

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford held on Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7.30 pm at Newton Leys Pavilion

ATM2023-1

Welcome

The Chair of the Town Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the following people had sent their apologies for absence:

Milton Keynes City Councillors: Cllr Waqas Ahmed, Cllr Ed Hume, Cllr Nigel Long.

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council: Cllr Keith Ely, Cllr Ed Hume, Cllr Ayesha Khanom

ATM2023-2

Minutes

The minutes of The Annual Meeting of Electors in 2022 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings. A member of the public asked why the Town Councillors' attendance figures were not in the last newsletter and was advised that the attendance tables were in the annual report.

ATM2023-3

Annual Report and Accounts

The Chair introduced the Annual Report and draft Accounts of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council and highlighted aspects of the work that the Council had undertaken during 2022-23 and noted hard copies of the report were available on the Town Council website, social media and from the main office.

ATM2023-4

Reports from Ward Members of Milton Keynes Council

Cllr Emily Darlington reported on strategic priorities and highlights over the past year including a summary of casework undertaken, surgeries on the Lakes estate, progress with MKCC's White Ribbon accreditation action plan, future of the Blue Lagoon, Queensway parking issues and measures that have been put in place and the Lakes Estate regeneration progress with new play parks and new houses being built.

Cllr Mohammed Imran added an update and spoke about the parking issues in Bletchley and the work being undertaken to overcome these issues.

ATM2023-5

Presentation from John Cove, Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal Board

John Cove gave a presentation on aspects of the Town Deal which is appended to these minutes. John shared how the £22.7m awarded to invest in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford was being spent. The nine projects that form the core of the Town Deal were explained in detail and attendees were able to ask questions on the delivery of the programme.

ATM2023-6

Reports from Community Grants Recipients

A report was given by a representative from Friends of Bletchley Station who shared highlights of how a grant provided by the Town Council was used to benefit Bletchley train station and the local community.

Rev Steve Hallett representing Water Eaton Community Larder gave a report on a partnership between the larder and Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council that has just entered into year 2 of the 3-year agreement and shared the positive work carried out that the funding has enabled.

ATM2023-7

Questions or proposals from Electors

The Chair shared questions and answers that were sent before the meeting. These are appended to these minutes and copies were made available at the meeting.

A member of the public spoke to seek confirmation that the landscaping responsibilities taken on by Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council would include Housing Revenue Account Land. The Chair confirmed this to be the case.

Extensive discussion took place relating to illegal parking and pedestrian safety in the town centre and a member of the public asked what measures could be put in place to protect residents and visitors to Central Bletchley in Queensway. Paul Harrison, Network and Enforcement Manager from Milton Keynes City Council was in attendance and shared information on the enforcement measures in place to prevent the illegal parking. Concrete planters will soon be in place to physically stop vehicles from accessing the footway.

The issue of Town Councillor attendance at meetings was again raised and an elector expressed continued disappointment that some councillors did not attend meetings regularly and did not even submit apologies for absence. The Chair of the Town Council shared these concerns and noted that electors could exercise their displeasure at the ballot box. Meanwhile he advised that vacancies did arise on the Town Council from time to time and he encouraged residents to put themselves forward to co-opt or election.

ATM2023-8

Date of next Annual Meeting

The Chair noted that the provisional date for the next meeting was 14 May 2024, he thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.