



**(DRAFT) MINUTES OF FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021  
AT 7:30PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE & VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

**Present**

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

Cllrs G Mackey, N Bunyan – Central Beds Ward Members

**Also present:**

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk & Chief Executive  
Beverley Jones – Communications & Marketing Manager  
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager

**5127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr R Shaw (Holiday) and Cllr M Williams (unwell)

**5128. 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

**5129. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5130. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS**

Councillor Mackey advised that the adoption of Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan was to be voted on by Full Council on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Highways updates:

Flooding in Hornes End Road is causing serious problems. Specialists are currently investigating.

Flooding under the bridge at Froghall Road has been sorted.

Yellow lines are being installed in Millwright Way, Windmill Road junction outside the shop and at the bottom of Chapel Road.

The south region has had difficulty with garden waste and recycling collections due to staffing issues and these are temporarily suspended. Currently the north region is not affected.

**5131. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of public present.

**5132. INVITED SPEAKER**

There was no invited speaker.

**5133. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Councillor Roberts asked Ward Members for an update on the gate being closed at the railway station which was understood to be a temporary measure. Ward Members advised that it is still closed for safeguarding reasons after the tragic fatality. A number of attempts had also been made and as a result of consultation with stakeholders i.e. Samaritans the gate remains closed. An update had been requested from the Regional Manager but had not yet been received.

The station has said they will bring in measures for people with accessibility issues and were due to issue a statement which has not been forthcoming.

**5134. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a.** For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, this meeting was held via virtual access.

Councillor Toinko asked why votes were recorded on the minutes for some agenda items and not others as it should be consistent. Town Clerk advised that votes should not be recorded on minutes. Votes to be removed from draft minutes.

Members received and approved as a true record: the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with the following amendments: removal of any record of voting.

- b.** For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Community Services Committee Meeting, held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

**868b** Members discussed the street lighting overspend and the street lights that come under CBC and street lights that come under FTC. Lights are being upgraded to LED. Town Clerk said it was possible for street lights to be adopted back to CBC in the future.

Members noted the recommendations of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

- c. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Business Services Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted the recommendations of the Business Services Committee held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

- d. For Members to receive and consider resolutions and recommendations of the Planning Services Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

#### **2857. Street Naming Request**

Councillor Dodds clarified that the spelling of Foxglove should be all one word and not two words.

Members noted the recommendations and resolutions of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

### **5135. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 –**

#### **Focus on Flitwick**

Councillor Badham asked for an update on Focus on Flitwick (FOF). Councillor Snape and Councillor Mackey had met after Business Services Meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July to discuss moderation regime of the page. It was a constructive conversation. Councillor Mackey said that he is happy to work with Members to encourage things to be reported to deal with and welcomed their input.

Councillor Badham said that recently FTC had been accused of doing nothing about bins being emptied and for cancelling the food festival which was inaccurate. He said that if FOF did not have the time and resources to monitor comments it should be closed. Comments had been made about grounds team being lazy. Totally unacceptable and undermining Town Council staff. He felt that action should be taken on persistent offenders who repeat accusations.

Councillor Badham said that Town Councillors use disclaimers on the Facebook pages but he had never seen Councillor Mackey use a disclaimer. Important to have the same rules for all.

Councillor Toinko said people go on to FOF to complain about FTC. It is not run in the interest of the Council.

Councillor Snape said they had taken advice from the Monitoring Officer who had concerns that if comments were left to stand they were seen as fact. Councillor Snape to continue conversation with Councillor Mackey on how the issue can be resolved.

#### **Skatepark Graffiti**

Following the police investigation the offenders have been visited by police officers and two people have been issued with a Community Resolution Order. They will be cleaning graffiti from the Village Hall and the Hub and will be writing a letter of apology to FTC.

## Health Services

Councillor Snape advised that following meeting with Cllr Smith, Mayor of Ampthill and Ward Councillor, a meeting with the Beds Clinical Commissioning Group ( BCCG) would take place with the view of holding a Health Forum for the public in the autumn.

- b. Members to receive any updates from Officers –

Town Clerk said that CBC Officer will start actioning the joint committee and will give update this week. Members for the joint committee will be elected at a normal council meeting.

Town Clerk advised that the CCLA account was now open.

Staff & Councillor BBQ has been rescheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### 5136. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Family fun Day – Welcome Back Fund**

Members considered the options within the report and **RESOLVED** to approve option 4 at a cost of £16,504.

b. **Standing Orders – Annual Review**

Members approved the proposed updates to the Town Councils Standing Orders, the Standing Orders as amended will be approved at the September 2021 Town Council meeting.

c. **Flitwick Food Fest**

It was **RESOLVED** to publicise and agreed Statement and address the issues with Pick and Mix with the SAG team.

e. **Internal Audit**

Members considered the final audit report for 2020/21 and congratulated officers for all their work in achieving a good report.

### 5137. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning committee decisions**

Members noted the Planning decisions from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### 5138. **Public Open Session**

There were no members of the Public present.

### 5139. **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.

13a) Building Proposal

13b) Land Update

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.