

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 398th Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 19th February 2019 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllr G Mackey (Chairman)

Cllrs I Blazeby

J Dann

A Lutley

M Platt

K Quantrill

J Roberts

M Sheehan

P Thompson

D Toinko

M Williams

Also present: CBCllr C Gomm

In attendance: Acting Town Clerk & Interim Town Clerk

Apologies for absence received: Cllrs J Blakeman, A Larkins, P Feerick,
CBCllr A Turner

Open Forum No items raised

Reports from Central Bedfordshire Member, CBCllr C Gomm

- a. Sam Cauldbeck, CBC Officer, will do a presentation to Members regarding the Station Area Scheme in April.

Resolved to agree a suitable date and it was hoped this could be at the Annual Town Meeting.
Action: Acting Town Clerk

- b. Planning at CBC will consult on the crematorium which is proposed for a green belt site.
- c. CBC will adopt the Local Plan in May for a term of 20 years.
- d. The car park entrance to the Station will hopefully be tidied up within the next few weeks.
- e. Kerbside collections will commence again from the 3rd March.

4711 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

No interests were declared and no request for dispensation had been received.

4712 To Accept Apologies for Absence

Accepted.

4713 Town Mayor Announcements

- a. Introduced Jane Hatton as Interim Clerk for a minimum of 3 months. Advised that the agreed candidate for employment as the Town Clerk had declined the position for personal reasons.
- b. Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Thompson advised that he had attended the Flitwick Business Group and had promoted the benefits of being a Town Councillor in advance of the elections.
- c. Cllr Blazeby suggested a formal letter be sent requesting an extension to comments for the CBC planning application for the site of the

crematorium, to clarify which other sites had been considered especially those not on greenbelt land and why these had been rejected and why the option of CBC land next to the proposed new burial land being progressed by the Town Council was not being considered. This will be discussed later under the Confidential Section. It was agreed that an article could be issued in the Flitwick Papers but not representing the opinions of the Council as the planning application had not yet been discussed at Council.

Resolved that an article should be published in the Flitwick Papers promoting the consultation to residents. The article would include that the Town Council had requested an extension to the consultation period as the plans had not been received in time to include on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting due to take place on 21st February. Vote: All in favour.

Action: Comms & Marketing Officer

Resolved that letters be sent to CBCllr Ghent, Jonathan Partridge and Annabelle Robinson (Planning Officer) for an extension of the consultation period. This was to enable the Town Council to arrange a meeting to discuss and understand clarifications of the proposed site and why other sites have not been considered or rejected (including the site next to the proposed burial land in Maulden Road). Vote: All in favour.

Action: Chairman

4714 Acting Town Clerk's Report

- a. She had attended a successful first meeting of the Joint FTC/CBC Cllr Working Group on the 8th February. Notes would be circulated soon.
- b. CBC had invited up to 4 Members to attend a Design Workshop for the care development proposed for the former Leisure Centre site in Steppingley Road on 25th February from 10am-1pm. Cllrs Sheehan, Mackey and Blazeby would attend.

4715 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 397th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on the 15th January 2019.

- a. Cllr Roberts had requested that a letter be sent to the MP to express disappointment regarding item 4695 (iii) at this meeting. This would be added to the Minutes.

Resolved that a letter will be sent to MP Nadine Dorries expressing disappointment regarding item 4695 (iii).

Action: Chair

- b. The Minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4716 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 41st meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on the 23rd January 2019.

- a. Cllr Lutley wanted to point out the new format and confirm that the “action and by whom” she thought it worked very well. It was agreed to adopt the new format for all Minutes produced.
- b. The Minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4717 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 317th meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 31st January 2019.

- a. Cllr Sheehan was very pleased with the good turnout of 75 residents to the meeting.
- b. The Minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4718 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 46th meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 6th February 2019.

- a. Item 519, Cllr Dann commented that it was all Members who had been invited to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). At the meeting with the PCC Chief of Staff, Members had discussed the potential funding of an additional night of youth services at The Hub and this will be discussed under the Confidential Section.
- b. Item 521, Cllr Blazeby as a resident of Chapel Road, updated Members on the drainage works and that they had been delayed until March. The “No Left Turn” from Windmill Road was a temporary measure.
- c. Item 524b, Cllr Toinko wished to confirm his support for the planters idea and suggested the Community Services Committee consider additional planting on small grassed spaces.
- d. The Minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4719 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 91st meeting of the Business Services Committee held on the 14th February 2019.

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

4720 To set a date for the agreed Councillor/Staff Workshop to discuss Rufus Centre Bookings & Community Use.

The Acting Town Clerk advised that a workshop was required with Councillors and staff to decide policy when conflict of bookings occur at the Rufus Centre between community events and external functions.

Resolved to hold a meeting mid to late March and dates would be circulated.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4721 To discuss the Council's potential involvement in a Community Action Plan.

No objections and agreed that both cllrs and staff should attend. It was proposed Cllr Mackey, seconded Cllr Thompson, to **Resolve** to be involved in the Community Action Plan.

4722 To discuss an idea from Ampthill Town Council regarding PCSO funding.

It was agreed that there was interest in principle (with reservations) to discuss a local Council funded PCSO for the area.

Cllr Williams advised that previously when a PCSO had been financed it did not guarantee that they would cover the town but had been moved where needed. Cllr Dann asked whether a car would be required if the PCSO would be covering 4 parish/town areas and what the split of the costs would be as the 4 Councils differed in size. Cllr Toinko was against the funding for a PCSO as the funding may be better spent in a youth support worker or other approaches. Cllr Roberts wanted to make it clear to the other Councils that working together on this and/or other ideas is a good idea. Cllr Quantrill suggested that the response to Ampthill Town Council should be expanded to include other areas where joint working could be beneficial and Cllr Toinko agreed that it would be good to work with neighbouring councils.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Thompson, to **Resolve** that further discussions should take place without commitment regarding PCSO joint funding.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4723 To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies

None received.

4724 Questions

None received.

Confidential Section

4713cont. Town Mayor's Announcements

Members had further discussions on the proposed planning application for the CBC Crematorium.

Resolved to see if an extension to the consultation period could be obtained and if not then an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting will be arranged to discuss the proposals.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4718cont. **Community Services Committee Minutes (item 519b)**

Members continued discussion regarding this item.

Resolved Cllr Thompson proposed that if the funding was not available through the suggested avenue then reserves should be used, Cllr Williams seconded.

One objection.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4727 **To receive an update from the Chairman of the Personnel Panel**

Members received an update from the Chairman of the Personnel Panel.

Resolved to get suggestions from staff and circulate dates for a small social occasion to say thank you.

Action: Acting Town Clerk

4728 **Questions**

The Acting Town Clerk advised Members on the new Burial Ground progress.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Signed
(Chairman)