



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 at Newton Leys Pavilion, Furzey Way, Newton Leys on Tuesday, 25th July, 2023 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R Graham, S Browne, K Ely, R Haine, E Hume, E O'Rourke, A Segebrecht, M Wymer and A Khanom

Absent: Cllrs S Clark, S Elhasoglu, L Campbell and M Imran

Apologies: Cllrs E Kelly-Wilson, A Palmer, G Bedford, U Osumili, T Stephens and I Hussein

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

Min Ref

- FC23/24-45 **Councillors' apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED to note the apologies for absence and the absences without apologies as listed above.
- FC23/24-46 **Councillors' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
No declarations of interests were made at this stage in the meeting.
- FC23/24-47 **Approval of minutes of last meeting of full council**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.
- FC23/24-48 **Public Speaking**
The Vice-chair of Water Eaton Residents Association made representations in support of his proposal (originally made at the annual meeting of electors) that the town council should consider employment of a parking education officer.

In summary long standing parking concerns were highlighted, particularly the lack of progress with parking management in Queensway and parking enforcement across the area. It was made clear that Water Eaton Residents Association was keen to find the best way to resolve these issues and believed that the employment of a parking education officer should be considered as this had been successful in West Bletchley.
- FC23/24-49 **Casual vacancies in Fenny Stratford Ward and Eaton South Ward and arrangements for co-option**
It was RESOLVED to note the two casual vacancies in Fenny Stratford and Eaton South Wards which had been advertised in the council's most recent newsletter. The clerk confirmed that the council would continue to promote these opportunities for potential new councillors and the casual vacancies would be a standing item on full council until the seats were filled.
- FC23/24-50 **Elections of members to committees and or working groups**
Members were reminded that following the annual meeting of council there were vacant seats on the Community Committee (2 seats), Environment and Planning Committee (3 seats), Finance and Governance Committee (3 seats).

It was RESOLVED to elect Cllr Segebrecht to the Environment and Planning Committee and to the Finance and Governance Committee.



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There were also opportunities to join the Sycamore Buildings Working Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

It was RESOLVED to elect Cllr O'Rourke to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Vice-chair of the council noted the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting due to be held on 3 August 2023 and stressed that were continued opportunities for councillors and residents to be involved in the neighbourhood planning process.

FC23/24-51 **Town Council representative to the Community Advisory Group of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal**

Following the creation of a Community Advisory Group to inform the decision-making processes of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal (as previously requested by the town council), it was RESOLVED that the chair of council be elected as the Town Council's representative to this group with the opportunity to send a substitute if required. It was noted that the first meeting of the group would be on 31 July 2023 and would be held online.

FC23/24-52 **To note the minutes of recent meetings of committees of the council and to consider any recommendations contained therein**

FC23/24-52.i **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 6 June 2023 of Employment Policy Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes be noted.

FC23/24-52.ii **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 20 June 2023 of Finance and Governance Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes be noted.

Cllr Ely then declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following recommendation due to his membership of the LGPS and took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

It was RESOLVED that the recommendation of the committee (minute reference FC23/24-29i) to adopt a revised LGPS Discretions Policy be approved.

FC23/24-52.iii **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 27 June 2023 of Community Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes be noted.

FC23/24-52.iv **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 11 July 2023 of Environment and Planning Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes be noted.

Minute reference EPC23/24-19 concerned the 2024-35 Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) and it had been RESOLVED to recommend to full council that an application be made for community infrastructure funding towards the cost of solar panels at Newton Leys Pavilion. It had not been possible to provide a detailed report on this potential project for members in time for the meeting on 25 July 2023. The closing date for the scheme was 31 August 2023. As specified on the agenda of full council, the clerk suggested that the Town Council considered delegating the approval of the application to the Finance and Governance Committee due to be held on 22 August 2023. (The maximum spend for any project was £20,000 from a town council matched by £20,000 from MKCC. The sum of £20,000 fell within the remit of the committee.)



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Following discussion it was RESOLVED that

- i the principle of an application to the CIF for solar panels at Newton Leys Pavilion be approved
- ii the detail of the application be approved by the Finance and Governance Committee at its meeting on 22 August 2023.

Regarding minute reference EPC23/24-21 concerning Newton Leys Football Pitches it had been RESOLVED to pursue interest from clubs and negotiate the best possible arrangement for the forthcoming season with a view to taking a proposal for decision to full council meeting on 25 July 2023. As noted on the agenda, negotiations had continued with other clubs but officers were not yet able to present a costed proposal to the council.

It was RESOLVED to note that the approval of this item would be returned to the Finance and Governance Committee for consideration on 22 August 2023.

FC23/24-53 **To review and comment on planning/licensing applications due to be considered by Milton Keynes Council**

FC23/24-53.i **23/01135/FUL - Travis Perkins 64-66 And 70 Simpson MK1 1BA - Full application for demolition of existing unit and the erection of 4 apartment blocks comprising 98 units with associated landscaping and parking**

It was noted that this planning application had been considered by the Environment and Planning Committee but since then more information had become available and it was hoped that a further submission would be acceptable to the local planning authority.

Discussion followed during which Cllr Segebrecht made representations and noted that whilst he did not consider he had disclosable pecuniary interest in this matter he drew attention to his residence in Simpson Road near the proposed development site. Members were concerned that this re-submission of a previous application for the same site had been amended but the amendments did not take sufficient note of previous objections to the development.

It was RESOLVED to object to the proposed development on the grounds that the traffic and parking problems had not been sufficiently addressed and consideration had not been given to the impact of road safety improvements around the level crossing.

FC23/24-53.ii **23/01464/HOU - 12 Montserrat Court Newton Leys MK3 5PR**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would object to the proposed ancillary building on the grounds that this was an overdevelopment of the original site and had the potential to place additional parking demands on the area.

FC23/24-54 **Proposal put forward at the May 2023 Annual Meetings of electors that Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council consider employment of a Parking Education Officer**

A clerk's report including information about the purpose of a parking education officer post, a potential job description and estimated costings had been circulated with the agenda. The report drew on the experience and positive outcomes from the work of the parking education officer at West Bletchley Council.

Robust discussion followed during which Cllr Hume joined the meeting. In summary,



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members recognised the well-known concerns about parking management in the area but expressed doubts about the ability of any parking education officer to effect change to parking behaviours in Bletchley town centre without any enforcement powers. On this basis there was concern about the value for money of such a post, the impact on precept of this post and the fact that there was no revenue budget allowance for this for the financial year 2023-24.

It was RESOLVED that this proposal be considered further alongside the council's other priorities during the budget setting process for 2024-25.

FC23/24-55

Application for a new site licence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 concerning A2 Plus Limited, Pioner House, 9 Bond Avenue, Bletchley MK1 1S

It was RESOLVED to note the application.

FC23/24-56

Proposal for street naming and addresses within the new housing development at Albert Street

The town council had been consulted by Milton Keynes City Council about street naming and addresses for the development formerly known as Bletchley View near Albert Street, the name being proposed by the developers being Beacon Place. Councillors questioned the connection of this name with any local history and geography and noted the nearby road names, Princes Way, Albert Street, Earls Close, Barons Close, Saxon Street which had a royal/court connection.

It was RESOLVED to suggest the name Elizabeth Place as an alternative to Beacon Place and if this was unacceptable to suggest a name which was connected to the nearby street names.

FC23/24-57

Newton Leys Matters

FC23/24-57.i

To note developments with construction of Section 2 of the new Bletchley Redway route and the bund on land belonging to the town council at Newton Leys, to approve in principle the transfer of land to the city council and to delegate this item of business to the finance and governance committee for future determination

The clerk noted that MKCC had now asked the town council to agree to a land transfer rather than an easement (as previously approved in principle by the town council) to accommodate construction of part of Section 2 of the Bletchley red way development which was planned to run alongside the football pitches at Newton Leys. It was RESOLVED to proceed based on a land transfer.

It was RESOLVED to note the draft transfer map and heads of terms and to instruct the clerk to report on the matter to the Finance and Governance Committee in future. The clerk noted that MKCC would be paying the town council's legal costs and that Taylor Wimpey would need to approve the transfer due to an existing covenant on the land.

FC23/24-57.ii

Spending of S106 public art funding alongside the red way at Newton Leys

It was RESOLVED to support the proposed use of S106 funding in the sum of £31,460.75 from S106 agreement 15/01820/FUL (Land west of Jersey Drive) by MKCC's public art team for the purpose of enhancing the new red way connecting Newton Leys to the Blue Lagoon through public art. This project was intended to explore the heritage of the place and its brick connections and the S106 funding would be used a match funding as part of larger bid.



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- FC23/24-58 **Resubmission of planning application for Sycamore House/Hall following completion of emergent bat surveys**
Cllr Ely gave an update on a meeting of the Sycamore Buildings Working Group which had been held on 20 July 2023. Member had discussed the findings of emergent bat surveys undertaken earlier in the summer. The ecologist's findings did not demonstrate any use of the building by bats during the surveys but the roofs of both Sycamore buildings must continue to be regarded as potential roosts. However the bat mitigation measures suggested appeared straightforward. Bat droppings collected in autumn 2022 had been sent for DNA analysis to identify the species involved. These results were due in early August. It would then be possible to resubmit the planning application with this information. If planning permission were to be granted any work would be required to be undertaken under licence from DEFRA. Cllr Ely also confirmed that the working group were now focusing on a review of high-level costings for the project.
- It was RESOLVED to note the intended resubmission of the planning application as previously approved by council on receipt of the DNA analysis.
- FC23/24-59 **Oral update on matters concerning the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan**
In the absence of Cllr Hussein the clerk advised that a joint meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group and the environment and Development Task Forces was due to be held on 3 August 2023. The hard work of the volunteers in the task groups meant that the planning consultants were now working on emerging policy ideas which would be discussed at that meeting. The funding window at Locality had reopened on 25 July 2023 and the clerk had begun process of reapplying for grant funding.
- FC23/24-60 **Clerk's update report on recent Town Deal matters**
It was RESOLVED to note the clerk's written report which had been circulated with the agenda and which included an update on the most recent meeting of the board and a summary of progress on the individual projects within the Town Investment Plan including the Transport Hub.
- It was unanimously RESOLVED to reaffirm the town council's staunch support of an eastern entrance to Bletchley station and the clerk was instructed to write to Iain Stewart MP and to Network Rail to this effect.
- FC23/24-61 **Summary financial report showing income and expenditure against budget to 30 June 2023**
It was RESOLVED that the financial reports showing income and expenditure against budget and balance sheet for the council at 30 June 2023 be noted.
- FC23/24-62 **Ratification of a list of payments made or due to be made by the council before the next meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee**
It was RESOLVED that the list of payments made or due to be made by the council before the next meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee be ratified.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm