



**MINUTES OF FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 6TH MAY 2021
AT 7:30PM VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present

Cllr J Dann (Chairman)
Cllr A Snape
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 P Earles

Cllrs G Mackey, C Gomm, N Bunyan – Central Beds Ward Members

Also present:

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Stephanie Stanley – Deputy Town Clerk
Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager
Beverley Jones – Communications & Marketing Manager
Jon Barkat – Business & Facilities Manager
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager
Members of the public - 11

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING

To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 9th April 2019.

Members received the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 9th April as a true record. (Vote: 11 in favour, 1 abstention)

3. MATTERS ARISING

Mr Culman commented on the issue of litter in Millennium Park and stated that the minutes from the previous Annual Town Meeting indicated that CCTV would be investigated. It was also noted that vehicles continued to park on the grass verge playing music.

The Town Clerk advised that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) was reviewing the CCTV within Flitwick and once this was completed the Town Council would link up to the system, this would be in line with the new Transport Interchange.

Cllr Mackey advised that installing bollards on the verge was an option being assessed by the Highways team. The Police had strengthened the case agreeing that bollards would help tackle the issue of cars parking on the verge.

The Environmental Services Manager advised that the Public Realm Team carried out litter picking duties on a daily basis which included weekends. Additional litter bins had been requested by the young people and this would be investigated.

Mr Culman suggested at the last Annual Town Meeting that chicken wire be placed around the bottom of the Millennium Park fence to stop litter blowing onto the Temple Way and the school premises.

Mr Culman referred to minute number 7.1, Flitwick Lower School crossing patrol, and advised that he had been in contact with the School Safety Officer but had received no update.

Cllr Mackey advised that CBC had tried recruiting a Crossing Patrol Officer without success and agreed to investigate this.

4. **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman presented the annual report. (This can be found on the Town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

5. **REPORTS**

a. **Community Services – Cllr Badham**

Cllr Badham presented the Community Services report. (this can be found on the Town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

b. **Corporate Services – Cllr I Blazeby**

Cllr Blazeby presented the Corporate Services report. (this can be found on the Town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

c. **Business Services – Cllr A Snape**

Cllr Snape presented the Business Services report. (this can be found on the Town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

d. **Planning – Cllr P Dodds**

Cllr Dodds presented the Planning report. (this can be found on the Town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

e. **CBC Ward Councillors Report**

Cllr Mackey presented the CBC Ward Councillors report. (this can be found on the town Council website within the Annual Assembly pack)

6. **RESOLUTION AND QUESTIONS**

The Chairman read out the pre-notified questions from members of the public.

Sue Livens asked a question related to the Wildflowers/Community Gardens project.

Q - I know a few patches were sown a couple of weeks ago, but want to know how this is moving along? Are permissions needed? How many volunteers (other than myself!) are known? Do you need funds to buy plants/seeds?

Cllr Toinko advised that permission from CBC was required to ensure the following are considered; highways/visibility issues, having agreement that there is no loss of amenity use of the land, having the best chance that CBC contractors would not just mow over the patches, being able to put up signage and/or officially communicate the scheme to neighbours, being able to provide information in support of the scheme to help public understanding and prevent potential complaints about 'untidiness'.

Cllr Toinko also advised that funding had been allocated from the rolling capital fund initially and future additional grant funding could be considered. Several residents had agreed to volunteer for the project.

Alison Ferry asked a question related to Manor Park.

Q - Why can't posts be set inboard of the footpath instead of encompassing them as it would be cheaper as it would require less fencing but also allow us to continue to use the footpaths on the outside as usual?

Cllr Badham advised that due to requirements of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, low intensity grazing was necessary to take place from June – October. Installing fencing on the inside of the footpath would have meant a loss of funding as it could not be grazed or sufficiently managed. Cllr Badham commented that the Environmental Team were investigating whether one or both fields would be grazed at any one time.

7. OPEN FORUM

Mr Ashton commented that disabled facilities at the Rufus Centre were generally very good however the recent refurbishment of the toilet facilities meant that wheelchairs were unable to access the disabled toilet.

The Business and Facilities Manager advised that all disabled requirements had been met and agreed to investigate this further.

Mr Ashton commented on the condition of various pavements within Flitwick. The chairman advised Mr Ashton to take this up directly with CBC.

Mr Ashton referred to the Corporate Services report which stated that the Town Council were no longer providing a burial ground on the land at Maulden Road. Mr Ashton asked if this meant there would not be one.

Cllr Blazeby advised that it would cost FTC in the region of £600,000 to provide a burial ground and Members felt this was too big a commitment given that the legal responsibility sat elsewhere.

Mr Culman asked if the asset review would be published in conjunction with the Town Council strategy. Cllr Blazeby agreed to liaise with the Town Clerk and identify what parts of the asset review could be published.

Mr Culman commented that there seemed to be a change of direction at the Town Council, which seemed very positive.

Mr Culman requested an update on the newly installed gates at Manor Pak and asked about the condition of the lake. The Environmental Services Manager advised that the gates would be operated via a solar battery pack and was awaiting confirmation of installation from the contractor.

Cllr Badham advised that the lake required a substantial amount of time and money to return it to its original state and this was something the Town Council were looking to carry out in the longer-term plan.

Mrs Whittingham asked if there were any plans to develop the Station Road land considering the proposals for older people accommodation and the new Scout Hut had been dropped. The Chairman advised that there were no further plans at this time.

Cllr Blazeby commented that Officers were in discussions with the local organisations to find out what their aspirations were.

Mr Ashton asked if the Police regularly reported to the Council. The Chairman advised that due to purdah this was unable to be discussed however Members regularly attended Police Priority setting meetings when arranged.

Mr Ashton expressed thanks to the Town Council on behalf of the Flittabus Community Transport organisation for use of meeting/training rooms at the Rufus Centre.

Mr Culman asked if there were any plans to install seating on the area outside of Barclays Bank. The Town Clerk advised that there were no further plans at this time however the Council were looking at several options for the land subject to approval of the landowner.

Mr Culman thanked Councillors and staff for getting through the past 18 months in light of COVID 19.

Mrs Livens commented that speeding on Brookes Road was proving an issue and suggested speed bumps be considered to reduce this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed 20.57.