



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 on Tuesday, 12th September, 2023 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R Haine, E Kelly-Wilson, E O'Rourke and A Segebrecht

Absent:

Apologies: Cllrs R Graham, I Hussein and A Palmer

In attendance: Will Allen (Environment and Premises Manager acting as Clerk) and Delia Shephard (Town Clerk, present for part of meeting only)

Min Ref

- EPC23/24-26 **To note councillors' apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED to note the apologies as listed above
- EPC23/24-27 **To note councillor's declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
No declarations of interest were made.
- EPC23/24-28 **To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the committee**
It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings
- EPC23/24-29 **Public Speaking Time**
There were no representations from members of the public.
- EPC23/24-30 **To review planning applications due for determination by Milton Keynes Council**
- EPC23/24-30i **23/01748/FUL - Dawson Rentals Vans Dawson Road MK1 1JN - Demolition of small office building and replacement with storage unit. Rear extension to remaining office building.**
It was RESOLVED to make no comment on the proposed development.
- EPC23/24-30ii **2301344FULM - The Premier Academy Saffron Street MK2 3AH - Variation of wording of condition 7 (Pedestrian Gate Opening Hours) and condition 8 (Emergency Access) seeking amendments to the opening hours of the pedestrian gate and the use of the emergency access route for pedestrian use (relating to permission ref. 15/02346/FUL for the removal of condition 6 (use only as a school and not for hire) and condition 12 (opening hours) attached to application 13/02594/FUL for the proposed school canteen, dance and IT facilities)**
It was RESOLVED to make no comment on the variation of condition wording.
- EPC23/24-31 **To receive an update report on progress with the town council's carbon audit and action plan and to consider next steps including consideration of climate change priorities which may impact on the 2024-25 budget**
The commissioned carbon audit had been added to the pack late as it had been received on 11 September 2023. As councillors had little time to read and digest the report it was RESOLVED to note the report and for further discussions and actions to be brought to a later meeting of the council.
It was further RESOLVED that a task and finish group should be formed to deal with



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

the findings of the carbon audit and to formulate an action plan and that this should be opened to all councillors who would like to be involved.

- EPC23/24-32 **To receive an update report on use and maintenance of football pitches at Newton Leys**
An update report detailing the arrangements for use of the football pitches, the preparation work completed in readiness for the playing season and the maintenance planned across the year was noted. Councillors were informed that three separate pitches of differing for use by differing age groups had been marked out and goals erected. It was noted that the pitches had been in use for the first time at the weekend of the 9 and 10 September 2023.
- EPC23/24-33 **To receive an update report on the town council's delivery of devolved landscaping services which commenced on 4 September 2023**
It was RESOLVED to note a report that detailed the final preparations completed in readiness for the landscape devolution which had started on 4 September 2023. The report included before and after pictures and details of work undertaken to date. A work plan was provided in the pack with further details of how each category of landscape work would be dealt with and which was split into summer and winter works. Councillors were reminded of the ways in which residents could submit enquiries or raise issues and it was agreed that enquiries should be directed to the Report it appears as much as possible. The committee requested that in addition to updates on progress with the work schedule and enquiry handling, updates be given on environmental impact and consideration of the council's environmental objectives.
- EPC23/24-34 **To note a report showing income and expenditure against budget which falls within the remit of the committee**
A report showing income and expenditure against budget for areas falling within the remit of the committee was noted without comment.
- EPC23/24-35 **Allotment matters**
- EPC23/24-35i **To receive an update report on site management including allotment site occupancy and to consider any changes to current terms and conditions including permission for ponds on plots**
At the Clerk's request it was RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting of this committee to allow supplementary information to be added to the Environment and Premises Manager's report.
- EPC23/24-35ii **To recommend an increase of allotment rents due to take effect in October 2024 from 33 p per square metre to 35 p per square metre to be approved on 26 September 2023**
A report detailing the current allotment charge of 33p per square meter and proposed 35p per square meter in line with the councils previously agreed position to raise allotment rents in line with CPI% plus 1 was noted. It was RESOLVED that this new rate be applied from 1 October 2024.
- EPC23/24-36 **To consider any new priorities, projects or anticipated additional spending which may arise during the year 2024-2025 prior to preparation of the town council's annual budget for 2024-25**
The committee made suggestions for projects and priorities for consideration when setting the budget relating to the areas which fall within the remit of the environment and planning committee. These included:



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

- allocation of budget to act on findings of carbon audit and work on objectives relating to climate change
- consideration to be given to the town council's buildings maintenance and the need for improvements to the public toilets at Albert Street (the clerk noted this item of business did not fall within the remit of the committee but would be included in budget preparation nevertheless).

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.