

Flitwick Town Council

Minutes of the 388th meeting of Flitwick Town Council
held on 20th March 2018 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllr G Mackey (Chairman)
Cllrs K Badham J Blakeman I Blazeby J Dann
P Feerick A Larkins A Lutley J Roberts
M Sheehan P Thompson

Also present: CBCllrs C Gomm A Turner
Derek Moore - Resident

In attendance: Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk

Apologies for Absence Accepted: Cllrs M Bonner M Platt V Owens
M Waites M Williams

No Apologies Received: Cllr K Quantrill

Open Forum No items

Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

1. CBCllr Turner advised that residents had now received a Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) booklet on Council Tax with a breakdown of where every penny goes.

2. Members were reminded that there was a drop-in consultation with CBC Officers the following day at Flitwick Library regarding proposed changes to waste services.

4550 **To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda**

The Chairman Declared an Interest for agenda item 4 – Town Clerk's Report (request from Flitwick Lower School PTA to use the Millennium Park car park) – he signed the Declaration of Interest book and took no part in this discussion.

4551 **Town Mayor's Announcements**

(i) The Chairman advised he had attended the following:

- Rufus Centre Wedding & Venue Showcase
- Elvis Presley Tribute Night
- An Evening of Music with Calvisson Guests
- Language Café Launch with Calvisson Guests

(ii) The Chairman handed over to Cllr Thompson at this point to further update Members regarding the weekend with visitors from Calvisson. Cllr Thompson passed on his personal thanks to all staff, Members and people from the community who had assisted with activities for the weekend. He advised that five people had visited Flitwick and it was very successful. The interaction with local groups on 18th March had led to football tournaments being organised where one will take place in Calvisson in June and the other in Flitwick in September. He had received emails from the guests who stated they had a fantastic time and they were looking forward to people from Flitwick visiting in June. Cllr Thompson thanked the hosts for their support.

(iii) The Chairman referred to the previous meeting where Members were advised that the license for the Rufus Centre had been challenged. Since then, a review meeting had been conducted with the CBC Licensing Panel on 14th March,

which the Chairman attended along with the Town Clerk and the Council's Legal Representation, and he was pleased to report that the license remained unchanged. There would be another review in a year's time after attenuation

measures had been implemented. The Council's case had been made robustly and was accepted. Communication had not been received from the residents of Froghall Fields but the Chairman of the Panel stressed the importance of the Noise Management Plan being enforced at all times.

- (iv) The Chairman advised he had another announcement item that would be discussed under the Confidential Section.

4552 **Town Clerk's Report**

- (i) Members were informed about a rolling road closure that would be in place for several roads for the Flitwick 10K Race on 28th April from 10.15am – 11.45am.

(Cllr Feerick entered the meeting at this time.)

- (ii) The Town Clerk commented on the official launch of the Language & Conversation Café that had been previously mentioned and stated this was part of the enhanced library service of the Market Towns project. She added that it was very successful with people speaking several languages and regular dates had been booked in for the Café to continue.
- (iii) A request had been received from Flitwick Lower School PTA, which asked to use the Town Council car park beside the Village Hall and the use of cones for their Circus event on 28th April between 1pm-5pm. The Chairman Declared an Interest on this matter and asked Cllr Lutley to Chair the meeting for this item. Cllr Lutley asked if Members were happy to support this and it was agreed.
- (iv) The Council had been successfully awarded £274,728 from the CBC Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations fund for the new Country Park. There were some conditions but these could be worked within.
- (v) CHUMS charity had asked permission to use a field for their upcoming Outdoor Cinema event on 28th May 2018. It would be to fundraise and CHUMS had originally requested to use The Rufus Centre field, however because they wanted to show three films, the finishing time would be after the agreed deadline for outdoor events. The Town Clerk had suggested that this would be possible with two films however the charity would like to show three. Risk Assessments and additional event information (e.g. the event would include a mobile bar and a burger van) had been sent in and CHUMS subsequently had said they would be interested in the Millennium Park.
- (vi) Cllr Thompson suggested liaising with the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) because whilst the Council had some parking, this was limited. It was also suggested to advise CHUMS to speak to the Police regarding traffic cones being put out on Dunstable Road to avoid disruption because there were no yellow lines. Cllr Lutley agreed to pass this information onto the VHMC.

- (vii) Members did not wish to set a fee for hiring the Millennium Park for the CHUMS event but a small charge would be made to tidy the field after, if necessary.

It was **Resolved** to allow CHUMS to hire the Millennium Park on Monday 28th May for an Outdoor Cinema event free of charge. CHUMS would be asked to pay a small fee if the Council had to tidy any mess after the event and would be asked to liaise with the Police regarding traffic cones for Dunstable Road.

4553 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 387th meeting of the Town Council held on 20th February 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 387th meeting of the Town Council held on 20th February 2018 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4554 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 301st meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22st February 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 301st meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd February 2018 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4555 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 80th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 8th March 2018**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 80th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on 8th March 2018 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.

4556 **To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 302nd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th March 2018**

- (i) It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **Resolve** that the Minutes of the 302nd meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th March 2018 having previously been circulated, be taken as read, signed and adopted as a true record.
- (ii) Cllr Sheehan referred to item 2434 – Section 106 – and asked Members to note the commitment to securing funds for Flitwick through S106. Cllr Thompson commented that it was really important to progress the mentioned 5 Year Plan.

4557 **To agree the Corporate Risk Register**

- (i) The Corporate Risk Register previously circulated was agreed.
- (ii) Cllr Thompson referred to page 1 and asked if the Council were still members of BRCC. The Town Clerk advised that the Council was a member of BRCC and that it was the NALC membership that had been stopped.

4558 **To consider setting up an independent Association for Town & Parish Councils**

- (i) The Chairman reminded Members that previous discussions had taken place regarding setting up an Independent Association for Town & Parish Councils to help the Council lobby CBC. He asked Members for their comments on this.
- (ii) Cllr Thompson advised he felt this was a very good idea for dealing with CBC and other external bodies, for example the Health Service with regards to surgery provision etc. in the wider area. He added it would be a useful forum but appreciated it had a cost attached with funding and staff time. Cllr Thompson stated that it could be beneficial with buying power, e.g. for insurance, photocopiers, hiring out the chipper etc. There would probably be other Councils that could offer equipment hire, which could keep costs down and generate income at the same time.
- (iii) Cllr Blazeby asked if the Council had identified other Parish Councils that would be interested in forming an Association. The Chairman stated that other Parishes had indicated interest through S106 conversations and letters had been received. The Chairman commented that a formal approach would tell the Council more on this.
- (iv) Cllr Blazeby questioned if the Council had looked at regularity of the Association. The Chairman advised that all that kind of information needed to be laid out but he asked if Members were content to proceed before investigations started.

It was **Resolved** to set up an independent Association of Town & Parish Councils.

4559 **To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies**
There were no reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

4560 **Questions**

- (i) Cllr Sheehan thanked Cllr Blazeby for leading the Staff/Cllr Workshop on Communication as he thought it was very good. Cllr Thompson added that he had received positive feedback from staff. Cllr Blazeby commented he would be putting together outputs from the workshop and would report back.
- (ii) Cllr Blazeby raised a question to the Ward Members in advance of the Highways meeting on 10th April. He asked if the Ward Members could chase up an item to do with parking in Billington Close and Chapel Road, which had been discussed at three previous Highways meetings (January 2017, July 2017 and November 2017) and nothing had been resolved. Cllr Blazeby advised that it was approaching a year since the issue began.
- (iii) CBCllr Turner advised that the correct process was for the Town Clerk to raise this matter to Highways.
- (iv) Cllr Blakeman added that she had a similar situation with a complaint from a resident of Brookes Road regarding lorries churning up ground by her property.

She had asked CBCllr Gomm for advice regarding the action this needed and had been given email addresses for Mark MacDonald and Paul Salmon. Unfortunately both emails had not been delivered so Cllr Blakeman contacted CBC direct who stated they would get back to her but had not done so. Cllr Blakeman asked the Ward Members what she should do in this situation.

- (v) The Chairman addressed the Ward Members on this by stating that it was for these sort of enquiries that the Council needed their help with but were not receiving it. Replies were not being sent and the Chairman added he would prefer for both parties to be a team, however it was felt that the Council and the Ward Members were currently at loggerheads at the present time. CBCllr Gomm advised that the Area Steward, Mark MacDonald, was the appropriate

person to contact regarding these matters and that by including the Ward Members in the process added bureaucracy.

- (vi) The Chairman reinforced that the Council were asking for help from the Ward Members. CBCllr Gomm clarified that the Ward Members were there to assist and to represent the public to progress matters for Flitwick. CBCllr Gomm agreed to find out why Cllr Blakeman's emails were undeliverable and reinforced that direct contact with CBC was better.
- (vii) Cllr Blakeman advised that there was a problem with a backlog of cars in the High Street at times when motorists were queuing to use the Car Wash. She stated that recently a bus was unable to get past and asked if anything could be done about this. The Chairman requested for the Town Clerk to raise this issue with the CBC Highways Department.
- (viii) Cllr Badham asked if the Ward Members had any updates on the Housing Infrastructure grant application, which he mentioned at the previous meeting. Cllr Badham reminded Members that it was his understanding that Flitwick had not been successful like Dunstable for the £5.3m funding towards the Flitwick Regeneration Scheme. CBCllr Turner advised that he did not know the situation but he agreed to investigate this. Cllr Badham commented that the information was on CBC's website and reinforced his concern that this would affect the whole Regeneration Scheme. CBCllr Turner stated he would check this with CBCllr Young.
- (ix) Cllr Badham asked if CBC Ward Members had an update on the tree planting plans for Flitwick Wood. CBCllr Turner responded by stating that he only knew about the information contained on the original paperwork and plans from the previous year. CBCllr Turner mentioned the Council would need to wait until the planting was finished.
- (x) Cllr Badham asked CBC Ward Members if there was an update on the proposed crossing in the High Street. CBCllr Turner advised that this element of the scheme was not going ahead and would be withdrawn at the upcoming Traffic Management meeting. CBCllr Turner commented that CBC Officer Nick Shaw had stated that the crossing proposal had been included at the Town Council's request through a walkabout session with Members, however Flitwick Town Councillors objected to this comment. CBCllr Gomm added that the

funding that had been for the crossing would now not necessarily be spent on a Flitwick scheme, but would instead be within a general fund.

- (xi) Cllr Badham asked about advertising for the Annual Town Meeting on 10th April since there was a section on crime. The Chairman asked the Assistant Town Clerk to explain who was attending and Members were advised that a senior member of staff from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, PC Aaron Dagley and his manager had confirmed attendance. A publicity plan would be carried out as soon as possible. MP Nadine Dorries had been contacted however the Council were yet to receive a reply.

(CBCllr Ward Members and Derek Moore (resident) 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 13 in view of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed relating to financial and contractual negotiations.

4561 Town Mayor's Announcements (Confidential)

Members were advised on winners for Flitwick Community Awards.

It was **Resolved** to progress with the Community Award Panel recommendations circulated for awards and the Town Mayor's Votes of Thanks.

4562 Questions

Members asked questions under the Confidential Section.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed
(Chairman)