



**MINUTES OF FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 18TH MAY 2021
AT 7:30PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE & VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present

Cllr A Snape
Cllr J Dann
Cllr A Lutley
Cllr K Badham
Cllr R Shaw
Cllr D Toinko
Cllr I Blazeby
Cllr P Dodds
Cllr G Mackey
Cllr J Roberts
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr J Gleave
Cllr M Platt
Cllr M Williams
Cllr H Hodges
Cllr A Chacko
Cllr P Earles

Cllrs G Mackey, C Gomm – Central Beds Ward Members

Also present:

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Stephanie Stanley – Deputy Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager
Members of the public - 2

5095. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr A Snape be elected to the office of Town Mayor for Flitwick, for the year 2021/2022.

5096. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Cllr A Snape signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

5097. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr J Dann be elected to the office of Town Mayor for Flitwick, for the year 2021/2022.

5098. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr J Dann signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

5099. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ashwin Chacko to Flitwick Town Council for the East Ward.

Councillor Chacko signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took part in the remainder of the meeting.

5100. MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. For Members to determine membership of the Town Councils standing committees. Information setting out the Committees of the Council preferences are attached to this agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members of the Standing Committees are as follows;

Business Services:

Cllr A Snape, Cllr I Blazeby, Cllr A Lutley, Cllr J Gleave, Cllr K Badham, Cllr M Williams, Cllr P Earles, Cllr G Mackey

Community Services:

Cllr C Thompson, Cllr D Toinko, Cllr J Dann, Cllr A Lutley, Cllr K Badham, Cllr A Chacko, Cllr M Platt, Cllr P Earles

Corporate Services:

Cllr I Blazeby, Cllr J Roberts, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr H Hodges, Cllr C Thompson, Cllr D Toinko

Personnel:

Cllr A Snape, Cllr I Blazeby, Cllr K Badham, Cllr J Dann, Cllr C Thompson

Planning:

Cllr P Dodds, Cllr J Gleave, Cllr M Platt, Cllr J Roberts, Cllr P Earles, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr H Hodges, Cllr A Chacko

Appeals:

Cllr J Gleave, Cllr G Mackey, Cllr D Toinko, Cllr J Roberts, Cllr H Hodges

Members noted the remaining committees:

Allotment Liaison Committee – Cllr A Lutley, Cllr M Platt, Cllr P Earles, 1 vacancy

Carnival Committee – Cllr C Thompson, Cllr M Platt, Cllr M Williams, Cllr P Earles

- b. For each Committee to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman, (only members who have been confirmed as members of the committee can take part in the vote, In the case of a tie in votes, the Chairman of the Council will have a right to vote).

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following Chairman and Vice Chairman of each standing committee:

Business Services

Chairman - Cllr A Snape

Vice Chairman – Cllr I Blazeby

Community Services

Chairman – Cllr C Thompson

Vice Chairman – Cllr D Toinko

Corporate Services

Chairman – Cllr I Blazeby

Vice Chairman – Cllr J Roberts

Personnel

Chairman – Cllr K Badham

Vice Chairman – Cllr J Dann

Planning

Chairman – Cllr P Dodds

Vice Chairman – Cllr J Gleave

Appeals

Chairman – Cllr Roberts

Vice Chairman – Cllr Toinko

5101. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was **RESOLVED** to elect the following Members as representatives on outside bodies;

- I. Highways.
Cllr J Gleave, Cllr M Platt, Cllr P Dodds, Cllr R Shaw (Sub)
- II. Village Hall Committee.
Cllr J Dann, Cllr P Earles (Sub)
- III. Planning and DMC.
Cllr J Gleave, P Dodds (Sub)
- IV. Patient Participation Group.
Cllr Roberts, Cllr P Dodds (Sub)
- V. Police Priorities Setting.
Cllr M Williams, Cllr J Roberts (Sub)

5102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

5103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of interests from Members in relation to :

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None.

5104. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members to carry out lateral flow tests before attending face-to-face meetings. The Chairman also advised Members that joining meetings remotely would mean they were unable to participate in voting, however they would be able to take part in discussions and put forward proposals.

The Chairman suggested Members familiarise themselves with the Social Media Policy when commenting on social media posts.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

5105. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS

Cllr Mackey advised Members that the Station Interchange project was progressing well, and a tender would be issued within the next four weeks. Demolition of the old Kebab shop would commence soon.

Cllr Mackey also advised that the development on the former Leisure Centre site had been granted approval at a recent Development Management Committee meeting with works due to start in October.

Cllr Gomm advised Members that a meeting had been held to discuss the traffic issues on Windmill Road and that the Highways team were looking into various options to improve this.

Cllr Gomm also advised that Libraries and Leisure Centres had re-opened to members of the public following the lifting of government restrictions.

Cllr Hodges asked for details on the issues within Windmill Road. Cllr Mackey responded that parked cars and speeding were the main issues.

The Chairman asked if any specific proposals had been made, Cllr Mackey advised that at this stage investigatory works were being undertaken however a likely option could be creating passing places along the road.

Cllr Shaw commented that parking for the Chip Shop created several problems during the evenings.

5106. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

None.

5107. INVITED SPEAKER

None.

5108. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Mackey referred to the Community Services recent decision regarding a Lockdown Car Show. He noted the Fun Fair was in town and going well and advised that the Prime Minister was likely to release restrictions further in June. He asked if the Council would be willing to re-look at the decision not to allow public use of the Millennium Park for this event. He advised that he was aware of the necessity to have two other Councillors request this in writing to the Clerk (in line with Standing Orders) and asked the Council to think about it. The Chairman advised that because the decision was made at Community Services, it would be most appropriate for it to be re-considered there.

Cllr Badham asked the following question;

“As we are still waiting for the now almost mythical local plan to be published, I wonder if members, in particular ward members are aware of the Planning Application No: CB/21/02011/OUT, which is for 3,850 residential units between Barton le Clay and Silsoe known as Greenwoods. This is on top of the 500 odd houses that are already planned in the aforementioned Local plan for that area. The development is, at the moment, including schools, Retail and other local facilities, but there appears to be no mention of the additional medical provision. There is also a history of the facilities being missed off the final developments. This is of course on top of the more local developments, like the Steppingley Care home, the development opposite the Rufus centre which are in the local plan, and then other mysteriously appearing developments such as the Church road development we heard about last week. This will put a tremendous strain on local facilities. So my question to our ward councillors is “Is the failure to deliver a local plan deliberate to allow such developments through, or is it, as has been suggested, simply incompetence, and will the ward members join with their colleague and ex leader Cllr James Jameison in objecting to this development in the strongest possible terms considering the additional impact it will have on local services and amenities?”

Councillor Mackey answered from his own perspective that he believed this to be incompetence and commented that speculative plans were unacceptable. He said he

would be strongly objecting in every way possible to him but he did not have a vote at CBC DMC meetings. Councillor Gomm endorsed this and commented that there was no way of stopping individuals from submitting applications and without a Local Plan, there was no guidance. The Local Plan was back with the inspectors. He promised that the Ward Members would keep an eye on the situation.

Councillor Snape asked if there was any indication as to when the Local Plan would be released and Councillor Mackey advised that this was unknown.

Cllr Badham also asked for an update with regards to an apparent complaint about the Kebab van that parked outside Barclays and commented that it had been noted in a recent Highways report and via conversation with Cllr Mackey that there was intention to get rid of the van. Cllr Badham asked Cllr Mackey for a response.

Cllr Mackey advised that he had been in contact with the licencing department to ensure the Kebab Van had all the correct licensing in place and would report back once he had an answer.

Cllr Badham suggested that there could be a conflict of interest, given that the Kebab Van's main competition is a tenant of Central Bedfordshire Council.

5109. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 27th April 2021**, this meeting was held via virtual access.

Members received and approved as a true record; the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 via virtual access.

- b. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Corporate Services Committee Meeting, held on **Tuesday 9th April 2021**, this meeting was held via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions of the Corporate Services Committee Meeting held on **Tuesday 29th April 2021** via virtual access.

- c. For Members to receive and consider resolutions and recommendations of the Community Services Committee Meeting, held on **Tuesday 4th May 2021**, this meeting was held via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 via virtual access. Members approved the applications to the Rolling Capital Fund.

- d. Members are asked to note the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on **Thursday 6th May 2021** via virtual access.

Members noted the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on **Thursday 6th May 2021** via virtual access.

- e. For Members to receive and consider **resolution and recommendations** of the Planning Committee Meeting, held on **Tuesday 11th May 2021** at the Rufus Centre.

There were no resolutions or recommendations.

- f. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Personnel Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 13th May 2021** at the Rufus Centre.

For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Personnel Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 8th April 2021** via virtual access – this item was on a Late Sheet.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on **Thursday 13th May 2021**.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8th April.

- g. Members noted the Planning Decisions from 11th May 2021.

5110. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 - none.
- b. Members to receive any updates from Officers - The Town Clerk advised Members that a meeting to discuss the community housing scheme had been scheduled for 27th May 2021 and he would send a formal invitation to Councillors the following day.

5111. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION – There were no items for consideration.

5112. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. **Flitwick Combined Charities Trustees**

Members noted the Trustees for Flitwick Combined Charities for the ensuing year as Catherine Hursthouse, Sheila Smith, Paul Cranmer & Ann Lutley.

Councillor Lutley advised that it was possible the Curate, Andrea Maffei, may take Lucy Davis' place.

5113. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

None.

5114. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

(15f) MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS – Noted.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.