



FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at the Rufus Centre

Present:

Cllr Thomspn
Cllr Earles
Cllr Wilsmore
Cllr Bandy
Cllr Crawford
Cllr Harald
Cllr Toinko
Cllr Roberts

Stacie Lockey – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Lisa Simpson – Community Engagement Manager
Sarah Burgess – Amenties Officer
Aaron Pepper – Public Realm Supervisor

1341. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Platt – work commitment.

1342. 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.

1343. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that the launch of the Flitwick Living History Trail was being held on Thursday, 5th February for those who wished to attend.

Members were advised that the first meeting had taken place with Ampthill Town Council to start arranging the Pride Picnic. This would be taking place on Saturday, 7th June, and any help would be appreciated.

1344. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There was no invited speaker.

1345. INVITED SPEAKER

No invited speaker.

1346. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Toinko commented that the Town Council's proposed film during the February half term clashed with the Library and asked if Officers could work with the Library going forward to avoid this happening in the future.

Action: CEM

The Chairman asked Officers if an email had been circulated asking for feedback from the Christmas Lights Event, as they did not recall seeing this. Officers agreed to look into this.

Action: CEM

1347. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on **Tuesday 2nd December 2025**.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Community Services Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting.

1348. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1349. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Community Engagement Strategy**

Members commented positively on the Community Engagement Strategy. The Town Mayor commented that there was an event listed within the document that clashed with the Town Mayor's event diary, Officers agreed to liaise directly with the Town Mayor on this matter.

Action: CEM

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Community Strategy and take it to full council for adoption.

- b. **Community Events Additional Expenditure**

Members discussed the report presented and discussed the options at length.

Cllr Harald asked if the family fun day was supported by local businesses, and Officers advised that this was supported through sponsorship.

Members were reminded that last year the fun fair was not provided free of charge, and minimal complaints or negative feedback were received as a result of this.

Members commented on the option which included boxing sessions, and felt the costs were very high. A suggestion was made to contact local professional boxer Linus Udofia to ask for his support, given that he runs a local boxing club in Flitwick.

A Member commented that last year, the fun fair rides for younger children had been removed and felt the event didn't accommodate all ages. The Town Clerk advised that this was not the case and there were at least 3-4 rides suitable for younger children aged between 2-8 years. Members did comment that the main change from previous years was the removal of the traditional fun fair rides.

Another Member felt that there should have been a further option within the report to include not spending the additional budget at all. The Chairman advised that this could be an option, and should Members choose not to use the money, it would be returned to the general reserves fund.

Members asked if the family fun day would include soft play in the village hall again this year as it provided refuge for younger children to escape the sun. The Community Engagement Manager advised that this was being investigated.

Members asked for clarity on how much the fun fair would cost if the additional budget was not utilised for the fun fair. The Town Clerk advised that the charge would be £1.50 per ride as per last year.

Members discussed looking at all larger events in detail to see if any savings could be made elsewhere to be able to fully subsidise the fair and provide an enhanced summer programme. Concerns were raised around the amount of money that had been set aside for the Festival of Lights, and some Members felt unsure what this event involved.

The Chairman commented that if no decision could be reached, the item would be deferred; however, there was a risk associated with this regarding the fun fair.

The Town Clerk asked for clarity on what was being asked for by Officers; some Members were concerned about no decision being made.

The Chairman was in favour of being able to control the fun fair prices and was keen to progress with option two. They felt that a report could still be prepared for the next meeting with further details around the events, in particular, the larger events.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept option two and utilise the additional £5,650.00 money for an all-ages inclusive summer programme.

Officers were tasked with preparing a report and bringing it to the next meeting to include a list of all events, budgets associated with them and an opportunity for Members to consider these further.

c. Play Areas – Forward Capital Plan and Updates

Members noted the report and raised a query regarding the replacement of potentially damaged sections of the Matta play surfacing recently installed at two play areas. The Amenities Officer advised that individual tiles could be replaced by the Public Realm Team, making this a more cost-effective long-term solution. Members also commented that the material used was of improved quality.

Members asked how future improvements would be funded. The Town Clerk advised that this would be via external funding sources, Section 106 or the Town Council's projects fund.

d. Land Hire Request from Kings Church

Members discussed the request from Kings Church for use of the Town Square for their annual carol service.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the request from Kings Church to hold their 2026 carol concert on the Town Square.

1350. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Community Financial Report

Members noted the financial report.

b. Officer Update

(i) Amenities Update

- Members commented that previously, the bins were an issue, whereby members of the public were putting large pizza boxes in them, causing them to be blocked. The Amenities Officer advised that the bins had been replaced with dual bins, including a section for general waste and also recycling. It was hoped this would improve the situation.
 - The Manor Park Working group were making good progress within the park and continued to meet on the first Thursday of each month. All Members were welcome to attend.
- (ii) Community Update
- Members asked for Officers to contact the Library regarding the film showings to avoid potential clashes in the future.

1351. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No items.

1352. 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.

No items.

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.

Meeting Closed at 20.439

Signed.....(Chairman)