



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Sports Hall - Newton Leys Pavilion on Tuesday, 28th March, 2023 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R Graham, Clark, Palmer, G Bedford, S Browne, L Campbell, K Ely, R Haine, E Hume, Hussein, M McDonald, E O'Rourke, Osumili, A Segebrecht, T Stephens and M Wymer

Absent: Cllr S Porter

Apologies: Cllrs E Kelly-Wilson, Elhasoglu, M Imran and A Khanom

In attendance: Delia Shephard (Town Clerk) (Clerk) and John Fairclough (Support Services Manager)

Min Ref

- FC22/23-102 **Councillors' apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED that the apologies for absence and the absences without apologies listed above be noted. Cllr Hussein had sent apologies for anticipated late arrival and these were also noted.
- FC22/23-103 **Councillors' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
Cllr Hume declared an interest in agenda item 11 concerning the deed of surrender of the lease on Bletchley Library due to his role as a Milton Keynes City Councillor and signaled his intention to withdraw from the meeting for this item of business.
- FC22/23-104 **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 24 January 2023 Full Council**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting of full council held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings with one alteration on page 2 minute reference FC22/23-93.ii. The draft included an extraneous line of text in a table of recorded votes saying "Alison Brown No vote recorded." It was RESOLVED that this line of the table be removed.
- FC22/23-105 **Public Speaking**
Two members of the public made oral representations to the council concerning agenda item 12 which was a motion about the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal. Both speakers were broadly supportive of the motion and voiced their concerns (and those of fellow residents) about the level of community engagement which had taken place over the life of the Town Deal. Points raised included perceived failure of the Town Deal to comply with its own community engagement plan, dissatisfaction with the amount and accessibility of information provided to the community and disappointment with a recent meeting held locally. In addition speakers stressed the importance of providing information via a non-party political forum and noted residents' reliance on informal social media channels in the absence of information from more official channels.

On behalf of the council the vice-chair thanked both members of the public for their contributions.
- FC22/23-106 **Minutes of recent meetings of committees of the council and recommendations contained therein**



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- FC22/23-106.i **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday, 7 February 2023 Community Committee**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 7 February 2023 be noted.
- FC22/23-106.ii **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday, 28 February 2023 Finance and Governance Committee**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 28 February 2023 be noted.
- FC22/23-107 **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday 14 March 2023 Environment and Planning Committee**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 be noted.

It was further RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the committee and to adopt the new Biodiversity Policy Statement with immediate effect.
- FC22/23-108 **To review and comment on planning applications due to be considered by Milton Keynes Council**
- FC22/23-108.i **23/00563/CLUE - 60 Laidon Close Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 3NU - Certificate of lawfulness for existing use as a 4 bedroom House in Multiple Occupation (C4 dwelling)**
The clerk noted that this item had been included on the agenda as HiMOs were not included in officer delegated powers. The application for a certificate of lawfulness referred to a dwelling which was stated to have been operated as a HiMO for over 10 years (ie longer than the maximum enforcement period) therefore no action could be taken unless evidence could be provided showing that this usage is more recent.

Following member discussion it was RESOLVED to make no comments on the application for a certificate of lawfulness.
- FC22/23-109 **Summary financial report showing income and expenditure against budget to 28 February 2023**
(Cllr Campbell left the meeting.)

It was RESOLVED to note the summary report showing income and expenditure against budget.
- FC22/23-110 **List of payments due to be ratified**
(Cllr Campbell rejoined the meeting.)
It was RESOLVED that the list of payments circulated with the agenda be approved.
(Cllr Hussein joined the meeting.)
- FC22/23-111 **Comprehensive asset register as at 22 March 2023**
It was RESOLVED to note the full asset register as at 22 March 2023.
- FC22/23-112 **Funding from MKCC for celebration of the royal coronation in May and allocation of funds**
The clerk advised that correspondence had been received from MKCC offering the town council £1,500 to spend to support events and activities to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The funding has been allocated to town and parish councils on the basis of high street areas (where many events are likely to take place) and those with multiple community areas. Bletchley and Fenny Stratford fell into the



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group given the highest level of funding along with Wolverton and Newport Pagnell because of their large town centres/high streets with multiple community areas.

The clerk had provisionally accepted the funding and it was RESOLVED to refer arrangements for the use of this funding to a meeting of the Community Committee on 4 April 2023.

FC22/23-113

Clerk's update report on matters concerning the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal

It was RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report on matters concerning the Town Deal along with correspondence received from members of the public.

The clerk advised that arrangements had been made for John Cove, Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal Board to attend the annual meeting of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford electors on Thursday 11 May 2023 to update the community on work undertaken so far and future plans.

FC22/23-114

Resolution regarding the former Sainsbury's supermarket site proposed by Cllr Ed Hume and seconded by Cllr Gavin Bedford

Cllr Hume introduced a motion welcoming the acquisition of the former Sainsbury's site by Milton Keynes Development Corporation and discussion followed.

(During discussion Cllr Wymer left the meeting briefly but returned before the discussion was completed and voting took place.)

It was RESOLVED that Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council noted that:

- i the former Sainsburys supermarket had been purchased by Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDP) using the revolving fund from the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal investment plan
- ii the Brunel Centre and associated landholdings were acquired by MKDP last year

and the council believed that:

- i the combined ownership of these sites by MKDP will unlock opportunities for the development of Bletchley including the opening up of Queensway, new retailers, new businesses, community facilities and a health hub
- ii the development of a transport hub nearby will enable better connections with the town centre and any development on the sites of Sainsburys and the Brunel Centre
- iii the community engagement on Town Deal projects and sites should be informed by an Advisory Working Group supporting the Town Deal Board, and made up of local residents, local businesses, faith representatives, town and parish councillors and other stakeholders that reflect the diverse community of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

It was further RESOLVED that the town clerk be asked to send a copy of the resolution above to the Chair and Vice-chair of the town deal board.

FC22/23-115

Progress report on Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Gavin Bedford, chair of the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan



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Steering Group gave an oral report on progress with preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that two volunteer task teams had been set up an Environment Team working on green and blue infrastructure and a Development Team focusing on the built environment. Cllr Bedford expressed his thanks for the hard work of the volunteers who were giving up their time to gather information and would be helping to shape the emerging policies. The steering group continued to meet monthly and two new members had joined recently: Cllr Ismail Hussein and Mr Patrick Ormonde.

It was RESOLVED to note the report.

FC22/23-116

Update report on Milton Keynes Council's Parishes Forum

Cllr Terry Stephens and the clerk had attended a meeting of MKCC's Parishes Forum on 16 March 2023. Cllr Stephens reported that the meeting included three useful presentations. The first was from Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service. Stuart Grosse provided information about the service which had received 3000 emergency calls in 2022. Out of 43 arsons reported 25 were in Milton Keynes. The force had 300 full time firefighters with 96 on call at any given time. The service had an annual budget of £33.5 million and was working hard to reduce deliberate and secondary fires (eg those caused by fly tipping). During 2022 the heat wave caused considerable pressures with 220 call outs on 19 July and 157 on 12 August alone. In response to questions from Cllr Stephens, Stuart Grosse also talked about fire related problems at the Blue Lagoon and advocated for the planned new Public Space Protection Order, increased signage and ideally the introduction of wardens.

A second presentation concerned the National Energy Foundation's warmth and well being service and provided useful information about how those in fuel poverty could seek help and support. It was estimated that in 2020 3.16 million people in the UK were living in fuel poverty and in 2022 this had risen to 9.1 million.

Finally Jeremy Draper of MKCC had given a brief presentation on the City Council's Carbon Offset Fund which could provide opportunities for the town council in the future.

The clerk noted that once the slides from the presentations had been made available these would be distributed to members.

FC22/23-117

Correspondence from Thames Valley Police concerning review of local policing

It was RESOLVED to note correspondence from Jason Hogg, Deputy Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police including a Partner Feedback Report (February 2023) and a Force Review briefing (March 2023).

FC22/23-118

Deed of surrender on lease of Bletchley Library and to approve expenditure on MKCC's legal fees

(Cllr Hume left the room for discussion and voting on this item.)

It was RESOLVED to approve signature of a formal deed of surrender of the Town Council's lease of premises at Bletchley Library with Milton Keynes City Council.

It was RESOLVED to approve the payment of £545.00 to MKCC in respect of their legal fees including a Land Registration fee of £45.

(Cllr Hume rejoined the meeting.)

FC22/23-119

Replacement of town councillor tablets and ongoing remote technical support from Cloudy IT



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Following member feedback at a recent meeting the clerk had been asked to investigate replacement of councillor tablets (purchased in 2019) including provision of larger devices and remote IT support for members. A confidential quotation from the Council's current IT support provider Cloudy IT had been circulated and this had been compared with quotations for direct purchase of upgraded tablets by officers. Discussion followed and differing views were expressed.

It was RESOLVED that an order would be placed with Cloudy IT in the sum of £8,832.00 which included replacement of 18 existing councillor tablets with Lenovo Tab P11 (2nd Gen) ZABL tablets and Lenovo keyboards and a one off fee for set up and configuration of these and a monthly payment for councillor tablet device management of £36.00 per month. This resolution was passed on the proviso that the existing 18 tablets would be used for community engagement purposes or recycled/donated within the community.

FC22/23-120

Lease on premises at 21 Barton Road

A confidential solicitor's report on the proposed underlease of premises at 21 Barton Road was noted and members had the opportunity to ask any further questions about the underlease which had already been approved in principle on a previous occasion. It was further noted that a photographic condition report was appended to the underlease.

It was RESOLVED to approve the underlease relating and authorise signature of this and a statutory declaration to exclude the lease from the 1954 Act.

FC22/23-121

Exclusion of Public

It was RESOLVED that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted which could result in legal action.

FC22/23-122

Confidential property matter

A confidential report was tabled which concerned arrangements for the execution of a break clause in leased premises in Bletchley and included recommendations for expenditure on dilapidations.

It was RESOLVED to note the report and to approve the recommendations therein.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm