

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 403rd Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 16th July 2019 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllrs P Thompson (Mayor)

A Lutley	J Roberts	R Shaw	P Earles
M Halligan	D Toinko	M Platt	
I Blazeby	G Mackey	P Dodds	
A Snape	J Blakeman	K Badham	

Also present: CBCllr C Gomm, Julia Scott from CBC and 16 members of the public

In attendance: Interim Town Clerk, Major Projects Coordinator and Assistant Town Clerk

Presentation from Public Arts Society by Julia Scott from CBC

Julia Scott advised that the original discussions were following the Steppingley Road and Froghall Road development. This was to take Public Art forward to enhance the community. The decision was for her to go away and look at the strategy and that is the situation. The overall framework is to consider opportunities for inclusion of Public Art and a key part is community engagement as it is their space and environment. There is £88,000 of S106 monies available which must be spent by 2026, it would be owned by FTC and supported by CBC. Cllr Toinko asked about the tenders received, Julia Scott confirmed that the consultant tender she considered the best was £17,000 from the monies allocated to public realm and renewal. The consultant will consult with residents and councillors and will link into the town centre regeneration.

4812 Open Forum

Ian Cook commented on the issue with no lifts at Flitwick Station. He has contacted the MP who confirmed that she is trying to get a ballot. All stations should be accessible for the disabled and he would like help and support for his e-petition and would appreciate promoting this in the Flitwick Papers. Cllr Mackey runs the focus on Flitwick Facebook page and he will put the details on there. CBCllr Gomm advised that Nadine Dorries will be discussing this in a debate in parliament next week and he was disappointed that Flitwick did not get the grant for improvements at the station.

A resident mentioned that they were worried about the removal of the green space in Station Road in Flitwick. As a parent of two young children and that there is a lack of green space and wanted to ask if the proposed building will happen and why. Cllr Thompson suggested that she provides her contact details to the Assistant Clerk so that full reply can be sent to her. Another resident said that there is a lack of green space in that part of town within walking distance and was concerned where the dog walkers will go.

Another resident mentioned that she loves the new Millennium Park playground and it is really well used but that it is full of litter. There are not enough or large enough bins and no water bottle refillable stations. There also needs to be more equipment for the older children which is separate from the smaller children to make it safer. Also goal posts so that they can run off their energy. Cllr Toinko agreed that more equipment was required for the older children. Cllr Badham said that he was looking into

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providing water refillable stations and are awaiting for quotes but there is S106 monies available to pay for it. Cllr Mackey said that on Thursday there is a motion going to CBC to acknowledge the local government climate emergency and it will look at ways we use our green space, litter and water refillables. He agrees that people feel strongly about green space but he supports the new buildings for the Scouts and the Royal British Legion. Cllr Thompson confirmed that new bins are being looked at which would include recycling. Cllr Snape advised that the CCTV will be installed on Friday in the Millennium Park.

Another resident asked if the green space and park at Station Road could be kept together and what was the situation regarding the proposed over 55's dwellings and where could she find out what the situation was. Cllr Thompson advised that nothing had been finalised at the moment and there will be a chance for further opportunities for the public to discuss. Another resident asked about the flooding at the bottom of Station Road and if this had been taken into consideration. Cllr Thompson said this was a matter for Anglian Water.

All members of the public left the meeting at this time.

4813 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

CBCllr Mackey advised that at the Sustainable Committee meeting last week and part of the agenda was the link a ride. The report was disappointing as the officers wanted the committee to accept what had happened over the three tender sessions and did not accept any blame for regularities. The majority of councillors rejected the report and a task group has been set up to look at the tender process.

CBCllr Mackey mentioned the proposal for CBC to accept the climate emergency is set up and he will report back on the measures to be taken.

CBCllr Mackey advised that he had received a less than satisfactory response from John Partridge regarding the crematorium and read out the reply. It was agreed that the response should be in the public domain. John Partridge response advised that the sites had been considered and other alternatives were not appropriate and any issues should be taken up with the planning department as the current site was in planning and had not been determined. CBCllrs confirmed that they had gone back to express their disappointment with this response and will continue to press for the other site to be considered and asked if FTC would support them with this and they will do the same with Steppingley Parish Council. They are concerned that CBC are not even prepared to consider the Maulden Road site which CBC own. Cllr Thompson suggested that the officer is ignoring what the Cllrs are suggesting. It was agreed that FTC will write to the Chief Executive and complain that Cllrs are being completely ignored and it is completely inappropriate for officers to decide to not listen to what is being said to them. The support is for the idea of a facility of crematorium and burials which could have good transport links.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk

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CBCllr Gomm advised that there is a seven year programme to replace capacity in residential homes. It has been recommended that a consultation regarding Ferndale Home in Flitwick to be replaced with a new home in the Steppingley Road site. The consultation will be open until the 2nd October for any comments.

CBCllr Gomm advised that the local plan is halfway to being completed and will not be completed until the autumn.

CBCllr Gomm attended a meeting with Thameslink to discuss the £80,000 for each station and suggestions were for new ticket machines and new visual displays.

CBCllr Gomm advised that the Temple Way improvements are likely to be done by the 30th August.

Cllr Blazeby is a resident of Chapel Road which is due to be dug up but he has not received any information as to when it will start and CBCllr Gomm will take it up with highways. Cllr Toinko asked how residents will find out about the bus diversions and it was suggested that they contact the bus companies directly.

Cllr Banham asked about the school crossing patrol person who left in July and whether CBC will be recruiting a replacement. Cllr Mackey was upset and disappointed to be sent an email when he asked the question and was informed that there is no statutory duty to provide a crossing patrol person in Temple Way as there are two other crossing points and it is not a natural crossing spot. Cllr Mackey has responded to the email advising that this is not an acceptable reply and it is clearly a natural crossing spot and asked that the situation is re-examined. He has also been advised that adverts are for replacement school crossing patrol people but they are unable to fill the positions. Cllr Thompson suggested a petition to CBC with the support of the school to get a school crossing patrol reinstated. Cllr Mackey advised that 90% of the children in year 4 recognise the safety issues and are concerned for their safety when crossing the roads. Cllr Toinko suggested that every school should have a 20mph outside every school and Cllr Mackey will take this back to CBC and support this as a proposal. Cllr Badham asked what the legality was regarding residents manning the crossing or could FTC find the funding to have a school crossing patrol person on this spot. Cllr Thompson suggested that this should be put on the agenda for the next Community Services meeting.

Action: Cllr Mackey and Assistant Town Clerk

4814 To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Williams, Cllr Dann and Cllr Coleman. These were accepted.

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4815 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda
None received

4816 Town Mayor Announcements

Cllr Thompson had attended the High Sheriff garden party with the vice chair and attended the pensioners' lunch at the Rufus Centre. He wanted to thank councillors for attending and their help.

4817 Town Clerk's Report

Clerks Report was noted. Item 4758c, Cllr Lutley had discussed with the Gardeners Association and they do not sell plants and suggested that residents are informed by the Flitwick Papers and perhaps residents would like to adopt a planter. Cllr Thompson suggested that maybe the tenants of the allotments might be interested in getting involved.

Cllr Blazeby suggested that the Clerks Report was a partial Action Log and asked what was the decision of the Personnel Panel? It was not on the agenda for the last Personnel Panel meeting but will be on the next. Cllr Blazeby is concerned as the Action Log format had been an agreed proposal by council and had not yet been implemented. Cllr Blakeman advised that there were staff time restraints and a backlog of work to be done. Cllr Lutley suggested that the Clerks Report covered the majority of the requirements of the Action Log.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that the Action Log is implemented.
Vote: 12 in favour and 2 abstained

4818 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 401st meeting of the Flitwick Town Council held on the 21st May 2019.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4819 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 402nd meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on the 18th June 2019.

It was agreed to amend the minutes and bring them back to the next Town Council meeting including the Confidential Section.

The Assistant Clerk to circulate the Confidential Section the following day.

Action Assistant Town Clerk

4820 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 324th meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 27th June 2019.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4821 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 165th meeting of the Allotment Liaison Committee held on the 1st July 2019.

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The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4822 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 96th meeting of the
Business Services Committee held on the 11th July 2019.**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4823 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Cllr Toinko reported back from the Village Hall Committee meeting that the flood lights between the park and car park have been damaged and need to either be removed or repaired. The fence is damaged and also needs to be removed or repaired. Cllr Thompson said that the Village Hall Management Committee need to write to FTC with a request for these actions. Cllr Toinko asked if promotion for the market could be in the Flitwick Papers and Cllr Lutley confirmed that it this would be done for the next edition. Cllr Badham suggested that there were S106 monies available which could be used for the village hall.

Cllr Mackey advised that although he is not a member of the patient participation group he had been advised that there was a break in at the pharmacy a week ago. Follow the break in they had someone managing the car park all day and it was noticeable that there were spaces available. Cllr Thompson mentioned that there had also been a break in at the post office and coop and there is a need for policing enhancement as there is a problem at this time and the police should be contacted.

Action Assistant Town Clerk

4824 To Agree support for the e-petition.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that FTC will support access at all Train Stations. Vote: All in favour

**4825 To Agree the change of meeting dates to the Community Services
Committee meeting**

Councillors agreed and noted the changes.

4826 To Agree the proposal for the Section 106 management.

Cllr Mackey suggested that CBCllr and himself work with Cllr Badham on this and schedule a meeting with the appropriate CBC officers to get them to explain exactly what money is available and for what.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Cllr Badham to follow up what S106 monies are available to FTC. Vote: All in favour

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4827 To Agree proposal for Major Projects

Cllr Badham advised that he felt there is a problem that there is not detailed enough information when making decisions and not all councillors have the figures on all projects. Cllr Blazeby advised that as all projects are discussed in the Corporate Services meetings and would suggest that all councillors attend the confidential section rather than organising an additional meeting. Cllr Blazeby proposed that the next Corporate Services meeting which is due next week be cancelled and rearranged when all the figures are available and made available to councillors beforehand so that any questions which councillors have can be forwarded in advance.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that the next Corporate Services meeting be re-scheduled in order to include the briefing on the projects. Vote: All in favour.

4828 To Agree proposal regarding Councillor Surgeries

Cllr Blazeby had provided a suggestion that Town Councillors set up a trial monthly sessions at various venues to meet up with residents on a one to one basis. Cllr Thompson was concerned about pubs being a venue. Cllr Toinko suggested that as long as there are sufficient alternative venues then he does not have an objection to a pub being one of the venues.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that a year trial of monthly sessions would be tried. Vote: All in favour.

4829 To Agree a plan for the Girl Guides

Deferred to a future agenda

An extension to the meeting was proposed and all agreed.

4830 To Agree request from Flitwick & Ampthill Sea Cadets

The Sea Cadets had requested the use of the playing field off Hinksley Road to park cars on the evening of the 7th October 2019. Cllr Toinko suggested that the cars are parked in the Industrial Estate which will not damage the grass and the footpath can be used.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that parking on the playing field is refused and suggest parking alternatives. Vote: 11 in favour and 3 against.

4831 Questions

- a. Cllr Mackey has been approached by several members of the public regarding the disabled parking space at Manor Park. It seems that the area is being abused and those who are commercially dog walking are parking there. Can it go on a future Community Services agenda as to how FTC can protect this amenity?

Action Assistant Town Clerk

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- b. Cllr Blazeby asked that the presentation this evening is discussed at Community Services meeting and put on the agenda.

Action Assistant Town Clerk

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that the presentation from Public Arts Society be discussed at the next Community Services meeting. Vote: All in favour

- c. Cllr Blazeby advised that there is a street light in Chapel Road which he has reported and FTC owns the lighting in Chapel Road.

Confidential Section

In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) the public and press are to be excluded.

4832 Agree proposal submitted by CBC regarding the room at Flitwick Library

The proposal was discussed. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** to reject CBC proposal.

4833 Receive a report from the Personnel Panel

The report was noted and Cllr Blazeby proposed to thank the Interim Town Clerk for stepping into the gap over the last few months.

4834 Projects Update

The Major Projects Coordinator updated councillors on the projects

4835 Questions

Cllr Dodds raised a concern about the issue raised by residents regarding Station Road.

Meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed
(Chairman)