

WEST BLETCHLEY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH AUGUST 2015 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 221 WHADDON WAY, WEST BLETCHLEY.

Present: Cllrs Butson, Campbell, Cockbaine, Gibb, Harvey, Helder, Hircock, Kelley, McKenzie, Pancheri, Tony Phillips, Revell and Thomas.

In attendance: the Clerk and the Head of Council Services.

FC15/61 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Belcher, Crockett, Long, John Phillips, Reddy, Sinclair, Turnbull and Vaidyanathan

FC15/62 Declarations of Interest - None

FC15/63 Councillor Vacancies

Members noted that notices had been posted for the 2 vacancies in the Fairways Ward in accordance with the local election rules 2006.

FC15/64 Public Questions - None

FC15/65 Ward Items – None

FC15/66 Minutes of Meetings of Full Council held on 29th June & 20th July 2015

The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Thomas as correct records of the meetings.

FC15/67 Requests for membership of the Council Committees - None

FC15/68 Chair's Announcements

Members of the Council formally paid their respects in memory of Cllr Greg Moffatt who had recently sadly passed away.

The Clerk advised, in the absence of Cllr Belcher, of events that the Chair had attended since the last meeting. This had included the NALC "What Next for Local Councils" Conference and a meeting of the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils.

FC15/69 Minutes of the meetings of the Council's Committees

Resolved that:

- i) the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meetings held on 13th July 2015 be received,
- ii) the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 20th July 2015 be received,
- iii) the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3rd August 2015 be received.

FC15/70 Local Council Award Scheme

Resolved that:

- i) the report of the Head of Council Services be received,
- ii) this Council confirms that it complies with the published standards for the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Award and that it publishes on its website:
 - Draft minutes of all council and committee meetings within four weeks of the last meeting.
 - A Health and Safety policy.
 - Its policy on equality.
 - Councillor profiles.
 - A community engagement policy involving two way communication between council and community.
 - A grant awarding policy.
 - Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish Meeting.

- An action plan and related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review.
 - Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year.
 - Evidence of helping the community plan for its future.
- iii) this Council also confirms that it has:
- Up to date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money.
 - Addressed all complaints received in the last year.
 - At least two thirds of its members who stood for election.
 - A printed annual report that is distributed to locations across the community.
 - A qualified clerk.
 - A clerk and deputy (Head of Council Services) employed according to nationally agreed terms and conditions.
 - A formal appraisal process for all staff.
 - A training policy and record for all staff and councillors.

**FC15/71 Business Plan
Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Head of Council Services be received and the process taken to date in development of the revised business plan be endorsed,
- ii) the Council's strategic objectives be reviewed following the next parish elections in 2016.

**FC15/72 Amendments to Standing Orders
Resolved that:**

- i) the impact of the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 on model standing orders be noted,
- ii) amendments be made to Standing Orders to take account of the Local Government (Electronic Communications)(England) Order 2015 permitting e-mail service of the summons and agenda,
- iii) the revised Standing Orders, as submitted with the agenda, be adopted.

**FC15/73 Rickley Park
Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Head of Council Services be received,
- ii) the Council's landscape architect be commissioned to undertake further works as detailed in the report,
- iii) the Council's officers be authorised to commission topographical, ground condition and utilities surveys of Rickley Park as detailed in the report,
- iv) Kirkby Diamond be appointed to act as the Council's quantity surveyors in respect of the redevelopment of Rickley Park and be commissioned to provide detailed specifications and draft costings for all aspects of the proposed improvements works to enable the Council to consider the approval of budgets prior to issuing tender documentation for this project.

FC15/74 Community Asset Transfer

Resolved: that this Council notes that there has been no progress in relation to the proposed Community Asset Transfers since the last meeting.

FC15/75 Budget and Precept for 2016/17

Resolved that:

- i) the report of the Clerk be received.
- ii) the timetable for budget and precept setting be approved.
- iii) Committees are asked to consider how reductions could be achieved on "recurrent activities" when setting budgets for 2016/17.

FC15/76 Committee meeting dates for 2016

Resolved: that the schedule of meeting dates for 2016 be approved subject to the following amendments:

- i) that the meeting to be held on 18th April 2016 be amended from a “sub” to a meeting of the P&E Committee,
- ii) that there be no meeting held on 9th May 2016.

(NB: a revised schedule would be circulated to all Members)

FC15/77 Milton Keynes Council Consultations

a) Parish Funding Consultation

Resolved: that this Council prefers the grant distribution method proposed in option 2 of the consultation which retains the current method of recalculating grants every year, once an estimate of the tax base has been completed.

b) Sharing Libraries Review

Resolved: that MKC be advised that this Council:

- i) acknowledges that the residents of West Bletchley value the library services currently provided at Bletchley Library which it considers to be a good facility and location, integral to the provision of library services,
- ii) is opposed to any reduction or relocation of the library services currently provided at Bletchley Library.

FC15/78 Council House Building Programme

Resolved that:

- i) the report of the Clerk be received,
- ii) Milton Keynes Council be advised that this Council supports the principle of using the 6 sites identified for the provision of new council housing,
- iii) this Council asks that priority be given to providing accommodation for older people when considering housing schemes for the above sites.

FC15/79 Matters relating to External Bodies

Resolved that:

- i) the report be received,
- ii) Cllrs Belcher, Harvey and Vaidyanathan be appointed to attend the NALC Larger Council’s Conference on 2nd December 2015 (the Clerk to take the place of Cllr Harvey if the cost of his attendance is met by the Larger Council’s Committee),
- iii) this Council becomes an associate member of Milton Keynes Bus Users Group.

FC15/80 Exclusion of Press & Public

Resolved: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

FC15/81 Frank Moran Centre

Resolved that:

- i) the report of the Clerk be received,
- ii) in accordance with Standing Order 17, the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the completion of contract documentation for the revised programme of works.

FC15/82 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Full Council would be held at **7.30pm on Monday 26th October 2015 at 221 Whaddon Way, West Bletchley.**