



FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Flitwick Town Council meeting held on
Tuesday 17th March 2026 at the Rufus Centre at 7:45pm

Present:

Cllr M Platt (Chairman)
Cllr R Wilshire
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr I Blazeby
Cllr L Bandy
Cllr P Earles
Cllr H Hodges
Cllr A Crawford
Cllr T Harald
Cllr T Parsons
Cllr L Hart
Cllr F Patterson
Cllr D Toinko

Also present:

Stacie Lockey – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Stephanie Stanley – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
1 member of the public

5968. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Snape and Roberts (holiday).

5969. 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.

5970. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No items.

5971. Leader Update

No items.

5972. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS

Cllr Adams had sent apologies but he had sent a report, which had been forwarded to all members by email.

Cllr Wilshire asked if his update was just about the Froghall Farm disposal. The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Adams had also noted the concerns expressed about the removal of the hedgerow for Steppingley Road field, which had been done prior to agreement of the Construction Environmental Management Plan. The Officer response at CBC was that this was permissible under 'enabling works' and is therefore not a contravention of planning conditions.

5973. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No items.

5974. INVITED SPEAKER

No items.

5975. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Hodges referred to an email sent to some Members that day about the Steppingley Road field development and asked if there was a mechanism to respond to this formally. The Town Clerk stated that she can respond to explain the Council's position or Members could choose to respond directly as a Council. Cllr Hodges agreed that the Town Clerk could respond but that this resident had made accusations of improper behaviour which needed to be challenged, which was agreed by all Members.

Action: Town Clerk

Some of the Members had not been copied into the email and it was agreed for this to be forwarded onto them for information.

5976. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. For Members to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 17th February 2026**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre.

It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2026 at the Rufus Centre as a true record of the meeting.

- b. For Members to receive and consider the resolutions and recommendations of the Community Services Committee meeting, held on **Tuesday 3rd March 2026**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre.

The resolutions of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 were noted.

5977. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 17th February 2026**.

No items.

- b. Members to receive any updates from Officers – no items.

5978. OUTSIDE BODIES

No items.

5979. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Internal Audit 2025-26 (2nd Interim)

Cllr Blazeby congratulated the team on another good audit report.

It was **resolved** to accept the Internal Audit 2025-26 (2nd Interim) Report.

b. Special Recognition Awards

Members considered the Town Mayor's proposal circulated.

Cllr Thompson thought it was lovely to recognise people in the community and mentioned other similar awards that had been given in the past. She felt that if the current Mayor chose to recognise community members during their Civic Reception, then they could. Cllr Thompson thought the proposal was a better way of doing this than other, more complicated processes that had been undertaken in the past.

Cllr Patterson asked if a Selection Panel would be appointed at this meeting. The Chairman said this would happen when the Mayor returned from his holiday. Cllr Blazeby thought it would be good to progress without a Selection Panel and that the Mayor was the most appropriate person to decide who deserved an award. He proposed that the Council accept the scheme, but excluded any nomination process and allowed the Mayor to decide who received the awards.

Cllr Hodges suggested that future Mayors may give the same people awards, and because of this, thought it would be appropriate for the Council to have some sight of the names coming forward.

Cllr Toinko agreed that it should be at the Mayor's discretion who received an award, but asked whether the panel should include the Deputy Mayor to provide oversight. The Chairman agreed with this and suggested that the Leader could also be involved. Cllr Toinko did not agree that the Leader should be involved, as this was a civic responsibility. He proposed an amendment to Cllr Blazeby's proposal in that the Deputy Town Mayor be included in the award process. Members voted in favour of the amendment.

It was **resolved** to accept the Special Recognition Awards scheme presented, excluding any nomination process, and for the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to decide on who received awards.

c. Financial Regulations

It was **resolved** to adopt the Financial Regulations circulated for Flitwick Town Council.

d. Standing Orders

It was **resolved** to adopt the Standing Orders circulated for Flitwick Town Council.

5980. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Finance Reports

The balance sheet and project fund summary were noted.

b. Delegated Authority Decisions

Members noted the following delegated authority decisions:

i) Rotavator Purchase

Members previously delegated responsibility to the Town Clerk to decide where to code the rotavator purchase. Members noted that this expenditure would be covered by underspends in the community revenue budget for 2025-26 (£1,000 virement from 4082/311 Youth Hub to 4084/303 Plant/Equip Purchase).

ii) Play Equipment

Replacement play equipment at the Millennium Park at a cost of £8,484.20 (plus secured Section 106 funds at £9,371.78) would be funded by the revenue budget 2025-26 virements from the following nominal codes:

£3,500 Water Youth Hub (4015/311)
£1,853 Flitwick Family Fun Day (4551/313)
£1,840 Waste Disposal: Tractor Store (4128/303)
£1,400 Fuel – Trucks (4006/300)

Cllr Blazeby asked whether the purchase of play equipment was replacing a piece of equipment. The Town Clerk responded that the roundabout at the Millennium Park play area was not functioning properly, but it was not dangerous. Members were informed that the roundabout did not spin effectively and the contractor had already replaced parts to assist this before. The advice from the play inspection company was to replace the roundabout.

Cllr Thompson provided Members with some background about the annual play inspections and predicted lifespan of equipment.

Cllr Toinko asked for more details about the new roundabout. The Town Clerk advised that it was a new accessible roundabout but the price included site set up costs as well as the piece of equipment.

5982. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No items.

The resident left the meeting at 20:06.

5983. 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.

a. Confidential Report

Members noted the report.

The Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting at 20:08.

b. HR Committee Recommendation

It was **resolved** to award the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk a bonus payment.

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.

The meeting closed at 20:20.

Signed (Chairman)

