Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Meeting Room, Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, Bletchley, MK2 2RA on Tuesday, 5th November, 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs S Browne, K Ely, T Hyde, W Hewitt, M Rohim, E Hume, R Haine, E Kelly-Wilson, G Kenworthy, M McDonald and E O'Rourke

Absent: Cllrs M Arshad, P Kuling and S Porter

Apologies: Cllrs A Kennedy, R Graham, S Rolfe and R Smith

In attendance: Delia Shephard (Town Clerk) and Gill Long (Support Services Manager)

Min Ref

FC19/20-179 Members Apologies for Absence
It was RESOLVED to note the apologies as listed above. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair it was RESOLVED to elect Cllr Ely as chair for the meeting.

FC19/20-180 Members' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda
No declarations of interest were made.

FC19/20-181 Minutes of previous meeting
It was RESOLVED to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of full council held on 1 October 2019 as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC19/20-182 Public Speaking Time
Nine members of the public were present. A resident of Fenny Stratford addressed the council calling for urgent action to combat climate change and noting that, although most of the responsibility for dealing with the climate emergency fell to big business and central government, local government including town and parish councils also needed to play their part. Attention was drawn to several local sustainability initiatives as well as to Milton Keynes' Council’s recent call for evidence from their Climate Change Task and Finish Group. The member of the public noted mutual information sharing which had taken place with the Town Council and looked forward to further work on climate change matters.

(Cllr Rohim joined the meeting.)

The Chair of the Consortium of Bletchley Residents Association (COBRA) asked for clarification of the role of the Town Council within the Central Bletchley Community Policy Forum and raised questions about the forum and the attendance of the police at local Residents Association meetings and at COBRA. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had no formal role within the Police Community Forum which was purely a Thames Valley Police initiative. The Town Council had taken a policy decision not to send elected representatives to the Forum but supported the Forum by funding the use of the Library meeting room for meetings and encouraging Members to attend in their personal capacities. The Chair clarified that questions during the public speaking session should be directed to the Town Council. The Vice-chair of Water Eaton Residents Association expressed disappointment that the Police Community Forum had not taken place as did the Chair of Water Eaton Residents Association who also requested police attendance at Resident Association Meetings and COBRA. Sgt Neilson responded to these comments, noting that the last Police
Community Forum had not taken place due to changes of police personnel and handover issues but the next meeting would take place on 25 November 2019.

The Chair of Water Eaton Residents Association also spoke about Milton Keynes Council’s draft housing strategy noting his concerns about affordable housing, public transport and the impact of traffic from planned developments such as Salden Chase. Finally he also expressed the view that permission to extend the operational life of Bletchley Landfill should not be given for a range of environmental reasons.

A member of the public made a statement about a data breach which had occurred earlier in the year.

**Police Report**

Sgt Neilson of the South Milton Keynes Community Policing team was welcomed to the meeting with his colleagues PCSOs Claire Walton and Dave Smith. Sgt Neilson gave a brief report on policing in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. He advised that there were four Police Constables in the team and fourteen Police Community Support Officers. A new Inspector was due to take the place of Inspector Andy Pearce and it was possible that this would again be an Acting Inspector. There were a number of plans in the pipeline for work in the parish and the team was being targeted as specific issues rather than being thinly spread across the whole parish. Recently there had been some good results with six drug dealers arrested and charged in Millward Drive properties. The team had also been dealing with evictions and street drinkers in Queensway, new signage was planned to strengthen the efficacy of the PSPO in Queensway. The Lakes was a particular area of focus and had been designated under S34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 this action had occurred so that S35 dispersal orders could be issued over the bonfire night period. Sgt Neilson’s team explained that his team included good pro-active officers who were listening and acting on intelligence from the community and wanted to produce real results for the community. The Chair thanked Sg Neilson for attending and for his report and all the officers left to attend the Lakes in response to operational matters.

**Minutes of committee meetings and recommendations therein**

**Planning Committee minutes**

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes of meetings held on 1 October 2019 and 15 October 2019.

**Human Resources Committee Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to note the draft minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 8 October 2019 and to approve the recommendation that if one or more summer events were to be held in May 2020 additional resources should be purchased (ie the delivery of the project should be outsourced so that the impact on staff would be restricted to managing the contractor delivering the event). (Ref HR19/20-36).

A further recommendation from the HR Committee was noted (ref HR19/20-36) and would be considered with the recommendations from the Finance Committee.

**Finance Committee Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committee’s recommendation to replace and update computer equipment at Spotlight and at the Town Council’s office in Bletchley Library as listed in the minutes at a cost of £11,865.60 to be funded from the Earmarked Reserve for IT (currently £2,305) and the Earmarked Reserve for Repairs.
It was RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committee’s recommendation that all Members be provided with a Samsung Tab A (2019) – 10.1 screen size, 32GB with a keyboard and cover, anticipated cost per user £244. Total anticipated cost £4,392. The tablets would remain the property of the Town Council, would be returnable to the Town Council at the end of a term of office and would include MMD software to ensure that the equipment was only used for council purposes. The funding for these devices would be taken from the Earmarked Reserves for IT and Repairs, Maintenance and Equipment (as shown above). (Finance Committee reference F19/20-84).

Newton Leys Pavilion Committee

It was noted that the meeting of the Newton Leys Pavilion Committee due to be held on 22 October did not proceed for lack of a quorum. An extra-ordinary committee meeting had been scheduled for 9.30 am on 4 December 2019 at Newton Leys Pavilion.

Milton Keynes Council’s Draft Housing Strategy Consultation

It was RESOLVED to respond to Milton Keynes Council’s Draft Housing Strategy 2019/20 - 2023/24 as follows.

“Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council agrees with the overall vision of the Draft Housing Strategy. The Town Council agreed with priorities One and Four and wishes to stress the importance of the energy efficiency of homes and the use of renewable resources in provision of high quality integrated places and construction of high quality homes. The Town Council also agrees with Priority Two (including its identification of the strategic importance of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc which is significant for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford) and is concerned that “truly affordable” housing should be provided. A clear definition of this term within the document would be welcomed to increase the clarity of the strategy. The Town Council also supports Priority Three but would like to see within this priority an explicit reference to HMOs which frequently do not provide appropriate, safe and securing housing that meets the needs of residents.”

Milton Keynes Council’s Central Bletchley Prospectus

It was RESOLVED to respond to Milton Keynes Council’s draft Central Bletchley Prospectus as follows.

“Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council recognises the strategic opportunity for significant growth and development in our area as a consequence of our location and the planned transport infrastructure changes which will improve our connectivity. The Town Council welcomes the production of the Central Bletchley Prospectus and supports many of its aspirations eg the East facing railway entrance, the opening up and improvement of Queensway and the breaking down of the East West “Divide” in Bletchley. However, the Town Council wishes to emphasise the urgency and importance of development of a Supplementary Planning Document in the form of an Urban Design Framework for the area covered by the Prospectus. The centre of Bletchley has already seen several speculative development applications and believes there are insufficient policies within Plan MK to influence these piecemeal developments which could jeopardise coherent development in our area. If the Prospectus is successful, this will encourage further significant development potentially before the SPD is produced. The Town Council recognises that it has not yet produced a Neighbourhood Plan...
covering most of the parish but is now committed to do so. The Council believes that the extensive community consultation needed to develop both an SPD and a Neighbourhood Plan are now urgent priorities so that our community can genuinely influence its own future development and the Council looks forward to working in tandem with MK Council on both these planning documents.”

Neighbourhood Plan Open Meeting
It was RESOLVED to hold an open meeting for the community on 26 November 2019 to launch the development process for the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan beginning at 7 pm at Bletchley Library.

Community Infrastructure Scheme
It was RESOLVED to note that the Town Council’s applications to Milton Keynes Council’s CIF Supplementary Fund 2019/2020 for installation of seating and raised flower bed at the front of Bletchley Library and procurement and installation of a bench at the War Memorial on Queensway had been successful. The total cost of both projects was £10,000 and the Town Council would be expected to contribute £5,000 ie £2,500 to each project respectively. The projects had to be completed within the 2019/20 financial year.

The Clerk advised that MK Council’s consultation on the 2020-21 Community Infrastructure Fund had been extended to 8 November 2019 and it was not clear when the deadline for applications would be. Officers had continued to work on improvements to gateways and signage to Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and MK Council was currently producing costings. This, or part of this project, might be suitable for a CIF application. “Welcome to” signage (based on 2 signs and new installation) was likely to cost in the region of £4,000.

Another proposal put forward by a Member had been to install flower troughs on Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford to prevent parking outside St Martin’s Church in conjunction with activation of a verge/pavement prohibition.

Members were encouraged to put forward any further proposals as soon as possible.

BFF Project Report and Funding Request
A written report on the BFF Project on the Lakes for which the Town Council has provided funding of £12,952 to date had been circulated before the meeting and Debbie Scott of Youth Network MK spoke about the project and explained the reasons for a further request for funding of £4,450 towards the second full year of operation of the project. Funding had already been secured from the Lottery and “in kind” support continued from the partners in the project. Members congratulated BFF on its work and the report and on having secured additional external funding.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to grant a further £4,450 to the project the funding to be paid from the Lakes Estate Earmarked Reserve.

Landfill activities at Newton Leys
Following discussion it was RESOLVED to approve the following motion:
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council notes:
  i that permission for waste disposal at Bletchley landfill ceases on 6 February 2022
  ii the screening request and its outcome submitted by the operators (FCC Environment) to Milton Keynes Council 19/01119 in preparation for applying for a 15-year extension
  iii that Milton Keynes Council sends less than 1% of residential waste to landfill due the MK Waste Recovery Park and recycling and plans to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill further still
that the operators of Bletchley Landfill are currently importing waste from outside Milton Keynes to be disposed of here, it is known that rubbish is being received from London Boroughs and Central Bedfordshire.

This Council believes:

i. that landfill is not an environmentally friendly and sustainable way of dealing with waste we ideally support Milton Keynes Council’s approach to minimise the amount of waste to landfill

ii. that there is reduced need for a landfill site in Milton Keynes as a result of the opening of the MK Waste Recovery Park

iii. importation of waste from other areas produces carbon emissions which is environmentally unsustainable, therefore we should not be taking waste from out of area authorities.

This Council welcomes the establishment of a community group to campaign against the expansion/extension of the Bletchley Landfill site.

This Council agrees to

i. support the local campaign group by providing meeting space for the campaign group, advertisement of meetings and sharing social media activity

ii. to review any applications submitted by FCC Environment to Milton Keynes Council

A recorded vote had been requested.

Votes in favour of the resolution: Cllrs Browne, Hyde, Hewitt, Rohim, Hume, Haine, Kelly-Wilson, Kenworthy and McDonald

Votes against the resolution: Cllr Ely and O'Rourke

**FC19/20-192 Additional Dog Bins**

It was RESOLVED to approve an officer recommendation for installation of additional dog bins at the pathway between Magenta Close and Drayton Road in Water Eaton and at the pathway between Queensway (next to the NatWest Bank and Bowling Green Close and to approve associated changes to the emptying contract at a cost of £149 per additional bin, installation costs of £65 per bin and additional weekly collection of £156 per annum per bin.

**FC19/20-193 Report from the Christmas Event Working Group**

A verbal update from the Christmas Working Group was provided. Members noted that sponsorship to meet the costs of purchase and installation of the Christmas tree had been provided by McCarthy and Stone. The lights were already up and the tree was due to be installed on 11 November 2019. There were 13 confirmed stalls for the event, two gifts had been donated by local retailers. MK Dons had agreed to support in some capacity. There would be a “blue light area” with support from police and the army. The craft tent had been arranged and would be run by Cllr Hyde. Three sessions to produce lanterns for the parade had been delivered and feedback was good. Cllr Haines was thanked for delivering letters and Cllr Hyde offered to stuff some of the goodie bags for Santa’s Grotto. Costs to date amounted to £13,750. Members were asked to volunteer to help on the day as employee numbers were limited.

**FC19/20-194 Christmas Lights removal in January 2020**

It was RESOLVED to approve the stripping out of all existing light sets, control equipment and power cabling from the trees in Queensway and to return the equipment to the workshop of Lamps and Tubes and test the equipment and on completion provide a report. This work would cost £7,860.
The clerk noted the importance of going out to tender for alternative festive lighting for Christmas 2020 as early as possible in the new year and asked Members to volunteer to be involved in a task and finish group (possibly an e-group) to explore options.

**FC19/20-195 CCTV Policy and associated changes to Data Protection and Privacy Policies**
A draft CCTV policy and amended Data Protection and Privacy Policy had been circulated electronically in advance of the meeting and hard copies were tabled. It was RESOLVED to approve both documents with immediate effect as part of the Town Council’s suite of Data Protection policies.

**FC19/20-196 Timetable for budget preparation and agreement of precept for 2020-21**
It was RESOLVED to note the timetable and arrangements for the preparation of the 2020-21 budget and agreement of the precept as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Action Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 October 2019</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Initial discussion and request to other committee to put forward spending plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 November 2019</td>
<td>Full Council</td>
<td>Reminder to committees/councillors to put forward spending plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 November 2019</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>First draft of budget for discussion by Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 December 2019</td>
<td>Full Council</td>
<td>Revised first draft for discussion by Full Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 December 2019</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Second draft of budget for discussion by Committee and recommendation to council along with precept recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 January 2020</td>
<td>Full Council</td>
<td>Final draft of budget to Full Council for approval and determination of precept demand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members were asked to submit any proposals for new projects to the clerk as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm