

Flitwick Town Council

Minutes of the 346th Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 7th January 2021 online via Zoom.

Open Forum

Nicholas Wilton (NW) from Network Rail attended the meeting to give a brief update on the progress of the Step Free Access. NW advised Members that funding had been secured to deliver the project. Design work was underway which would provide various building options. Options would be presented to the Town Council at the end of the summer.

Cllr Dodds asked if the Step Free Access would be completed in conjunction with the interchange project. NW advised that the Step Free Access would be completed after the interchange project due to the tight timescales of the interchange project. NW advised that a more accurate programme of timescales on delivery would be available by the summer but it was hoped that the install would be in place by 2023.

Mr Cook commented that designs for the interchange project only included 3 disabled parking bays and felt that this was not adequate considering the footfall at the Station. NW agreed to feed this back to the relevant department.

Committee Members Present :-

Councillor J Dann
Councillor P Dodds (Chairman)
Councillor P Earles
Councillor M Platt (Vice Chairman)
Councillor R Shaw

Also in Attendance :-

Nicholas Wilton (Network Rail)
Ian Cook (Step Free Access)
Environmental Services Manager

2762 To note declaration of interest on Agenda Items

There were no declarations of interest.

2763 To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gleave for medical reasons. No apologies had been received from Cllr Halligan.

2764 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman commented that there was an additional item to be added to the agenda to consider a street trading licence.

2765 Minutes

All Members agreed the minutes were a true recording of the meeting held on 17th December 2020.

2766 Matters Arising

Cllr Dann asked for an update on the Rendezvous Cafe Banners. The Environmental Services Manager agreed to request an update from the Rufus Centre Manager and report back at the next meeting.

2767 Planning applications for consideration

2767- 1	20/04209/FUL	Plot Ref :-	Type :-	FULL
	Applicant Name :-	Mr Jonathon Hodgson	Date Received :-	17/12/2020
	Location :-	56a High Street Flitwick Beds MK45 1DX	Date Returned :-	07/01/2021
	Proposal :	Enlargement of garden amenity space and erection of outbuilding with fence surrounding enlarged garden.		

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MK45 1RT

Proposal : Loft conversion with front and rear dormers and roof lights to rear roof slope.

Observations : FTC - Support

Vote: all in favour

2768 To note planning decisions from Central Bedfordshire

Members noted the decisions from CBC.

2769 Correspondence received

There were no items.

2770 Highways

The Chairman advised that the next meeting was due to be held online on the 11th January. Cllr Gomm had advised the Chairman that CBC were due to hold traffic surveys at Windmill Road however due to COVID-19 this would be put on hold until some kind of normality resumed to give a better reflection of the traffic/pedestrian flow.

Cllr Shaw commented that the flooding on Froghall Road under the railway bridge had not been rectified.

2771 Scheme of Delegation

Members noted the Scheme of Delegation for the Planning Committee.

2772 Planning Committee Budget

Members noted the £10,000 budget allocated to the Planning Committee.

2773 Street Trading Licence

Members noted the request for a street trading licence which covered one location within Flitwick.

Members felt that residential areas were not an appropriate location for catering vans and objected to the licence request specifically for Flitwick. Members agreed that catering vans were better suited on industrial estates.

It was RESOLVED to object to the street trading licence in relation to the location within Flitwick. (Vote: all in favour)

2774 Questions

Cllr Dann commented that there had been a notification to relax traffic enforcement in the Town during the lockdown period. Cllr Dann raised concern with vehicles parking on zig zag lines specifically outside Costa Coffee and agreed to address this at the Highways meeting. Cllr Dann also had concerns with the amount of cars parking on pavements within the Town.

Cllr Shaw raised concerns surrounding the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and wished to know CBC'S involvement and view on it. Cllr Shaw added that the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) had advised that Network Rail in conjunction with a Cabal of CEO's of involved County Councils were meeting privately to push a Northern route for the proposed East/West Rail network. This route would go through Bedford Station then north between Clapham and Brickhill, east past Ravensden and Wilden to a new station in the Sandy area together with new towns north of Bedford (Twinwoods, Sharnbrook, Colworth, Wyboston).

Cllr Shaw commented that this would devastate vast tracts of rural Bedfordshire if it were to go ahead. The CPRE's preferred route is a Southern route using a new station at Wixams as a Parkway and following the established A421 corridor causing the least damage to the rural environment.

Cllr Shaw suggested this be discussed in detail at the next Planning meeting with a view to taking to full Council as to what Flitwick Town Councils position is.

The Meeting closed at : 9.00pm

Signed : _____ Chairman Date: _____

On behalf of :-

Flitwick Town Council