

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 397th Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 15th January 2019 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllr G Mackey (Chairman)

Cllrs	I Blazeby	M Bonner	J Dann	P Feerick
	A Lutley	M Platt	J Roberts	P Thompson
	D Toinko	M Williams		

Also present: F Chapman C Gomm A Turner – CBC Cllrs

B Collins L Greenish – Beds Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)

J Abrahams C Pearson – Flitwick Surgery

L Yarde – Steppingley Parish Council

S Sandiford

In attendance: Acting Town Clerk RFO & HR Officer

Apologies for absence received: Cllrs J Blakeman K Quantrill A Larkins
M Sheehan CBCllr B Spurr

Presentation from Beds Clinical Commissioning Group and Central Beds Council regarding healthcare S106 funding

1. The Chairman advised that CBCllr Spurr had sent his apologies.

2. L Greenish (LG) gave a presentation on healthcare S106 funding including the different headings. She explained that the BCCG and NHS England were responsible for co-commissioning health. She gave a brief explanation of how S106 worked and stated that the BCCG looked at the health impacts from new residential developments and gave comments on planning applications. LG mentioned that the BCCG responses were on GP premises, community services, mental care and primary care.

(Cllr Lutley entered the meeting at this time.)

3. LG explained what S106 could not be used for and that there were tests. The BCCG had to make strong and robust responses for the health impact from developments and had to provide evidence for any contribution requests. Developers could challenge requests and it was not guaranteed all would be accepted. There were sometimes viability issues and advice on these were taken from local authorities. Developers' lawyers could reject certain terminology so requests needed to be carefully considered.

4. In October 2018 as a result of a consultation, the 5 rule pooling legislation restrictions were agreed to be lifted. This was positive because it removed barriers and gave opportunity to secure more S106 funding. Central Bedfordshire did not operate under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This lifting of the 5 rule was still to go through Parliament.

5. In relation to Flitwick, LG advised that CBC and the BCCG had carried out a piece of work which looked at the scope of healthcare. There was the intention for a Healthcare Hub to be created in West Mid Beds (likely for Ampthill/Flitwick area) and Steppingley Hospital was being looked at as a potential site. This work was ongoing and was part of a long term plan. In the shorter term, the BCCG were working with Flitwick Surgery to explore options. There was a desire to retain some S106 for the longer term solution of a Hub but there was currently engagement with NHS England regarding utilising the current clinic space beside

the Surgery. The BCCG were waiting for a report on this but NHS England had been keen to support it.

6. The Chairman asked what the Town Council (TC) could do to support this work. B Collins (BC) advised that the specialist Consultants carrying out this work were not just concentrating on Flitwick and commented the report was due end of March/beginning of April. At this time, the report would be shared with the TC. BC advised that the TC could support by reassuring residents that work was being undertaken to resolve the current issues. The BCCG appreciated the support shown by the TC since the Public Meeting in September and the organisation wanted to continue the positive dialogue to work together.

7. The Chairman asked about timescales. C Pearson (CP) stated that the Flitwick Surgery patient list was due to reopen at the beginning of February with appointments available 8-10 days in advance and on the day. The building could not physically undergo any more changes and this had been looked at by a Surveyor. Feedback from CBC and the TC had been taken on board and changes to the reception area were going to take place, which included a quiet room for patients. Waitrose in Ampthill currently had a green token scheme for a children's play area to be installed at Flitwick Surgery.

8. CBCllr Gomm asked if there were any planned changes for booking appointments and CP advised there was not. There were 50% available online and 50% for other methods. If the online appointments were not taken then they were released for phone enquiries etc. New Nurse Practitioners were in post who could make referrals.

9. CBCllr Gomm asked about weekend appointments. CP advised that there was now extended access on evenings and weekends, which was utilised on Christmas Day.

10. Cllr Roberts asked for an update on the car park. CP admitted the situation had got worse due to commuters and those parking inappropriately. CP explained that staff experienced abuse when asking people to move on and it was hoped that there might be S106 funding solutions. Cllr Roberts explained the difficulties in that the Surgery did not own the car park land. BC advised that NHS Property Services were the landowners and the BCCG had asked for a form of vehicle barrier operated with tokens for patients. There were other matters to be explored, e.g. the risk of people driving over the verges to exit the car park. BCCG were hopeful to create a strong enough case for S106 funding to resolve this.

11. Cllr Blazeby asked if the Surgery had been keeping a Waiting List for enquiries whilst the patient list was closed and he was advised that this had not been done. CP explained that patients were still taken on who were under Children's Services, were over 65 etc.

(Cllr Feerick entered the meeting at this time.)

12. Cllr Blazeby asked if the TC were needed to assist in promoting that the list was back open in February. BC explained that word of mouth travels fast and CP explained a note in Flitwick Papers would be good. J Abrahams from the Patient Participation Group commented that this would be included within her upcoming article.

(LG, BC, CP, JA and L Yarde left the meeting at this time).

Open Forum – no items.

Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

1. CBCllr Gomm advised that the formal Outline Planning application for the land off Trafalgar Drive (190 dwellings) had been produced and was due to be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting. The Chairman explained that the TC had been offered land from these developers to extend the Country Park site but this had been declined because it was outside the development envelope. The land offer would have been in conjunction with supporting the application, which was not agreeable with the TC.

2. CBCllr Turner advised of a temporary road closure planned for Ampthill Road for 6 days from 11th February from 8am – 6pm. He was not happy about the closure and fully intended to communicate this to the Highways Team. Cllr Thompson expressed concerns regarding the schools transport.

3. Cllr Roberts advised CBCllrs on a recent issue with the station barriers being shut whilst no operative was in the Ticket Office. CBCllrs agreed to look into this as the barriers were only supposed to be closed if there was an operative in the Office.

4. CBCllr Gomm advised that the CBC Budget Consultation paper was out and responses were being taken up to 29th January. Cllr Blazeby proposed altering the order on the agenda to discuss the CBC budget prior to the TC's Precept and this was agreed by all.

4692 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr Thompson Declared an Interest on item 10 - the Planning Committee Minutes for 13th December 2018 – he signed the Declaration of Interest Book accordingly and took no part in this discussion.

4693 Town Mayor's Announcements

(i) The Chairman advised that since the last Council meeting he was present for, he had attended the Remembrance Sunday events and the fantastic Carol Concert. Cllr Williams had attended the Jigsaw Club's Annual Lunch.

(ii) Members congratulated Cllr Toinko on the recent birth of his baby.

4694 Town Clerk's Report

(i) Members were reminded that the Christmas Lights were being taken down that weekend and assistance with this from Members would be appreciated.

(ii) An additional Member was required to join the Working Party to look at all Community Services fees and Cllr Williams agreed to fulfil this role.

(iii) Members were reminded about the second stage consultation being undertaken for the merger of Templefield Lower School with Windmill Pre-school due to begin from September 2019. This had been circulated previously by email.

(iv) Members were reminded about the budget consultation for the Fire Service previously circulated.

(v) The Police & Crime Commissioners Office had recently notified staff of an upcoming Public Surgery with the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) taking place at Flitwick Library on 12th February from 5pm – 7pm. The public needed to pre-book a time to meet the PCC and Members were invited to meet with her regarding their crime concerns separately from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The Public Surgery information would be promoted across all available publicity channels.

- (vi) An Outline Planning application had been received that day for the proposed development at the former Leisure Centre site and a display of the plans had been put up for Members. This application was due to be considered at the next Planning Committee meeting and the deadline for responses was prior to the next Full Council meeting. Members were requested to send any comments to the Amenities Assistant in advance of the Planning meeting or to attend and have their views heard on the night.
- (vii) The Acting Town Clerk advised that she had two confidential updates to raise and Members agreed for these to be discussed under the Confidential Section.

4695 **To note the resignations of Councillors Badham and Waites**

- (i) The Chairman advised that very regrettably two Members, Cllrs Badham and Waites, had resigned from the Council since the last meeting. He added that he was very sorry to lose both excellent Councillors and that they did not need to be replaced due to the closeness of the elections in May.
- (ii) Cllr Waites had resigned due to his work commitments inhibiting him from attending the necessary meetings within a six month period and he had opted to stand down. Avenues to avoid this had been investigated but it was not possible.
- (iii) The Chairman referred to the notes circulated regarding the meeting with Nadine Dorries MP (ND) and explained to Members that ND had refused for the meeting to go ahead with Cllr Badham in attendance. In order to move the business of the Council on, the Chairman had agreed to this since other Cllrs had made the time to be there and ND was already in the building. Cllr Badham had subsequently took exception to this and had communicated that he felt humiliated and unvalued.
- (iv) Cllr Blazeby questioned the rationale regarding the exclusion of Cllr Badham from this meeting. The Chairman advised that ND had stated that she did not feel safe regarding Cllr Badham's political action against her on social media. Cllr Blazeby commented that Cllr Badham was a democratically elected Member and highlighted political censorship. He added that the Council should not accept meetings with any individual who excludes elected Members and disagreed with the Chairman's decision to progress with the meeting. The Chairman agreed that it was not the right thing for ND to do but he stood by his decision. The Chairman added that the situation on the day had been very difficult.
- (v) Cllr Toinko referred to the notes circulated and the suggestion of a walkabout with ND in December, which he had no knowledge of. The Acting Town Clerk advised that this was a suggestion raised at the meeting with ND but she soon after chose to cancel this activity.

It was **Resolved** for the Council to not accept any meetings with any individual or organisation where any Councillor was excluded. Any such requests would result in the cancellation of that meeting. Vote: all in favour.

4696 **To appoint Chair/Membership for the following vacancies**
i) A Chairman of the Community Services Committee

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that Cllr Dann be elected as Chairman of the Community Services Committee.

The Chairman advised that Cllr Sheehan had expressed an interest in being the Community Services Committee Chairman however because he was already Chairman of the Planning Committee (another Statutory Committee), the TC's Standing Orders prevented him from being Chairman for a second Committee.

ii) Two Members of the Community Services Committee

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that Cllr Williams be elected as a Member of the Community Services Committee.

Members noted that there were no Subs listed however the Town Mayor could attend and vote as an Ex-Officio if there were quorum problems.

iii) A Member of the Business Services Committee

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that Cllr Lutley be elected as a Member of the Business Services Committee.

iv) Membership of Panels, Sub Committees, Groups etc.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that:-

Cllr Mackey be elected as a Member of the Health & Safety Panel

Cllr Platt be elected as a Member of the Christmas Lights Working Group

Cllr Williams be elected as a Member of the FTC/CBC Joint Group

v) PDRT Working Group

Many policies needed review therefore it was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that Cllrs Lutley, Mackey and Roberts be elected as Members of the PDRT Working Group. Members would be contacted soon to arrange a meeting.

vi) S106 Working Group

Now that it was clear what S106 funding was accessible by the TC, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that Cllrs Blazeby and Sheehan be elected as Members of the S106 Working Group.

4697 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 396th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 20th November 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 396th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 20th November 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record with the following amendments: insert Cllr apologies and for Minute Number 4686(i) remove statement regarding Cllr Blazeby and the Steppingley Road gates.

4698 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 314th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd November 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 314th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd November 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4699 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 45th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5th December 2018**

6.

- (i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 45th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5th December 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
 - (ii) Cllr Dann updated Members on item 502c (i) – replacement of felled tree in Beaumont Road – and stated that he and the Town Mayor had accepted a quote provided to replace the tree at a cost of £240. This item could not wait for approval by the Committee due to the permitted timeframes for planting.
- 4700 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 315th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13th December 2018**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the 315th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13th December 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4701 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 89th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 13th December 2018**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the 89th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 13th December 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4702 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 19th December 2018**
(i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 19th December 2018 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- (ii) Members were advised that there was an update relating to item 459i A which would be presented under the Confidential Section of this meeting.
- 4703 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 316th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th January 2019**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 316th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th January 2019 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4704 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 90th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 10th January 2019**
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 90th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 10th January 2019 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- 4705 **To receive the Precept Report and set the Precept for 2019/20 presented by the Town Mayor**
(i) Members noted the Precept Report and supporting paperwork for the Precept 2019/20 which had been previously circulated.
- (ii) The Chairman thanked the RFO & HR Officer for preparing the budget.

- (iii) Cllr Blazeby commented on the good decision made to give Committee Members the responsibility of managing their own budgets and mentioned that the Precept being in below inflation rate was the right thing to do.

It was **Resolved** that the Town Council Precept for 2019/20 be accepted in the sum of £816,053 which was an increase of 1.87% for the Band D figure.
Vote: all in favour.

4706 **To note the Central Beds Council budget consultation**

- (i) Cllr Blazeby asked if CBC intended to increase their Precept by 2% if residents indicated on the survey in favour of doing so. Although it was agreed that some residents may wish for this rise to help with enhancing services, CBC Ward Members commented that the intention would be to keep it at 1% unless a very high percentage of residents indicated on the survey to increase it.
- (ii) Cllr Blazeby commented on the investment proposals and specifically the mention of the proposed crematorium. He felt this being included was premature as no scheme had been put together and he had communicated this in his response to CBC. Other Members were urged to do the same in their responses.
- (iii) Members noted the CBC budget consultation previously circulated.

4707 **To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Dann advised that the Timebank initiative would be put on hold. The Community Voluntary Service Bedford would store the documents and work done to date so it could be picked up in the future if required.

4708 **Questions**

There were no questions.

(S Sandiford left the meeting at this time.)

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 in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed relating to financial and contractual negotiations and item 20.

4694 cont. **Town clerk report cont.** - Members received two confidential updates.

4709 **To receive a report from the Chairman of the Personnel Panel**

Members noted the reports from the Chairman of the Personnel Panel and received an update from the Town Mayor regarding recruitment.

It was **Resolved** to appoint Ms S Sandiford as Town Clerk as of 15th April 2019. Vote: all in favour.

4710 **Questions**

Cllrs Bonner asked a question under the Confidential Section.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm.

Signed
(Chairman)

Signed as a true record of the meeting with any amendments details in the following set of minutes.