

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL
**Minutes of the 410th Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 18th February 2020
at the Rufus Centre**

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

Also present: CBCllrs C Gomm N Bunyan

In attendance: Acting Town Clerk RFO & HR Officer Amenities Officer

Apologies for absence received: Cllrs K Badham R Coleman P Dodds
J Roberts

Open forum - no items.

Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

1. CBCllr Gomm advised that he had recently met with representatives from Flitwick Cricket Club who had expansion and redevelopment plans. The Club wanted to fundraise and attend a future Town Council meeting to present their plans and it was agreed to arrange for this to happen.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

2. Luton Borough Council were proceeding with the Judicial Review for the M1 Link Road. Works were planned to start early 2021 and Central Beds Council (CBC) were hoping timescales did not slip.
3. Former Flitwick Town Councillor Marina Torselli had sadly passed away and Members were saddened to hear this news.
4. CBC were considering the new budget on 20th February and CBCllr Mackey thanked people for their input. He was pleased to say that there was Independent opposition for the first time in years and added that there would be an approximate 1.9 - 2% rise. He commented that the Independent Remuneration Panel had put forward suggestions to CBC which would see Portfolio Holders' allowances increased from their already generous levels by a collective £52,000, despite CBC having to find significant savings elsewhere. The Boundaries Commission were reviewing Ward boundaries within Central Bedfordshire and CBC as a Consultee had proposed that Flitwick and Steppingley boundaries remained the same and proposed some minor changes in other Wards. It was to be noted that the final decision would be made by the Boundaries Commission.

4925 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4926 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor had attended the Ampthill Town Mayor's Rugby Lunch event.

4927 To note the circulated Clerk's Report

- (i) The circulated report was noted.
- (ii) The Acting Town Clerk advised that Cllr Blakeman had unfortunately sent a letter of resignation to the Town Mayor that day. Members were disappointed to hear about the resignation but were informed that her main reason was that she no longer felt the total commitment she previously had.
- (iii) Cllr Blazeby asked for the process to be explained now that there was a vacancy. The Acting Town Clerk advised that she would notify CBC Electoral Services the following day and subsequently promote the vacancy through usual Council communication channels.

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She would meet with prospective Councillors to give details of the role and interested parties would be invited to a Full Council meeting should the vacancy be filled by co-option. If more than one person was interested in becoming a Councillor then current Members would take a vote and the successful candidate would be co-opted. The Chairman added that an election would be called should more than 10 residents request one and Members understood there were cost implications should this happen.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

- (iv) The Acting Town Clerk advised that following the Highways Meeting, Cllr Dodds had volunteered to lead a walkabout session around the town to identify issues and speed reduction areas. Cllrs Halligan, Earles and Dann agreed to take part in the exercise and any Members who were unable to attend agreed to send in their highways concerns. CBCllr Mackey asked for Members to copy in Ward Members with any issues. The Chairman mentioned that the markings on the tarmac outside the Village Hall needed work as they had deteriorated and the Amenities Officer commented that this issue was discussed at the Highways meeting however CBC did not consider it a priority. CBCllr Gomm advised that CBC were aware of the issue but there were more urgent works to resolve first.

Action: Amenities Officer

4928 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 333rd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th January 2020

- (i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 333rd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th January 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- (ii) Cllr Mackey commented that it was worth noting the number of endorsements received from CBC following the Planning Committee decisions.

4929 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 409th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 14th January 2020

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 409th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 14th January 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4930 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 102nd meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 16th January 2020

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 102nd meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 16th January 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4931 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 47th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 29th January 2020

- (i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 47th meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 29th January 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- (ii) Cllr Blazeby referred to item 455 – Town Council Strategy Review – and explained to Members that he had suggested having the Town Council Strategy included on Committee agendas in order to allow Members to comment on areas relevant to specific Committees.

Action: RFO & HR Officer/Amenities Officer/Acting Town Clerk

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4932 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 334th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th January 2020

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 334th meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th January 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4933 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 56th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4th February 2020

- (i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 56th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4th February 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record with the following amendment: point 1 should read '1 year permit from 1st March 2020 – 31st October 2020 inclusive of weekends and school holidays only.'

- (ii) The Acting Town Clerk advised that the Communications & Marketing Officer had highlighted concern regarding the Recommendation to cancel the Carnival Parade at this stage. She wanted Members to consider the option of putting out a clear message to residents in advance of cancelling the parade which stated that at the present time, there was not enough entries or manpower to make it viable in an attempt to enlist community support. Should the usual communication channels not attract more people to take part before 6th March then the parade would be cancelled. The Communications & Marketing Officer wanted to remind Members of the negative reaction received when the Christmas Lights Switch On event was cancelled without warning. All Members were in support of this suggestion.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** to try and enlist support for the Carnival parade instead of cancelling it at this time. This need for support would be promoted via all the usual Town Council communication channels and should there still not be enough interest by 6th March then the parade aspect of the event would be cancelled.

Vote: all in favour.

Action: Communications & Marketing Officer

4934 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 103rd meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 13th February 2020

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 103rd meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 13th February 2020 having previously been circulated be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4935 To note the date of the Annual Town Meeting

- (i) Members were informed that the Library had been booked to hold the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on Tuesday 28th April. The Town Mayor, Committee Chairmen and Ward Members were asked to send in their reports by 9th April.

Action: Town Mayor, Committee Chairmen & Ward Members

- (ii) Members were asked whether they would like a 'focus' for the ATM. A discussion took place and it was decided for a focus to be on environmental issues, such as recycling and climate. Cllr Shaw advised that his daughter had delivered a presentation of this sort to Ampthill Town Council and Cllr Mackey suggested inviting the following speakers: Cllr Steve Dixon (CBC Portfolio Holder) and Rachel Mould (who recently gave a good presentation on this topic to Community Services). Cllr Snape requested MP Nadine Dorries receive an invitation and the

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Chairman advised that experts from Cranfield University may be willing to take part. Cllr Dann commented that he had been working on some options for items that were harder to recycle which he would be bringing to Community Services Committee and this could be included.

- (iii) The Chairman did not believe inviting the Portfolio Holders was appropriate however Cllr Blazeby stated that it would be good to understand CBC's vision on relevant environmental services, which would be of interest to Council Taxpayers.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve**
to invite CBC Portfolio Holders from Environmental
Services to present at the Annual Town Meeting.
Vote: 7 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4936 To note Councillor Attendance Register

The previously circulated Councillor Attendance Register was noted and would be published on the Council website.

Action: Communications & Marketing Officer

4937 To agree Members attending Councillor/Staff Workshop

The RFO & HR Officer advised that the workshop would be held on Thursday 5th March during the day. Cllrs Shaw, Halligan and Lutley agreed to take part and it would be held in the morning. The Chairman requested for the three Members to notify staff if they were unable to attend so that alternative Councillors could be asked to go if required. The RFO & HR Officer would notify staff and confirm the time to the Members listed.

Action: RFO & HR Officer

4938 Questions

- (i) Cllr Earles asked what the ATM started, and she was advised that it would be 7.30pm.
- (ii) Cllr Mackey advised that CBC had resolved in favour of creating a Community Safety Panel some time ago, but this had not yet happened due to time constraints. With the recent spate of break-ins and crime, the Ward Members had been speaking with the Local Policing Team and it had been suggested the Panel would be useful. He mentioned that the Ward Members would coordinate this in partnership with the Police and asked the Members if they wanted to be part of the Panel's organisation or be invited to the meetings. Cllr Shaw was in favour of the Panel as he had seen the recent crime reports (59 incidents) and advised that residents were concerned. Members agreed to provide a room for the Panel to meet at the Rufus Centre.

An indicative vote was taken, and it was agreed for:
1. the Town Council to be included in the invitees
for Community Safety Panel meetings organised by
Beds Police and CBC Ward Members.
2. for the Town Council to provide a room free of
charge at The Rufus Centre.
Indicative vote outcome: 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

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 17, 18 & 19 in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed relating to financial and contractual negotiations and questions.

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4939 To consider additional Internet Access Proposal

Members considered the Internet Access Proposal presented by Cllr Snape.

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

(i) to secure the deal from BT Local Business for a 100Mbps leased line at The Rufus Centre at a cost of £233.33 per month on a 60 month term
(vote: all in favour)

(ii) and to progress the order for BT Fibre to the Premises on Demand (FTTPoD) to complete a site survey at the cost of £250 to understand viability
(vote: 11 in favour, 1 against)

4940 Local Organisations Working Party

Members heard an update on the Local Organisations Working Party.

4941 Projects Update

Members received an update on several projects.

It was **Resolved** to defer the decision and seek further information from a company following the letter that had been sent.

Vote: 8 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

4942 Questions

One Member asked a question and one Member made a statement.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed
(Chairman)