



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Community Hall - Newton Leys Pavilion on Tuesday, 16th May, 2023 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R Graham, R Haine, I Hussein, E Kelly-Wilson, E O'Rourke and A Palmer

Absent: Cllr L Campbell and S Clark

Apologies: Cllr A Segebrecht

In attendance: Tom Chapman, Network Rail
Will Allen, Environment and Premises Manager, acting as Clerk

Min Ref

- EPC23/24-1 **Councillors' apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED that the apologies for absence and absences without apologies be noted.
- EPC23/24-2 **Minutes of the last meeting of the committee**
It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.
- EPC23/24-3 **Councillor's declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
In relation to agenda item 5i Councillor Hussein declared a personal interest in the Premier Academy but as this was not a pecuniary interest Councillor Hussein was not precluded from discussing or voting on any proposals relating to the agenda item.
- EPC23/24-4 **Public Speaking Time**
Several members of the public including members of Water Eaton Residents Association expressed their objections to the planning application to be discussed at item 5i (The Premier Academy). Their objections related to safety and parking. It was stated that a continual flow of small planning applications was leading to approval of plans that, if taken as a whole, would not have been granted. Concern was expressed about impediments to access by emergency vehicles.

Members of the public including members of Water Eaton Residents Association also expressed their objections to the planning application to be discussed at items 5iii Lamb Sidings. These objections related to the impact of additional traffic and of additional HGVs accessing this site. Concerns were expressed that Water Eaton Road was already difficult for traffic and pedestrians due to the traffic lighted single lane under the bridge which led to build up of traffic at peak times. It was opined that the addition of further vehicles would worsen this and would have a negative impact to traffic along Duncombe Street, Clifford Avenue and Windsor Street.
- EPC23/24-5 **Planning applications due for determination by Milton Keynes Council**
It was RESOLVED to vary the order of business and deal with agenda item 5iii next which a representative of Network Rail was in attendance.
- EPC23/24-5i **23/00888/PRIOR - Lamb Sidings Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 3BF - Construction of rail depot**
Tom Chapman of Network Rail answered questions in relation to the planning



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application at Lamb Sidings. It was acknowledged that the fence had not always been well maintained by Network Rail and a commitment was given to improving the maintenance of the fencing and embankment in the area and erecting bat boxes as part of the development. Mr Chapman explained that the transport strategy submitted with the planning application mitigated many of the issues raised. Shifts would be staggered meaning that additional vehicles would not all be arriving or leaving at the same time. The entrance to the site would be set 110m back from the entrance with Water Eaton Road to prevent any “backing up” of vehicles attempting to access the site from the highway. Mr Chapman also committed to periodic meetings in the future to engage with residents.

It was RESOLVED to object to the proposed development on the grounds of increased throughput of traffic on an already busy road (Water Eaton Road) with problems because of the road under the railway bridge only being wide enough for a single car and therefore subject to traffic lights allowing flow in one direction at a time.

EPC23/24-5ii **23/00686/FULM - The Premier Academy Saffron Street MK2 3AH - Variation of wording for conditions 5 (Pedestrian Gate opening hours) and 6 (Restricting Vehicular Access only to emergency vehicles) seeking to allow use of the entrance gates on Tiffany Close for pedestrian access at school drop off and pick up times (relating to permission ref. 08/01033/MKCOD3 - erection of multi purpose school hall together with the creation/retention of vehicular access from tiffany close (resubmission of 08/00660/MKCOD3))**

It was RESOLVED to object to the proposed development because of the impact on parking and on highway safety. It was further RESOLVED to request that, if approved, a condition of the approval be that vehicular access not be allowed through the school connecting Saffron Close/Mossmans Close with Tiffany Close.

EPC23/24-5iii **23/00802/COU - 2 Marquess Drive Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2FP - Change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to HMO (Class 4)**

It was REOLVED to make no comment on the proposed development.

EPC23/24-6 **Report on allotment site occupancy and maintenance**

It was RESOLVED that an update report on allotment site occupancy showing 3 vacant plots and 43 on the waiting list be noted.

EPC23/24-7 **Report showing income and expenditure against budget which falls within the remit of the committee**

It was RESOLVED that a report showing income and expenditure against budget circulated with the agenda be noted.

EPC23/24-8 **Update on approval of Community Infrastructure Funding projects for 2023/24**

Correspondence from MKCC on the town council's 2023/24 applications to its Community Infrastructure had been circulated before the meeting. It was RESOLVED to note that approval of all three of the town council's submitted Community Infrastructure Fund projects for 2023/24 had been confirmed as follows:

- i Signage for multistory car park (£10,000 total project fee, 50% to be met by the town council, 50% by Milton Keynes City Council)
- ii Planters on Queensway (£10,000 total project fee, 50% to be met by the town council, 50% by Milton Keynes City Council)
- iii Speed Indicator Devices (£10,000 total project fee, 50% to be met by the town council, 50% by Milton Keynes City Council)



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and officers were authorised to begin work on the projects as soon as possible.

- EPC23/24-9 **Update on progress with environmental audit**
The Support Services Managed advised that the independent carbon footprint and energy audit was now underway and that documents relating to the town council's fuel use, utility bills and waste disposal had been supplied. The audit at Sycamore House had taken place but further visits were due to be carried out to the council's other premises.
- EPC23/24-10 **Update report on preparations for landscape devolution in September 2023**
It was RESOLVED to note the contents of a report which circulated before the meeting which included progress on key elements relating to the devolution of landscape maintenance to start in September 2023. In addition a Cantt chart was included showing the project plan between now and September.
- EPC23/24-11 **Update report on transfer and details of the delivery plan for the maintenance of the football pitches at Newton Leys**
It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report which stated that transfer of the pitches was imminent and gave details of the planned yearly pitch maintenance plan.
- EPC23/24-12 **S106 funding for improvements to fencing at Orchardside Allotments**
It was RESOLVED to note MKCC's approval of use of of £10,331 of S106 funding associated with the former Reckitt and Coleman site Milward Drive, Bletchley for the improvement of fencing at Orchardside Allotments. This application had previously been approved by the town council on 14th March 2023 and officers were authorised to progress the necessary work.
- EPC23/24-13 **Update report on the work of the neighbourhood plan task teams**
Members had been provided with the briefing documents being used by the Neighbourhood Plan Taskforce Teams one of which was gathering data on the local environment and one of which was gathering data on local development sites. In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Hussein on the progress of the two teams. Members noted that the information had been gathered primarily to inform the Neighbourhood Plan but would also be available to the town council as a useful source of intelligence when considering future projects.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm