

**Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Community Services Committee held on
2nd June 2020 online via Zoom**

Present: Cllr K Badham (Chairman)
Cllrs D Toinko P Dodds R Coleman A Lutley
J Dann A Snape (Sub) I Blazeby

In attendance: Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk
Amenities Officer Community Services Officer
RFO & HR Officer

Mr Barclay (Resident)

Apologies Received: Cllr Platt

No Apologies Received: Cllr Earles

Open Forum

Mr Barclay advised Members that he lived in a nearby property to the Manor Park and had been involved with the planning process from the beginning. He advised that the Town Council were fully aware of the condition stating electronic gates should be provided to comply with the approved application. Concerns were raised with regards to the proposed variation of condition and Mr Barclay felt this had not been communicated in consultation with the residents beforehand. Mr Barclay advised that a former Town Mayor agreed that going forward the Town Council would have an open and honest relationship with the residents however Mr Barclay felt on this occasion this was not the case.

686 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr Toinko wished to point out that his term as a School Governor at Templefield Lower School had ended therefore he had no interest to declare for agenda item 10.

687 To Accept Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

688 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman commented that he had received a request for an agenda item the day before the meeting however advised that unless it was urgent felt this was unacceptable.

689 To Elect a Vice Chairman

Cllr Toinko was proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and there being no other nominations, was elected into the role.

690 Play Areas/Open Space

- (i) The Amenities Officer advised Members that a site visit to Millennium Park play area with Kompan that had been postponed due to lockdown restrictions was in the process of being rearranged.

**Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Community Services Committee held on
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Action: Amenities Officer

- (ii) Cllr Dodds commented that there had been reports of large gatherings at Hinksley Road field, Leisure Centre and Tesco car park. Cllr Dann asked if there had been many breaches within the play areas. The Amenities Officer advised that other than the Skate Park no breaches had been reported.

691 Grounds Services and Flitwick Manor Park

a) Members to consider options for Car Park at Manor Park

- (i) The Chairman asked for clarity on what exactly the variation of condition would entail, the Amenities Officer advised this would be up to Members to discuss in further detail but suggested it was more aimed at the removal of the term 'electronic' gates. The Chairman raised concerns if the Town Council were to step away from commitments they had already agreed to pursue.
- (ii) Cllr Snape suggested replacement of the broken fence at the same time as it did not look professional.

Action: Amenities Officer

- (iii) Cllr Coleman queried how the car park would be managed with new gates. The Chairman advised that several options had been investigated and the Town Council would need to implement a plan for this.

It was **Recommended** the Town Council hold consultation with residents before making a decision on the Manor Park gates. Vote: 2 in favour, 4 against

- (iv) Cllr Lutley commented that the Town Council had an obligation to provide electronic gates and felt this should be adhered to. Cllr Blazeby agreed and added that permission had recently been granted for a Country Park and how this could be viewed if the Town Council were not currently complying with conditions set at the Manor Park.

It was **Recommended** that the Town Council install electronic gates at the Manor Park. Vote: all in favour

- (v) Cllr Dann asked the RFO what finances were available to fund this. The RFO advised there was money within the rolling capital fund which could be used.
- (vi) Cllr Dodds commented that further information was required from the companies providing the quotes with regards to a safety point of view, in the instance the gates failed, and somebody was stuck in the car park. The Chairman advised that further information was required before deciding on which quote was most suitable.

It was **Recommended** that further information be sourced from the companies providing quotes for electronic gates at Manor Park and a final decision be

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2nd June 2020 online via Zoom**

made at the next Community Service Meeting. Vote:
all in favour

692 Burial Ground Update

- (i) The Amenities Officer advised there were currently 9 burial plots, 23 Garden of Remembrance plots and 26 vaults. Cllr Dann asked if the area designated for Muslim burials could be utilised. The Amenities Officer was unsure and agreed to investigate this.

Action: Amenities Officer

- (ii) Cllr Blazeby requested a visual plan of the cemetery so Members were clear on the specific areas and also where the vacant plots were. He also asked if there was a way of understanding the uptake of burials and ashes over a period of time. The Amenities Officer advised she was already looking into sourcing this information, but it would take some time to complete.

Action: Amenities Officer

- (iii) Members queried why the area within the old section of the Burial Ground was not used. The Amenities Officer advised that to her knowledge that part of the Burial Ground was owned by the Parish Church. Members asked for this to be investigated further.

Action: Amenities Officer

693 Community & Events

a) To receive report from the Community Services Officer

- (i) Members noted the report. The Community Services Officer asked Members to consider a decision on cancelling the Garage Night due to take place in September.

It was **Recommended** that the Garage Night due to take place in September be cancelled.

Vote: all in favour

- (ii) Cllr Dann suggested that considering the Community Awards had been postponed in April and hoping to now take place in September, an additional category be added to recognise the hard work of volunteers throughout the COVID-19 crisis.
- (iii) Cllr Coleman added that holding the event in September would be an inappropriate decision considering the Garage Night had been cancelled. Cllr Blazeby suggested holding the awards ceremony online.

It was **Recommended** that the Community Awards be added to the July Community Services Agenda for discussion. Vote: all in favour

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694 Highways

- (i) A detailed report that Cllr Dodds had produced detailing highways issues around Flitwick had been forwarded to Members. This document was due to be discussed at the next Highways meeting. The Amenities Officer agreed to set up a meeting to take place at the Rufus Centre implementing social distancing measures.

Action: Amenities Officer

- (ii) Cllr Toinko made Members aware of the Emergency Active Travel Fund made available by the Government to support local authorities to facilitate increased and socially-distanced cycling and pedestrian travel. A Flitwick resident and traffic consultant had led the initiative for Flitwick and invited residents to suggest ideas to improve travel in and around Flitwick and Ampthill. Over 80 suggestions had been received so far. Members agreed to support the scheme.

It was **Recommended** that Flitwick Town Council:

1. supports the submission of resident suggestions compiled by local website "Let's Keep Flitwick, Ampthill, Maulden and Westoning Socially Distant" to CBC.
2. Welcomes the opportunity for positive changes in order to facilitate active travel and social distancing.
3. FTC wishes to co-operate with CBC, ATC, and local residents in order to aid the prioritisation and delivery of improvements and will establish a 'Transport Working Group' to facilitate this.

Vote: 4 in favour, 1 against

695 To consider late grant request from Templefield Lower School

Members had a lengthy discussion surrounding the grant process and agreed this needed to be reviewed at the next meeting.

It was **Recommended** to award £500.00 to Templefield Lower School and review the grant finances and procedures at the next meeting.

Vote: all in favour

696 Discussion on Arts in Flitwick

The Chairman advised that in light of the current pandemic, residents had relied on Arts as a form of entertainment and mental health wellbeing. Members agreed that the Town Council could do more in relation to Arts in Flitwick and agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Action: Amenities Officer

697 Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit Funding Opportunity

**Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Community Services Committee held on
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- (i) The Chairman advised Members that he had been contacted by the Mayor of Shefford regarding some funding available from the Police Commissioners Office. The funding would be to improve areas that were in effect a crime hotspot. The Town Council would be required to match fund if successful.
- (ii) The Chairman commented that if successful, basketball nets could be erected at the Millennium Park. Cllr Toinko added that water fountains were suggested previously and proposed this also be incorporated.

It was **Recommended** that the Chairman progress the funding opportunity available from the Police Commissioner's Office. Vote: all in favour

698 Questions

- (i) Cllr Dann asked if the recycling scheme presented at the March meeting be revisited at the next meeting.

Action: Amenities Officer

- (ii) Cllr Lutley asked when paper copies of the Flitwick Papers would start again. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that a decision was made to stop printing them during the lockdown period however this could now be reviewed. The Chairman advised that this was a matter for the Corporate Service Committee to address.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk

Confidential Section

In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act), the public and press be excluded for Items 14 and 15 in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed relating to financial and contractual negotiations and questions.

699 To note the Community Services Budget

This was received and noted.

700 Questions

The Chairman wished to express thanks to the Community Services Team for their efforts throughout the COVID-19 lockdown.

Meeting finished at 9.32pm

Signed.....
Chairman