

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 409th Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 14th January 2020 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllr M A Williams (Chairman)
Cllrs K Badham I Blazeby J Dann P Dodds P Earles
M Halligan A Lutley M Platt R Shaw A Snape
D Toinko

Also present: CBCllr N Bunyan
CBCllr C Gomm
2 residents

In attendance: RFO & HR Officer Amenities Officer

Apologies for absence received: Cllrs R Coleman G Mackey J Roberts
P Thompson J Blakeman

Open forum

Two residents attended the meeting to raise concern with works that had been taking place at the land off Trafalgar Drive. It had been suggested the landowners had contractors carrying out works investigating the drainage of the land and residents in the area had seen contractors filling up tanks of water from standpipes in Trafalgar Drive. This had been reported to Anglian Water who confirmed that a permit would be required to do this and had confirmed no permits were valid in that area. The resident advised Members that whilst they understood there was little action Flitwick Town Council could take, they wanted to make them aware this had been happening. Cllr Snape advised that a complaint had been made to CBC and asked the ward Members to put pressure on CBC to investigate this further. CBCllr Bunyan commented that CBC had no powers over the owner of the land. He also advised there would be a road sweeper in the area to clear mud off the road at least 3 times a week. Cllr Dodds added that under the Road Traffic Act it is the responsibility of the contractor to clear any mud left on the road as it is a criminal offence. CBCllr Gomm added it had been 12 months since the planning application had been submitted and CBC were fully aware of the situation and would be monitoring it.

Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

1. CBCllr Gomm advised Members that the consultation for the proposed long-term sustainable growth at London Luton Airport had now finished. The proposals included a significant rise in passengers, a potential second terminal, increased car parking and approximately 16,000 new jobs would be created as a result of this. He had advised there had been an event at Priory House recently however was disappointed to see there was no mention of improvements to the M1, surrounding roads or the flight paths which could affect Flitwick.
2. Cllr Williams advised Central Bedfordshire Members following works at Temple Way where the new crossing had been installed a large part of the hedge and undergrowth was taken out and left on the grass verge. Cllr Toinko added there was also a tree that needed to be removed. CBCllr Gomm agreed to follow this up.
3. Cllr Dodds wished to thank ward Members for the crossing which had been completed at the Station and asked if white lines would be added. CBCllr Gomm assured the Council this would be done.
4. Cllr Toinko sought clarification that when the Town Council granted permission for CBC to use part of the land at Station Road as a compound for Market Town Regeneration works, it had been stipulated the hedgerow would be reinstated. CBCllr Gomm advised that this would be confirmed with the contractors and CBC project manager.

4906 **To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda**
There were no declarations of interest.

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4907 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Deputy Town Mayor had attended the following:

- High Sheriff's Charity Meal, Harpenden
- Flitwick Carol Service
- Dedication of memorial bench to past Cllr Stephen Mitchell
- Bedford Civic Carol Service at Elstow St Mark & St Helena
- Bedfordshire Police Christmas Service
- Sandy Carol Service at St Swithins
- Ampthill Soup Lunch for Chums

4908 To note the circulated Clerk's Report

- (i) Members noted the report. Cllr Blazeby referred to minute number 4898 and queried why Standing Order 23 was not on the agenda as stated. The RFO & HR Officer advised that as it had already been agreed to amend Standing Order 23 at a previous meeting it would have been counterproductive to ask Members to vote on the same thing twice. However it was advised in future the FTC Standing Orders state *'a motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's Standing Order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least 3 Councillor's to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with Standing Order 9 above'* and this should be adhered to.
- (ii) Cllr Badham advised that a vote could be made under Standing Order 10.XV to temporarily suspend Standing Order 9 in order to confirm the original amendment made to Standing Order 23.

It was **Resolved** to temporarily suspend Standing Order 9 to confirm the amendment made to Standing Order 23 made at the Full Town Council meeting in September 2019, minute number 4853. Vote: All in favour.

4909 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 408th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 19th November 2019

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 408th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 19th November 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4910 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 45th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 27th November 2019

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 45th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 27th November 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4911 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 54th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 3rd December 2019

- (i) Cllr Toinko referred to minute number 635 and wished to bring it to the Councils attention as he had concerns with granting a permit. Cllr Toinko added that he had investigated legislation around noise pollution and code of practice and felt the permit was too flexible.

It was proposed to vary the license to 3 months and then carry out a review. Vote: 5 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention.
Vote not carried forward.

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- (ii) Cllr Badham raised concerns around the cost that had been proposed for the permit. The Amenities Officer advised that a comparison amongst other local Council's had taken place and this figure seemed to be reasonable.
 - (iii) It was agreed minute number 635 would be deferred back to the Community Service Committee for further consideration.
 - (iv) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 54th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 3rd December 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record with minute number 635 being deferred back to the Community Services Committee.
- 4912 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 332nd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th December 2019**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 332nd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th December 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4913 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 101st meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 12th December 2019**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 101st meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 12th December 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record with the following amendment: budget total £150,067.
- 4914 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 46th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 18th December 2019**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 46th meeting of the December Services Committee held on 18th December 2019 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4915 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 55th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 7th January 2020**
- (i) Cllr Toinko referred to minute number 650b and advised 'License' needed to be added to the Recommendation.
 - (ii) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 55th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 7th January 2020 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4916 **To receive the Precept Report and set the Precept for 2020/21**
Members noted the Precept Report and supporting paperwork for the Precept 2020/21 which had been previously circulated.
- It was **Resolved** that the Town Council Precept for 2020/21 be accepted in the sum of £854,243 which was an increase of 3.5% for the Band D figure. Vote: All in favour.
- 4917 **To note the Central Bedfordshire Council budget consultation**
Members noted the CBC budget consultation previously circulated.

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4918 To receive reports from representatives on Outside bodies

Cllr Dann advised Members that he had attended the Police Priority Setting Meeting recently which provided details of crime within Flitwick in recent months. A presentation was also given which explained in months to come a new service would be available in Bedfordshire whereby when 999 is dialed a link would appear giving a live stream to Officers, this would allow footage to be used as evidence in court.

4919 To consider additional request from Link-a-ride

- (i) Members had previously been circulated the request from Link-a-ride. The Amenities Officer advised Members of some concerns that had been raised by 4YP and the impact it could have on services provided to the young people. The Amenities Officer also asked Members to consider specifying a time limit on the temporary use.
- (ii) Cllr Lutley suggested contacting CBC to discuss lifting the restriction of sub-letting which would allow an alternative premises to be offered. Members were not in favour of this.
- (iii) Cllr Snape advised Members that the condition on the planning application for the Hub had been changed to a D1 category which stated the building could not be used for office space. Members were unaware of this and agreed that unfortunately the offer of temporary office space at the hub would have to be withdrawn to ensure the Town Council did not breach these conditions.

4920 Honorary Citizen Update

Members were informed of the timeline for the Honorary Citizen and advised that nominees would be brought to Town Council in March for consideration.

4921 Questions

There were no questions.

Confidential Section

In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) the public and press to be excluded for item 19 and 20 in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed relating to financial and contract negotiations and questions.

4922 Personnel Panel Oral Update

Members noted the updates from the Chairman of the Personnel Panel.

4923 Projects Update

- a. Market Town Regeneration
 - (i) A update was given on the Market Towns Regeneration project.
- b. Country Park / Burial Ground
 - (ii) Members were advised of a meeting that had been arranged with CBC to discuss the Country Park and Burial Ground.

4924 Questions

There was 1 question.

Meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed
Chairman