



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 18TH AUGUST 2020
AT 7.45PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present:

Cllr J Dann (Chair)
Cllr K Badham
Cllr I Blazeby
Cllr P Dodds
Cllr P Earles
Cllr A Lutley
Cllr G Mackey
Cllr R Shaw
Cllr A Snape
Cllr J Roberts
Cllr D Toinko
Cllr C Thompson

Cllr G Mackey – Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Amenities Officer
Members of the public - 2

5003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Williams and Coleman.

5004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Councillor Mackey declared an interest in item 8a – Flitwick Transport Interchange Planning Application.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Councillors Dodds and Toinko declared an interest in item 8a – Flitwick Transport Interchange Planning Application.

5005 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor commented that whilst Members were formulating a response to the planning application for the Transport Interchange, this would only count as 1 response and encouraged residents to submit their own views via the planning portal.

5006 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items.

5007 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no items.

5008 MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

There were no items.

5009 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no items.

5010 **Items for Consideration**

a. **Flitwick Transport Interchange – Planning Application CB/20/02736/Full**

Cllr Roberts joined the meeting.

- (i) Sam Caldbeck (SC) advised Members that CBC had been awarded, subject to due diligence, £2.219 million from the governments 'Get Building' scheme to help fund the project. SC advised Members that the Interchange had been somewhat scaled back from the original plans as it proved undeliverable. The new proposed scheme was largely at street level making it a lot more user friendly. Enhancements included 4 bus bays, bike shelters, motorbike shelters, planting and a one way system which is hoped to improve some of the current traffics issues on Steppingley Road. SC advised that due to the conditions of the 'Get Building' fund, the project needed to be complete by March 2022.
- (ii) Members discussed the application and agreed the following comments be added to the response to CBC;
 - 1. Has a 20mph speed limit been considered for the area to protect pedestrians?
 - 2. Highways need to consider the impact of lorries (including refuse collectors) reversing into Franklin House, considering the proximity to Kendal Drive and the proposed new Tesco ingress/egress point
 - 3. We are concerned that there are no current guarantees of new bus routes or an increased timetable. We understand that there is no bus coverage beyond 7pm. We acknowledge that discussions with bus companies are planned to address this.
 - 4. Is there going to be further consultation on sustainable transport?
 - 5. Will CBC arrange consultation events concerning the plans, with plans and graphics?
 - 6. We are concerned about the loss of 69 parking spaces, given the lack of alternative means of reaching the station. It has been suggested that a reduced number of parking spaces will result in lower demand for spaces in due course, but there is a real risk of a negative impact on local streets in terms of commuter parking.
 - 7. We request that priority is given to foot traffic at station entrance/exit points.
 - 8. Flitwick requires a study on traffic flow.
- (iii) Cllr Badham asked if CCTV would be included within the Scheme. SC advised that this was currently being investigated.
- (iv) Cllr Blazeby asked if the Step Free Access project would be integrated alongside the scheme. SC advised that CBC were working very closely with Network Rail and GOVIA in relation to this. SC added that as soon as it was viable to do so, he would facilitate discussions with FTC regarding this.

It was **RESOLVED** to support planning application CB/20/02736/FULL based on the comments discussed being put forward. (Vote: 13 in favour, 1 against)

b. MTRF

- (i) The Chairman expressed concern regarding the accusations made at FTC regarding the project and suggested CBC issue a statement to correct matters. Members felt frustrated that the project had left the Council wide open to criticism due to the ongoing issues being faced with the project. This had not been helped by senior Members at CBC putting the blame onto FTC.
- (ii) Members agreed to ask CBC for a breakdown of costs for the project which could be then be published as there seemed to be confusion from residents regarding this.
- (iii) SC advised that he was due to meet the contractors and the Highways Team to address the ongoing issues at the end of the month. Cllr Dodds suggested himself and Cllr Dann as Highways representatives attend the meeting as well.
- (iv) Councillor Badham asked if the £0.8m funding awarded to Central Beds Council had been returned to Government. This question had not yet been answered.

5011. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1 resident commented that he was happy with the improvements outside Barclays bank. Members were asked for an update following the extra ordinary meeting held in October 2019. The Chairman advised that the Council were carrying out a review of all assets and the needs of local organisations with the intention of formulating a plan once completed.

1 resident commented that he was in favour of the Transport Interchange and liked the improvements to the Barclays bank area.

5012. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

There were no exempt items.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

The meeting closed at 21.08.