

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 29 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Councillors S Rahman
 C Palmer (Chair)
 R Berry
 D Bowater (Vice-Chair)
 A Brandham
 C Chambers
 S Cotter
 K Cursons
 S Cursons
 A Dodwell
 M Freeman
 S Jones
 F Kharawala
 T Morris
 C Perham
 G Perham
 B Spurr
 E Wallace

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 V Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic
 Services
 S Sandiford, Head of Democratic and Central
 Services
 I Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental
 Services
 M Jahn, Committee Officer

Members of the Public: 1

294 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received and were accepted from Councillors D Perham and K Ferguson.

295 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests, and the nature of those interests, that they might have in any of the items under consideration at the meeting.

No declarations were made and no dispensations had been requested.

296 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor C Palmer advised Council that since the last meeting at the end of January, he had attended 40 engagements, making a total of 150 during his year as Town Mayor, of which two thirds had taken place within the town and one third outside the parish.

Highlights included the visit of Princess Anne to Citizens Advice to recognise the work of the volunteers, the Civic Service where the Honorary Burgess Award was presented, events at the Croquet Club and the Narrow Gauge Railway and the opening of Café in the Park which had received favourable feedback from residents of Leighton-Linslade. Events outside the town had included a number of Civic Services and events held by Mayors of neighbouring towns.

The Mayor advised that he had hosted several charity fundraising events including the Spring Fayre, Quiz, Bingo and a Charity Meal and thanked all those who had supported him in organising and attending these. To date, approximately £10,000 had been raised for this year's chosen charities.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Bowater for deputising for him when required and to fellow councillors for their support.

297 LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor E Wallace thanked the Mayor for his continued efforts on behalf of the Town and local charities and to all the Mayors who had served over the last four years of this Council term. They extensively gave their time to represent the town of Leighton-Linslade in the region and worked with other groups to enhance relationships with the charities and their volunteers and for the benefit of the residents of the town.

Councillor J M Freeman spoke to Council to thank the Leader, colleagues and officers for the service given to him and courtesy shown over the last four years.

298 QUESTIONS

- (a) No questions had been received from members of the public.
- (b) No questions had been received from Councillors.

299 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council received the draft minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 28 January 2019 for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

300 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council received the draft minutes of Committee meetings held since the Council Meeting on 28 January 2019.

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the following meetings.

- (a) Planning & Transport Committee 30 January 2019

Minute reference 446/P – the bollards on amenity land on Soulbury Road and Stanbridge Road to prevent car parking should be installed in the next few weeks.

- (b) Partnership Committee 7 February 2019

Minute reference 254/LLP regarding the bridge over the railway line (footpath 68), the Town Clerk had received a letter from Network Rail and a meeting would be arranged in due course.

- (c) Planning & Transport Committee 20 February 2019
(d) Policy & Finance Committee 25 February 2019

Minute reference 454/PF– the consultation exercise for a boundary review was ongoing.

- (e) Grounds & Environmental Services Committee 4 March 2019

Minute reference 176/GE Shenley Hill Road – Lease: Council gave consideration to the recommendation regarding the Lease for Shenley Hill Road. On being put to a vote the recommendation was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the lease be signed by two authorised signatories Councillor S Jones and Councillor R Berry (Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee).

Minute reference 172/GE – a question was raised regarding car parking potential at Mentmore by extending on to the grass area especially with the expansion of the tennis club and use by the bowls club. Council agreed to bring back to Committee for discussion.

- (f) Cultural & Economic Services Committee 11 March 2019

Minute reference 160/CE Sub Committee and Task Group Minutes – a question was raised regarding the ground fixings for the gazebos and it was confirmed these would be installed once the gas company had completed their works. Concerns were raised about the condition of some of the previous repairs in the High Street and whether the fixings should be installed sooner to enable these repairs to be completed at an earlier date.

- (g) Planning & Transport Committee 13 March 2019
(h) Planning & Transport Committee 3 April 2019
(i) Partnership Committee 11 April 2019

Minute reference 273/LLP Joint Committee Terms of Reference: Council gave consideration to the proposed Joint Terms of Reference and a concern was raised regarding the Secretariat point number 1: "either Council can administer the Joint Committee, according to their own Standing Orders. The Committee will decide annually which Council is to administer the Committee". It was felt that this could be confusing and lead to inconsistency over the four year Council term. It was suggested that the Secretariat should be decided at the beginning of the four year term for the whole period, rather than annually.

It was agreed that this recommendation be put to Central Bedfordshire Council for consideration and to defer further consideration to the next normal scheduled Town Council Meeting on the 24 June 2019.

No other issues or queries were raised in respect of the proposed Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDED to the Central Bedfordshire General Purposes Committee that consideration be given to an amendment to the proposed Joint Terms of Reference as follows: that the Secretariat should be decided at the beginning of the four year term for the whole period, rather than annually.

RESOLVED to defer approval of the Joint Terms of Reference to the next Council Meeting on 24 June 2019.

(j) Policy & Finance Committee 15 April 2019

Minute reference 468/PF General Grant Applications – a question was raised regarding how the Café in the Park would affect the voluntary organisations selling refreshments at the Summer Band Concerts and whether a grant could be considered for these organisations.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee to consider possible measures to mitigate the potential fundraising impact of the amended practice from 2019 in respect of refreshment provision at the summer Music in the Park programme of events for local charity and voluntary organisations.

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Minute reference 468/PF Operation Dodford Agreement: Council gave consideration to the Operation Dodford framework agreement for the year commencing 1 April 2019.

RESOLVED to approve the Operation Dodford framework agreement for the year commencing 1 April 2019.

Minute reference 469/PF Committee Objectives and Workplan – a question was raised as to whether the protocol for Leader of the Council should be

reviewed as it had been adopted in 2011. It was agreed to add this to the workplan for the next year and to seek advice from NALC.

(k) Planning & Transport Committee 24 April 2019

301 TOWN COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED to note that James Davies ceased to be a member of the Town Council on 22 February 2019.

302 ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Council received the draft Annual Report for 2018-2019 and gave consideration to the recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 15 April 2019 to approve the draft document (Minute reference 474/PF). It was noted that financial details would be added upon completion of all year-end processes.

RESOLVED to approve the Town Council Annual report for 2018-2019.

303 STANDING ORDERS

Council received and considered a report recommending proposed amendments to Standing Orders, as agreed by the Standing Orders Task and Finish Group and the Policy and Finance Committee. Proposed amendments were primarily to incorporate references to new legislation since 2015 and to alter the format/numbering to reflect the NALC Model Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to endorse proposed new Standing Orders to reflect changes in legislation and in format, in line with the NALC model.

304 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council received and considered a report showing proposed amendments to the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED to approve the amendments to the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

305 REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

No update report was given by Central Bedfordshire Councillors

306 PRESENTATION

A presentation was given to Council by the Town Clerk and Heads of Services highlighting the events and successes of the four year Council term, including that the council tax had remained the same for the past seven years and the face to face consultation with residents had enabled the five

year plan 2019-2024 to be formed to provide the blueprint for the new Council. Grant funding continued enabling organisations like Citizens Advice and Leighton-Linslade Music Centre to continue and expand their services. TACTIC centre provided much needed services for young people in the town and the Youth Promise Grant had given money to organisations to improve their facilities for their clubs. The Events Team provided high quality well attended events like the Christmas Festival, Spring Fayre and the up and coming Big Lunch and Canal Festival and were continuing to review these events and improve on them where possible. New ideas for future delivery included the Youth Film Club, Heritage Trail, Town Centre Wi-Fi and pigeon management.

The work carried out by the Grounds Team and volunteers throughout the town enabled the gain of 11 Green Flag Awards across four locations over the last four years, 24 gold, 8 silver gilts and 2 silver awards.

Thanks were given by The Mayor for the informative presentation and for the amazing achievements over the last four years.

RESOLVED to note the information.

307 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding Astral Park, Pages Park and town council owned land.

308 ASTRAL PARK

Council received and considered a report in respect of the work carried out so far by the Task and Finish Group and that this be continued beyond and into the new council administration period.

RESOLVED

- 1.1 To endorse the work carried out so far by the Task and Finish Group.**
- 1.2 To endorse the Astral Park vision that as a facility its purpose is to 'provide a high quality, cost effective and sustainable sports and community facility to the benefit of the community at large'.**
- 1.3 That the work of the Task and Finish group continues into the new Council administration and until such time as it can arrive at proposals to inform future the management of town council assets.**
- 1.4 That all town council assets that are capable of being hired to be managed as a single entity.**

309 PAGES PARK PAVILION

Council received a report in respect of Pages Park Refurbishment to release funds from earmarked reserve to provide contingency sum necessary to realise completion of the project. A vote was taken and the recommendations passed (15 in favour, 2 abstentions by Councillors G Perham and S Cursons and 1 against - Councillor A Brandham).

RESOLVED to endorse the release of up to a maximum of £60,000 from earmarked reserve 950/9024 – Grounds and Environmental (£187,948 as at 31st March 2019) for the purposes of providing a contingency sum necessary to realise the refurbishment of the Pages Park Project.

310 TOWN COUNCIL OWNED LAND

Council received and considered a report regarding the proposed sale of amenity land. Differing views were expressed. It was proposed and seconded that recommendation 1.1, to refuse to sell the land, be approved. On being put to the vote, the motion was endorsed (ten in favour and six against).

RESOLVED that the Town Council reject the offer to sell.

The meeting closed at 2120 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 29 APRIL 2019.

Chair

20 MAY 2019