



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

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, 11th February, 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs A Kennedy, R Graham, S Browne, K Ely, R Haine, W Hewitt, E Kelly-Wilson, E Hume, M McDonald and E O'Rourke

Absent: Cllrs T Hyde, S Porter, M Rohim and G Kenworthy

Apologies: Cllrs M Arshad, S Rolfe and R Smith

In attendance: Delia Shephard (Town Clerk)

Min Ref

- FC19/20-224 **Members' apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED to note the apologies as listed above
- FC19/20-225 **Members' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
No declarations of interest were made at this time.
- FC19/20-226 **Minutes of the previous full council meeting**
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 January 2020 as an accurate record of proceedings.
- FC19/20-227 **Minutes of committee meetings**
- FC19/20-227.i **Minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 January 2020**
It was RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020.
- FC19/20-227.ii **Draft minutes of Planning Committee 21 January 2020**
It was RESOLVED to note the draft minutes of the meeting.
- FC19/20-227.iii **Draft Minutes of Finance Committee held on 21 January 2020**
It was RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020.

It was RESOLVED to approve a revised version of the Town Council's Financial Regulations as recommended by the committee (minutes reference F19/128).

It was RESOLVED to approve a recommendation from the committee (minutes reference F19/130) to award a contract in the sum of £36,342 for external refurbishment works to George Street Community Centre (specification previously approved by Council) to Millstream being the contractor which had submitted the highest scoring contract using the MK Council tendering framework (the procurement procedure chosen by the Town Council) and to approve commencement of the work.

A further recommendation from the committee (minute reference F19/131) had been made to full council that it should now work towards managing and operating the Community Centre itself in order to promote wider usage of this community asset and



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to seek legal advice to explore ways in which the Town Council could undertake operational responsibilities and day to day management of George Street Community Centre whilst retaining the involvement of the charity in order to find a mutually agreeable way forward. The Chair of the Trustees of the Charity was present at the meeting and explained that work was still ongoing on the business plan which the trustees had revisited and were trying to make more positive. The number of enquiries had increased but use of the Centre was predominantly during evenings with party bookings at the weekend and it was hoped to increase daytime usage by developing a new website and targeting craft and literary groups which met during the day. Members asked for information about what would be in the new business plan and stressed the importance of developing a vision of future viability and extended use of the Centre. The possibility of making changes to the building, eg access to the external space at the rear of the building was discussed.

The Clerk advised the council that a member of the community had attended the Town Council office to complain that the premises were dirty and that a recent regular booker had cancelled their booking for this reason. The Environment and Premises Manager had visited the premises on 10 February 2020 and confirmed that the premises were not clean. Advice had been requested from the Town Council’s solicitors following instructions to the Clerk by the Finance Committee on 21 January 2020 but this was not yet available.

Further discussion followed and a recorded vote was requested.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council would now work towards managing and operating the Community Centre itself in or order to promote wider use of this community asset.

Future Management of George Street Community Centre (Resolution)	
Councillor Angela Kennedy	Abstain
Councillor Richard Graham	For
Councillor Sam Browne	For
Councillor Keith Ely	For
Councillor Ron Haine	For
Councillor William Hewitt	Against
Councillor Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson	For
Councillor Ed Hume	Abstain
Councillor Michael McDonald	For
Councillor E'Amonn O'Rourke	For
Carried	

FC19/20-227.iv

Human Resources Committee held on 28 January 2020

The draft minutes from the HR Committee held on 28 January were not available for noting and would be circulated before the next full council meeting.

FC19/20-228

Public Speaking

Three members of the public were present.

The Chair of Water Eaton Residents Association spoke in support of the proposed traffic calming measures on Water Eaton Road, reminding Members of the long history of residents’ traffic and parking concerns and the previous attempts to resolve these and hoped that the proposed scheme would ameliorate current problems so that



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attention could be turned to other “problem” areas for example Duncombe Street.

A resident of Water Eaton Road spoke in support of the proposed traffic calming measures, reminding Members of her difficulties with misuse of her drive, parking and associated problems.

FC19/20-229 **Consultations on proposed traffic calming measures and speed restrictions in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford**

FC19/20-229.i **Proposed 20 mph speed limit along the entire length of Duncombe Street**
It was unanimously RESOLVED to support the proposed introduction of a 20 mph speed limit along the length of Duncombe Street.

FC19/20-229.ii **Proposed 20 mph speed limit along the entire length of Brooklands Road**
During discussion concern was expressed about how the introduction of a 20 mph scheme could be enforced on Brooklands Road. It was RESOLVED to support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit along the length of the road.

FC19/20-229.iii **Introduction of 20 mph along the entire length of Penn Road**
It was RESOLVED to object to the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit on Penn Road because Members felt this was not a major through route and was one of many residential roads in the parish which fell into a similar category of risk.

FC19/20-229.iv **Proposed Introduction of 20 mph speed limit along the entire length of Lennox Road**
It was RESOLVED to support the 20 mph limit along the entire length of Lennox Road.

FC19/20-229.v **Proposed introduction of a 20 mph speed limit along the entire length of Leon Avenue**
It was RESOLVED to support the proposed introduction of a 20 mph limit along the length of Leon Avenue.

FC19/20-229.vi **Proposed introduction of 20 mph speed limit, 6 speed cushions and introduction of double yellow lines along Eaton Avenue**
It was RESOLVED to note that the consultation on this proposed scheme was currently taking place and the outcome was awaited, also it was noted that the Town Council had committed £9,523 towards this project under the Community Infrastructure.

FC19/20-229.vii **Proposed introduction of traffic calming measures near Water Eaton Road including waiting restrictions on Saffron Street and Water Eaton Road, removal of priority narrowing features, installation of speed cushions and footway and verge parking bans and improvement of crossing points**
Discussion of these traffic calming measures took place during which Cllr Ely declared a DPI because of his residence was on Hunter Drive in proximity to the proposed calming measure and he took no further part in discussion or voting on this matter.



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It was RESOLVED to support the proposed traffic calming measures and to suggest to MK Council that further waiting restrictions on Hunter Drive should be considered in view of the migration of parking in the streets surrounding the proposed scheme and that the scheme should be introduced as soon as possible because of potential additional pressures on Water Eaton Road caused by anticipated works to the railway bridge on Buckingham Road.

FC19/20-230

Neighbourhood Plan

It was RESOLVED to approve a map and draft statement for submission to Milton Keynes Council which requested designation of the whole of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford parish (with the exception of the area covered by the Lakes Neighbourhood Plan) as the area for the new Bletchley and Fenny Neighbourhood Plan.

A chart showing an indicative timetable for development of the plan had been circulated and Members noted their wish that this project should be progressed as quickly as possible. The Clerk noted that the next most important part of the process was to establish the steering committee. There was also general agreement that a parking survey would be necessary and this would also be pursued in the next few months.

FC19/20-231

Proposals for printed newsletter for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford

A report with proposals for re-introduction of a regular newsletter had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was discussed. Members thanked the Projects and Media Officer for the very helpful report.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would produce a pre-election leaflet of 2 A4 pages (ie 4 sides) to be distributed to all households in the parish. The chief purpose of this leaflet would be to promote the opportunity to stand in the elections in May, to promote the Neighbourhood Plan and opportunities to be involved in this as well as flagging up future production of a regular newsletter and giving information about work of the Town Council. The leaflet would also be available to view and download as a PDF on the website. Costs had been provided to the council for production and delivery of an A4 double-sided flyer but not for the larger 4 sided leaflet, however these could be met from within the Community Engagement budget for 2019-20 and would be reported to the Finance Committee in the usual way.

It was RESOLVED to reinstate a regular newsletter beginning in June 2020 to be distributed to all households in the parish and available to download as a PDF from the website. Members favoured in-house design of the newsletter and recommended that appropriate training and resources were provided to the Projects and Media Officer to undertake this. A local printer was preferred and a further report would be provided to the Council with additional information on the next occasion.

FC19/20-232

Response to Milton Keynes Council's "Together we can" document

Members discussed a document provided by MK Council titled "Together we can" which had been sent out to all parishes for consultation. The Clerk had annotated the document and provided a copy of the 2013 Parishes Protocol document for comparison purposes.

Members discussed the document and expressed concern that MK Council and Ward members did not fully understand the role of Town and Parish Councils and this was reflected in the document. It was felt the independence of each parish council as an autonomous body should be more clearly emphasised in the document and there was



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particular concern about emphasis given to MKALC as being representative of all MK parishes. It was recognised that there were common goals with MK Council and close partnership working was valued.

It was RESOLVED to delegate the preparation of a response to the document to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman based on the annotations provided in the draft document and emphasising the points above.

FC19/20-233

MK Council Community Infrastructure Fund

It was RESOLVED to note that an application had been made on the council's behalf to the Community Infrastructure Fund for improvements to signage in Fenny Stratford and Newton Leys as previously agreed by Council.

FC19/20-234

Albert Street Public Conveniences

A report containing statistical information about average usage of Albert Street Public Conveniences together with a review of annual running costs had been circulated before the meeting and was discussed. Members noted the high levels of usage and the value which members of the public put on these facilities.

A draft tenancy at will document presented by MK Council had been circulated with the report and was discussed. Members were in favour of signing a tenancy at will document in order to regularise the terms of occupation of the property but raised a number of concerns with the draft document as follows.

- i *Permitted Hours*: Proposed hours of usage of 8.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs Monday to Saturday did not allow for exceptional opening of the toilets if a community event was being held on a Sunday or later in the evening. The Clerk was asked to negotiate for hours to at least 6.00 hrs to 23.00 hrs and occasional Sunday opening.
- ii *3.2 d The Tenant shall not put any signs at the Property*: This clause effectively prevented the Council from putting an out of order sign on the door of the property and required amendment.
- iii *4 Exclusion of Warranty as to use*: This clause was not understood by the Council.

The Clerk also raised concerns about the start date of the tenancy at will and wished to check with the Town Council's solicitor whether this should reflect the Council's actual occupation of the premises.

It was RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to seek further advice and negotiate amendments to the draft to reflect the concerns above, if these could be amended the Clerk was authorised to sign the tenancy at will on behalf of the Council.

FC19/20-235

Christmas Events for 2019 and 2020

It was RESOLVED to note a final report on the Christmas Event held in 2019. The Chair of the Christmas Event Working Group expressed thanks to the officers involved in the event particularly the Support Services Manager. The role of the Working Group was raised and it was suggested that provided the goals and objectives of the event were clearly set the day to day decision making could be made by officers in consultation with a "virtual" working group of councillors and members of the community. However, a more pressing concern was the future of the Christmas Lights display for 2020.

It was RESOLVED to note the report.

FC19/20-236

Christmas Festive Lighting in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford

A written report on issues concerning the festive lighting display during 2019 had been



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provided to Members and the Clerk confirmed that a greater understanding of Ringway and MK Council's current interpretation of PLG06 and MK Council's adopted policy on festive lighting meant that considerable infrastructure work would be necessary to permit a festive display of the type provided during the 2017-19 period. Illumination of any trees required a dedicated independent power supply (ie not a lighting column) which would be costly. All columns used must have a double pole, twin fused isolators attached which would also represent considerable investment for the council. The Council was due to go out to tender but clarification of the sort of scheme which would be acceptable to MK Council and the community was needed. There was considerable discussion on this topic. It was RESOLVED to pursue clarification of MK Council's requirements via a meeting and to go out to tender as soon as practical.

FC19/20-237

Proposal for changes to the scheme of delegations and committee structure

Members discussed a proposal to change the Council's committee structure and meeting calendar in order to reduce the burden of meetings on members. In summary the proposal was for full council meetings on alternate months, two standing committees (Finance & General Purposes and Environment & Premises) meeting monthly and one standing committee which met quarterly (HR Committee).

Papers were not available for discussion at the meeting but the view of Members present was that this proposal was worth pursuing and it was RESOLVED to consider a fully worked out proposal with revised scheme of delegations at the next meeting of full council.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm