 EMR – Improvements /Parish Infrastructure

It was **RESOLVED** to accept this recommendation and to adopt the version of the budget recommended by the committee.

FC18/19-277

Precept 2019/20

The Finance and Planning Committee of the council had further recommended that the precept for 2019/20 should be set at £701,852.56 (£701,853.00)

The setting of the precept at this sum and the adoption of the agreed budget would together result in a projected potential underspend of £72,772.00 during 2019/20 and an average band D of £142.16 (the equivalent of a 3% increase against last year's average band D of £138.02).



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It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the clerk to complete the demand demand and that a sum of £701,853 be collected by the billing authority for the Town Council's 2019/20 precept.

It was **RESOLVED** that in 2019/20 a sum of £10,000 would be added to the earmarked reserve for Elections and the sum of £62,773 would be added to the earmarked reserve for provision of Devolved Services.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.