



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 22 January 2019 beginning at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Samantha Browne, Keith Ely, Ron Haine, William Hewitt, Ed Hume, Richard Graham (Vice-chairman), Gary Kenworthy, Sean Porter, Michael McDonald, E'amonn O'Rourke, Mohammed Rohim and Lewis Webster
(One casual vacancy)

Absent Cllrs Mohammed Arshad, Ethan Kelly-Wilson, Angela Kennedy (Chairman), Peter Kuling and Shirley Rolfe

In attendance: Seven members of the public.
Mr Neil Hollingworth, Director, City Renovations
Gill Long, Support Services Manager and Delia Shephard, Town Clerk.

Min Ref

- FC18/19-278 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Arshad, Kelly-Wilson, Kennedy and Rolfe. Apologies for anticipated late arrival had been received from Cllr Rohim. Apologies for absence had not been received from Cllr Kuling.
- FC18/19-279 **Declarations of Members' Interests**
Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulations 2012 made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act Members were required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they held in any items under consideration at the meeting.
- i Pecuniary interests – None declared at this time
 - ii Other interests – None declared at this time
- FC18/19-280 **Public Speaking Time**
No public representations were made at this time.
- Minutes of Previous Meetings**
- FC18/19-281 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.
(Cllr Rohim joined the meeting.)
- Minutes of Previous Committee Meetings**
- FC18/19-282 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
- FC18/19-283 ii It was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of a meeting of the HR Committee held on 15 January 2019 and to note two recommendations therein which were relevant to items specified on the agenda. These recommendations were expressed at minute reference HRCOM/2018/19-59 and minute reference HRCOM/2018/19-60.



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

- FC18/19-284 **Election to Finance and Planning Committee**
It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Kenworthy to the Finance and Planning Committee with immediate effect.
- FC18/19-285 **Presentation from City Renovations**
Mr Neil Hollingworth, Director, City Renovations gave a brief presentation in connection with Planning Application No 18/03084/FUL explaining the history and vision for the thirty units (2 one bedroom dwellings and 28 two bedroom dwellings) in its location on the canal side near an earlier development of 4 housing units already completed by City Renovations. He noted that an application on the site had previously been submitted and withdrawn following consultation and adapted to mirror the opposite side of the canal. There had been work undertaken with the Canals and Rivers Trust to preserve a historic building on the canal side. At this point Cllr Webster declared an interest in the site as he was employed by the Canals and Rivers Trust and he took no further part in discussions. Mr Hollingworth answered questions from members about parking and amenities and the Chair thanked him for his informative presentation.
- Planning**
The following planning applications submitted to the Local Planning Authority were reviewed and discussed
- i **Application No 18/03084/FUL land to the rear of Watling Street** demolition of existing dilapidated buildings and erection of 30 apartments including a change of use to C3
- FC18/19-286 It was **RESOLVED** to support the application because the Town Council was keen to see the site developed and the proposed development would improve the area and add to local amenities whilst being compatible with the adjacent buildings/street scene and having good access arrangements. (Cllr Webster did not discuss or vote on this matter.)
- Several residents of The Beeches had attended the meeting and the Chair invited their spokesperson to speak about the next planning application. Residents expressed their concern that the planning application previously approved by MK Council (which they had vigorously opposed) was now to be amended by increasing the height of the roof and enlarging the garage footprint. Their concerns included fears of overshadowing, invasion of privacy and overlooking. Concern was also expressed that trees subject to TPOs would be/had already been damaged or removed.
- FC18/19-287 ii **Application No 19/00065/FUL 1 The Beeches, Bletchley MK1 1BJ**
Amendments to 18/00737/FUL to enlarge footprint of extension, raise roof ridge height and enlarge garage footprint
It was **RESOLVED** to comment that the Council did not support the proposed development on the grounds of potential loss of amenity through loss of light.
- FC18/19-288 iii **Application No 19/00049/FUL 40 Walnut Drive** Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2
2JA Two-storey side extension
It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the proposed development.
- FC18/19-289 iv **Application No 18/02948/FUL 13 Oakwood Drive** Bletchley Milton Keynes
MK2 2JG Conversion and extensions to form three dwelling units
It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the proposed development.



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Licensing Matters

- FC18/19-290 i **Variation Licensing Act 2003** Marston's Inn and Tavern, Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Milton Keynes, MK3 5SQ
It was **RESOLVED** to note the application for variation.

Financial Matters

- FC18/19-291 The clerk noted that new format of bank reconciliation showing all accounts on one page had been prepared for the meeting. This format was preferred by members.
It was **RESOLVED** to note the bank reconciliations which had been checked against the cashbooks to 31.12.2018.
- FC18/19-292 It was **RESOLVED** to ratify a list of payments made or due to be made by the council for the period to 31.12.2018 which had been tabled at the meeting.
- FC18/19-293 A financial management report of council income and expenditure against budget at 31.12 2018 was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- FC18/19-294 It was **RESOLVED** to note the balance sheet as at 31.12.2018.

Precept for 2019/20

- The clerk noted that a report supplied to full council prior to the setting of the precept at the last meeting of full council had contained a keying error and the resolution to set the precept referred to a total precept for 2019/20 in the sum of £701,853. Whereas the correct figure was £701,873.
- FC18/19-295 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the clerk to complete the precept demand with the correct amount ie £701,873 which represented a 3% increase and would equate to an average Band D precept of £142.16. A copy of the correctly completed precept demand had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
(Cllr Hewitt left the meeting.)

Parish Clean Up Fund – Parish Collaboration Proposal

Members considered a proposal to join with other parishes in Milton Keynes in purchasing shared equipment to facilitate local delivery of environmental services using funds from Milton Keynes Council's Parish Clean Up Fund. A report on the proposed arrangements had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Fund consisted of £100,000 to be shared between the 48 parishes in Milton Keynes. BFSTC was therefore entitled to £2,083.33 which could be spent on litter picking equipment, littering enforcement training or other services offered by MKC to help "clean up" the parish. The clerk had previously submitted a request for littering enforcement training but the current HR provision did not facilitate delivery of enforcement services.

- FC18/19-296 Following discussion in which a range of opposing views were expressed it was **RESOLVED** to advise Milton Keynes Council that BFSTC now wished to join the collaborative initiative proposed by 24 other parishes to each pool their share of the £100,000 Clean-up fund and purchase a foam stream machine and a sweeper to be stored at Woughton Community Council and Greenleys Town Council for shared use by the participating parishes. BFSTC would also be committed to paying a share of the £3,850 annual running and maintenance costs and a £10 admin fee and chemical/fuel/water cost for each use of the machine. It was anticipated that the Parish Ranger would be able to operate both machines. Members noted that use of this equipment would be in addition to the regular cleaning services provided by MKC through its contractors. It was noted that littering enforcement was still a priority for the



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

council and this should be considered further on a future occasion.

FC18/19-297

Landscaping

The clerk noted that she and the Environment and Premises Manager had attended a Landscaping Workshop arranged by MKC on 21 January 2019. A full report would be given to the group working on the landscaping project and subsequently to full council.

IT Working Group

Cllr Webster gave an oral report work undertaken on behalf of the IT working group in recent weeks/months. Members were advised that the planned cloud trial at the Library had not been successful and key sector specific software could not be supported by the council's IT contractor's proposals without the use of an on premise server. Moreover the RDS solution proposed by the contractor relied entirely on physical devices and was not compatible with the agile working required across the council's sites at Spotlight, Bletchley Library and Newton Leys and expense was a further factor.

Officers had identified an alternative solution based on Citrix provision through a sector specific provider who had licensing agreements with RBS the provider of the council's financial, booking and allotments software. A Citrix based solution would provide agile working for all staff allowing them to work in any location thus keeping the staff structure lean and flexible. Additional benefits would include the ability to upgrade existing and obsolescent hardware more cheaply with and through the use of specialist software the capacity to move more easily to a paperless meeting system, ability to scale in single units rather than groups,

As yet costs were not confirmed as negotiations with the existing contracted IT supplier would be needed. However, it was anticipated that an additional £200 per month might be necessary.

FC18/19-298

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the IT working group to pursue the Citrix based option and to give officers the flexibility to negotiate based on the previous agreed budget for the cloud solution plus an additional £200 per month. A further report with detailed quotations would be provided to council as soon as possible as members agreed with recommendation of the HR Committee that this was an urgent matter which should be resolved as soon as possible.

FC18/19-299

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 involved staff matters and a legal dispute respectively.

Spotlight

A confidential report had been circulated in advance of the meeting which included information to assist members to consider the recommendation from the HR Committee that BFSTC's policy on future use of the Spotlight Resource hub should be determined as a matter of urgency so as to enable the HR committee to determine appropriate future staffing. As part of this recommendation the HR had also specified that

- i consideration should be giving to providing free use of the premises to MK Council where services can be provided which are to the benefit of the parish (the Town Council would carry this cost to assist the principal authority and as a service to the community)



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

- ii the future use of the computer suite should be considered

The report drew attention to the links between the Spotlight provision and six of the priority themes in the BFSTC Council plan.

At the meeting an additional paper showing breakdown of Spotlight usage over recent months was tabled to assist in discussions.

FC18/19-300

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would:

- i offer free use of the building to MKC and/or any other provider for community related service delivery in the parish
- ii develop its community engagement by basing a community development worker at Spotlight (dependent on appropriate IT provision) or strengthening staff presence in some other way.

and the reasons for this resolution were to show continued support of the community and to promote the resilience of the Lakes community during this period of uncertainty.

FC18/19-301

It was also **RESOLVED** that current provision of public access to the IT Suite would continue.

George Street Community Centre

A written update report on replacement of the boiler had been provided in advance of the meeting as had a confidential report on recent changes within the Community Centre Management Committee. Discussion followed including consideration of whether to invite a representative of the Town Council's solicitors to attend a council meeting and the costs involved.

FC18/19-302

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss George Street Community Centre again as soon as confirmed written legal advice (including as much information on options and associated risks as possible) had been put before the council meanwhile the council's current resolved position would be unchanged.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm.