

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 402nd Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 18th June 2019 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllrs P Thompson (Mayor) M A Williams (Deputy Mayor)
J Dann A Lutley J Roberts R Coleman
M Halligan D Toinko M Platt R Shaw
I Blazeby G Mackey P Dodds P Earles
A Snape

Also present: CBCllr C Gomm, 2 members of the public and a representative from the Scouts

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

Apologies for absence received: Cllr Blakeman, Cllr Badham and CBCllr N Bunyan

PC Dean Robinson was unable to attend

4789 Open Forum

A resident mentioned that the new playground on the Millennium Park was great but raised concerns regarding the litter, lack of litter bins, how often they were emptied and litter being blown across the road. He was also had concerns about the noise and cars parking on the grass verges and speeding along the road which occurs every weekend during the summer. He also raised why the plans and costs of Station Road had not been published. Cllr Thompson explained that outline planning permission was going in for a maximum of 60 flats for residents over the age of 55/60 and they needed to sell the plan to fund other projects such as the new burial ground and country park and that a high turnover car park was needed as part of the Markets Towns regeneration. Cllr Mackey had spoken to residents who had to move out of the town as there were no suitable properties to downsize to and this would then enable larger properties to come on the market suitable for families. Cllr Toinko asked what legal protection would there be that people from outside the town would be unable to purchase the flats. Cllr Thompson said that this would be looked into once outline planning had been obtained.

The representative from the scouts informed the council that he was here to gauge the opinion of the public to the development of Station Road.

One member of the public left the meeting at this time.

4790 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

CBCllr Gomm advised that the number of car parking spaces have increased at the train station and improvements have been carried out. St Andrews Church had not been used for over a year and it is being looked at to be developed for apartments.

CBCllr Mackey advised that he had attended Steppingley Parish Council and that they supported the move of the proposed crematorium down Maulden Road between the Burial Ground and the Industrial Estate. He had contacted CBC regarding the proposed schedule of work on the agreed pedestrian crossing at Temple Way

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adjacent to Flitwick Lower School and had been disappointed by the non committal response received as to whether the work would be done by the new school term in September. He had added the school and the lack of crossings and speeding traffic was a concern of the students.

Cllr Dodds asked about the poor condition of the road at the entrance to the Train Station car park and when would the temporary surface be repaired.

4791 To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from CCBCllr Bunyan, Cllrs Blakeman and Badham, and these were accepted.

4792 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr Roberts declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4805 as his wife works for the library. No declaration of Interest or request for dispensation had been received. The Clerk confirmed that all Declaration of Acceptance had been received.

4793 Town Mayor Announcements

Cllr Thompson had attended the Chicksands Joint Forces Reception, Canada Trophy Presentation, Cheering Volunteers Event for CBC, British Legion D Day Parade, Funeral of Past Mayor, Sheila Forester, Flitwick Carnival and opening of the Childrens Playground and the Lord Lieutenants Service at Woburn. The deputy mayor had also attended four of these events. Cllr Thompson wanted to thank all the staff for all their hard work making the Carnival a success and a special mention for the Canada Trophy awarded to the Flitwick Sea Cadets who out of 400 units across the whole of the UK had won.

Cllr Thompson advised that his charities would be Stepping Stones Bedfordshire, which had been chosen by the staff and Bedford Hospital Car Appeal.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Sheila Forester.

4794 Town Clerk's Report

Clerks Report was noted with two amendments item 4788a should be 20mph not 30mph and 4772 should be Mr Taylor not Tayor.

4795 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 322nd meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 16th May 2019.

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

4796 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 401st meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on the 21st May 2019.

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It was agreed to amend item 4788a to 20mph. With that amendment the minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4797 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 43rd meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on the 29th May 2019.

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

4798 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 95th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on the 13th June 2019.

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

4799 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 49th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 5th June 2019.

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

4800 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 323rd meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 6th June 2019.

Cllr Mackey mentioned that at the meeting he had recommended putting a Motion for Recommendation to full council following his visit to Steppingley Parish Council's AGM to relocate the proposed Crematorium on Fordfield Road to a smaller scale to Maulden Road between the Burial Ground and the Industrial Estate. The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4801 To note the Confidential Notes of the FTC/CBC joint working group meeting held on the 7th June 2019

Agreed to defer discussion to the Confidential Section of the meeting.

4802 To note the minutes from Highways Meeting held on the 7th June 2019

The minutes were noted and CBCllr Gomm mentioned that these meetings were growing in importance and if any members had any issues they would like raised then to let him know.

4803 To note the minutes from the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on the 4th June 2019

The minutes were noted.

4804 Representatives on Outside Bodies

No reports were received.

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4805 To Agree Proposal Submitted by CBC

Agreed to defer discussion to the Confidential Section of the meeting.

4806 Project Update regarding Feeder Pillars

Councillors were advised that at the Corporate Services meeting it had been requested that more clarity of future costs and maintenance of the feeder pillars were obtained from CBC. The pillars had been requested by Flitwick Town Council for electricity supply for future events. It had already been agreed that Flitwick Town Council take over the responsibility including electricity supply and maintenance which the council had agreed within the last six months. Any delay at this stage would mean that the feeder pillars would not be included in the plan and there would be significant costs if they were installed at a later stage.

4807 To Agree request from Flitwick Children's Centre

A request had been received for the use of the Millennium Park on the 30th July and 21st August for sessions run by the Children's Centre. It was agreed to give permission.

4808 To Discuss proposals submitted my Cllr Blazeby

- a. Cllr Blazeby suggested the current responsibility for the annual allocation of grants to organisations be transferred from the Business Service Committee to the remit of the Community Services Committee.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that allocation of grants to organisations be the remit of the Community Services Committee with immediate effect. Vote: All in favour.

- b. Cllr Blazeby suggested that £10,000 be allocated from general reserves to the Planning Committee to ensure there is a budget if required to fund professional planning advice. The Major Project Coordinator will look into suitable advisers.

Action: Major Project Coordinator

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that £10,000 be an allocated budget for the Planning Committee with immediate effect. Vote: Fourteen in favour, one objection.

4809 To Agree proposal for CCTV for Millennium Park

Agreed to defer discussion to the Confidential Section of the meeting.

4810 Finance

- a. To receive and agreed the Accounts 2018/2019
Agreed to defer discussion to the Confidential Section of the meeting.
- b. The councillors reviewed and resolved to approve the Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/2019, Section 1 - the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019

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and Section 2 - the Accounting Statements 2018/2019. These were duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

4811 Questions

- a. Cllr Toinko asked why the proposed flats are for elderly people rather than younger people. Cllr Thompson said that there is a requirement for properties for the elderly and there is a lack of health services in the Town. CBC Cllr Mackey advised that at Steppingley Hospital were looking to develop a health hub and walk provision and will continue to look into how the S106 monies which are available for a variety of projects can be used in Flitwick. Cllr Williams advised that the CCG had confirmed that there was nothing in the pipeline for Flitwick and was concerned how the elderly were going to get to Steppingley.
- b. Cllr Toinko asked if there had been an assessment of the impact of the additional 65 car parking spaces on traffic in the area. Cllr Thompson advised that the Scouts and British Legion currently have limited spaces and the new parking available in the evenings will solve this issue. The additional parking during the day should stop the parking on the roads in the town centre. Cycle parking will also be available.
- c. Cllr Toinko asked if there had been an assessment of the air quality and was advised that it was highly unusual for this to be required. Cllr Mackey advised that he had requested for an air quality assessment to be done for Flitwick. Cllr Blazeby has asked Aldi what the effect would be on their 90 cars per hour and had been advised that there was no legal requirement for an assessment.
- d. Cllr Toinko asked about the gates to the allotments. Cllr Thompson advised that they were in place for safeguarding but the option will be left open.
- e. Cllr Toinko asked about the amount of rent received from the Scouts and British Legion. Cllr Thompson advised that it was a peppercorn rent and it had been agreed that this would continue as they are providing a community facility.
- f. Cllr Mackey advised that he had attended a meeting with Mid Beds Link a Ride who are looking for support to continue trading and asked if it could be put on the next Town Council agenda. It was also agreed to put the repair of the Girl Guide headquarters on the agenda. *Action: Assistant Town Clerk*
- h. Cllr Blazeby mentioned that issue which had been raised regarding the zip wire in the playground at the Millennium Park and what action was required. Cllr Snape was concerned about the nitrous oxide canisters left around the town. Cllr Thompson advised that it had been suggested that the Community Services Committee meet monthly and this was agreed. He suggested that the chair and deputy of the Community Services Committee could arrange a meeting to arrange the additional dates. *Action: Cllrs Badham and Dann*

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- i. Cllr Blazeby had attended the Flitwick Carnival and had picked up a survey which had not asked the opinions of residents without children and single people which represent 35% of the residents. He also suggested a review and update of the 2017 strategy document which is running out in 2019 in conjunction with the Chair and Chairs of Committees.

Confidential Section

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

4812 Projects Update

The Major Projects Coordinator updated councillors on the projects

Meeting closed at 9.57pm.

Signed
(Chairman)