

WEST BLETCHLEY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 221 WHADDON WAY, WEST BLETCHLEY.

Present: Cllrs Belcher, Butson, Cockbaine, Gibb, Hircock, Kearon, LaBrooy, Legg, Lindop, N Long, S Long, McKenzie, Phillips, Priestley, Revell, Thomas & Wales.

In attendance: the Clerk, the Administration & Finance Manager, the Community Services Manager, the Parks & Environment Manager and 21 members of the public.

FC18/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sally Crockett, Stephen Crockett, Harvey, Helder and Horan.

FC18/02 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Legg declared an interest in respect of all planning matters.

FC18/03 Councillor Vacancy – Church Green Ward

It was noted that no requests for an election had been received in response to the notice of this vacancy and that, in accordance with the local election rules 2006, this vacancy would now be filled by co-option.

It was agreed that the vacancy would be advertised on the Council's website and any requests for co-option would be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

FC18/04 Public Questions

Several residents of Roche Gardens raised concerns regarding the proposals for development at 13 Roche Gardens and asked for this Council's support in objecting to this application.

FC18/05 Ward Items - None

FC18/06 Minutes of Meeting of Full Council held on 19th December 2017

The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Belcher as a correct record of the meeting.

FC18/07 Requests for membership of the Council's Committees

Cllr Wales' requests for membership of Finance & General Purposes Committee and removal from Community Committee were approved.

FC18/08 Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported on events and meetings that she had attended since the last meeting of Full Council. This had included two meetings of the Parish Advisory Group and the funeral of Isabella Fraser. She also advised that she had, with the Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of F&GP Committee, undertaken the Clerk's appraisal.

The Chair advised Members of the Royal British Legion's campaign to site "Silent Soldier" silhouettes to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Resolved: that this Council agrees to support the RBL's Silent Soldier Campaign and authorises the Clerk to arrange for the purchase and siting of a silhouette within the parish.

FC18/09 Minutes of the meetings of the Council's Committees

Resolved that:

- i) the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 15th January 2018 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted,
- ii) this Council agrees that the MKC ward councillors be asked to challenge the criteria used by MKC to assess the proposal for a new zebra crossing in Melrose Avenue (ref: min no: PE18/04ii)),
- iii) the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2018 be received,

- iv) the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5th February 2018 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted,
- v) the Council approves the Scope of Internal Audit and appointment of Auditing Solutions Ltd to carry out the Council's internal audits for 2018/19 as recommended at Minute no.FGP18/05c),
- vi) this Council confirms that it has undertaken a review of its Financial Regulations and that no changes are required at this time.

FC18/10 Planning Applications

10.1: 18/00190/FUL – Erection of 2 no. one bedroom houses with associated parking spaces, 13 Roche Gardens **(This Council strongly objects to this application on the grounds that the proposal:**

- i) is an overdevelopment of this site,**
- ii) is out of character with the surrounding properties and will have a negative impact on the street scene,**
- iii) would generate additional traffic and increase the parking requirement in this already overburdened cul-de-sac location to an unacceptable level resulting in obstructions and limiting access for refuse collection and emergency vehicles,**
- iv) would be an unacceptable visual intrusion blocking the views currently enjoyed by nearby properties,**
- v) would overlook the neighbouring property's garden resulting in adjacent residents experiencing a loss of privacy,**
- vi) would result in the neighbouring and other nearby properties experiencing loss of light,**
- vii) would place a further water disposal burden in an area which is already considered as suffering from poor drainage and is known to experience flooding.**

This Council requests that this application be referred to the Development Control Committee/Panel for determination and confirms that it will undertake to send a representative to attend to address the Committee/Panel to present this Council's objections).

10.2: 18/00279/FUL – Proposed change of use from a parking area to a residential building plot for two bedroom bungalow, Land to the rear, 157 Buckingham Road **(This Council objects to this application on the grounds that the proposal would:**

- i) be an overdevelopment of this site,**
- ii) have a detrimental impact on traffic and parking in this area.**

This Council requests that this application be referred to the Development Control Committee/Panel for determination and confirms that it will undertake to send a representative to attend to address the Committee/Panel to present this Council's objections).

FC18/11 West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan

Resolved: that the submission version of the West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents (as currently published on this Council's website) be approved for submission for Independent Examination.

FC18/12 Reserves Policy

Resolved: that the Reserves Policy, as submitted to F&GP Committee, be adopted.

FC18/13 Items relating to Financial Regulations

Resolved: that the schedule of standing orders and direct debits be approved, in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.7 and 6.8.

FC18/14 Residents Survey**Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Administration & Finance Manager be received,
- ii) a copy of the survey questionnaire be included, for reference, in future resident survey reports.

FC18/15 Business Plan 2016-19

Resolved: that the refreshed Business Plan 2016-19 be adopted.

FC18/16 Melrose PreSchool

Resolved: that the report of the Clerk be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

FC18/17 West Bletchley Wellbeing & Counselling Service**Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Administration & Finance Manager be received,
- ii) the lease in respect of 221A Whaddon Way, in favour of the Service, be renewed for a further period of 4 years on the existing terms, as detailed in the report,
- iii) Officers be authorised to complete lease documentation, in accordance with Standing Order 17.

FC18/18 Landscape Maintenance**Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Clerk be received,
- ii) this Council notes the variations agreed to date in respect of the Landscape Maintenance agreement and contract,
- iii) the following amendments to the Council's budgets, to accommodate this year's (2018/19) enhanced litter picking costs, be approved:
 - that the existing Council Parks Cost Centre (203) be renamed "Council Parks & Gardens"
 - that the following virements be made:
 - 201/4300 – Public Gardens – decrease budget by £2,775
 - 101/4299 - Council Contingency – decrease budget by £1,000
 - 203/4341 – Council Parks & Gardens – decrease budget by £1,225
 - 202/4302 – Other Landscape Works – increase budget by £5,000
 - that the existing Public Gardens Cost Centre be deleted.
- iv) this Council formally records that it regards the litter picking service provided by Milton Keynes Council and operated by Serco for West Bletchley to be not fit for purpose, this Council consider that having good landscape standards is a high priority, this Council therefore agrees to investigate setting up its own litter picking service as soon as is practicable recognising there may be legal and contract issues to be resolved, the Council asks the officers and Planning & Environment Committee to look into how such a service could be set up, how it could be staffed, what would be the costs (including capital expenditure), what would be a likely timetable for implementation and report back to the Council for further consideration.
- v) Planning & Environment Committee be asked to give further consideration to the issue of parking on grass verges and review the Council's policies relating to the protection of grass verges including the use of ascot rail.

FC18/19 Gritting of Pathways**Resolved that:**

- i) the report of the Parks & Environment Manager be received,
- ii) the recommended actions in respect of future gritting of pathways within the parish, as detailed in the report, be approved,
- iii) the following amendments to the Council's budgets, to accommodate the 2018/19 gritting costs, be approved:

- that a new designated fund be established for “Gritting of Pathways” and a sum of £5,300 be allocated to the fund,
- that a new budget heading be established for “Gritting of Pathways” and a sum of £5,250 be allocated to the budget through the following virements:
 - 102/4053 – Protection of Open Spaces – decrease budget by £2,000
 - 401/4450 – Grants – decrease budget by £1,250
 - 401/4461 – Community Projects – decrease budget by £1,000
 - 406/4560 – Other Events – decrease budgets by £1,000.

FC18/20 Extended Parish Maintenance

Resolved: that the report of the Parks & Environment Manager be received.

FC18/21 MKC Service Delivery Contracts

Resolved: that the report of the Clerk be received.

FC18/22 Milton Keynes Site Allocations Plan: Schedule of Main Modification

Resolved: that the document be noted and that no comments be submitted in response to this consultation.

FC18/23 Matters relating to External Bodies

Resolved that:

- i) the reports be received,
- ii) a formal request be submitted to MKC for “Delays in Waste Collection” (as detailed at Min no. PE18/08) to be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Parishes Forum.

FC18/24 Exclusion of Press and 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.

FC18/25 Annual Staff Appraisals

Resolved: that the report of the Clerk be received and the schedule of April 2018 pay points be approved.

FC18/26 Warwick Road Activity Centre

Resolved: that the report be received and the Council’s officers be authorised to proceed with agreed actions in respect of the transfer of this asset.

FC18/27 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of Full Council would be held at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 24th April 2018** at **221 Whaddon Way, West Bletchley**.

Chair of Council