



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Sports Hall at Newton Leys Pavilion, Furzey Way, Newton Leys on Tuesday, 9th January, 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs K Ely, E Kelly-Wilson, E O'Rourke, U Osumili and A Segebrecht

Absent:

Apologies: Cllrs S Browne and R Graham

In

attendance: Cllr Fernandes, Alison Brown (Finance Manager acting as clerk to the committee) and Delia Shephard (Town Clerk)

Min Ref

- FC23/24-80 **To note apologies for absence**
It was RESOLVED to note the apologies listed above.
- FC23/24-81 **To note councillors' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
Councillor Kelly-Wilson and Councillor Osumilli drew attention to the fact that they both are residents of Newton Leys, however, they did not have a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5(i).
- FC23/24-82 **To approve the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the committee**
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the previous meeting on 24 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.
- FC23/24-83 **Public Speaking Time**
There were no representations from members of the public.
- FC23/24-84 **To review and comment on any planning applications due for review by Milton Keynes City Council**
- FC23/24-84i **23/02481/HOU - 200 Hunter Drive Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 3NF = The erection of proposed single storey rear extension and new windows**
It was RESOLVED to make no comments on the planning application.
- FC23/24-84ii **23/02652/FUL - Employment Land 2 & 3 Newton Leys Milton Keynes MK3 5SD - The erection of up to 113 residential dwellings with access, parking, landscaping and associated works**
It was RESOLVED that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, would prepare a statement to submit to Milton Keynes City Council. The statement would support the planning application, however, the statement would include the council's preference for additional provision in the planning and obligation statement in respect of play facilities, green space and allotment contributions.
- FC23/24-85 **To review and note a financial management information report showing income and expenditure against budget for the year to 30 November 2023**
It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.
- FC23/24-86 **To review and note cash and investment reconciliations to 30 November 2023**
It was RESOLVED that the cash and investment reconciliations be noted.



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- FC23/24-87 **To review and note the council's balance sheet as at 30 November 2023**
It was RESOLVED that the balance sheet to 30 November 2023 be noted.
It was RESOLVED that the list of individual transactions over £500 for the period be noted.
- FC23/24-88 **To ratify a list of payments made or due to be made to 31 January 2024**
It was RESOLVED that the list of payments made or due to be made which had been published with the agenda be ratified.
- FC23/24-89 **To consider the draft budget for 2024-25**
The RFO introduced the budget, stating that all committees had provided input into the draft budget published with the agenda. Subsequent to the publishing of the agenda, feedback had been received from members, and three adjustments have been proposed, as detailed below.
1. The budget for members allowances had been increased from £2k to £6k as a result of the impending council elections in May 2025,
 2. The budget for interest received on council investments has been further reduced from £40k to £30k due to the stabilisation of interest rates and the anticipated reduction in council cash investments as a result of the proposed redevelopment of Sycamore Hall.
 3. The budget for Climate Change Initiative has been increased from £8k to £15k as a result of the Carbon Audit Report and the action plan adopted by the council.
- Following discussion, the adjustments were incorporated into the draft budget.
- Members did not add any further comments.
- FC23/24-90 **To consider making any recommendations to full council regarding the draft budget and precept for 2024-25**
The clerk provided members with an indicative cost for refurbishing the Albert Street Toilets; this cost was in the region of £40k. The clerk stated MKCC has not provided any guarantees of the length of time the lease for Albert Street Toilets will continue. Members felt that until MKCC provided either confirmation of the length of the lease, or some guarantee of mitigation of the costs incurred, they would not be willing to spend circa £40k. No provision was requested in the 2024/25 draft budget.
- It was RESOLVED to recommend the draft budget to the Full Council meeting on the 30 January 2024 for approval.
- It was RESOLVED to recommend a precept requirement of £1,234,427 (Band D equivalent £202.16) to the Full Council meeting on the 30 January 2024 for approval; an increase of 4.97% from 2023/24.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm