LEIGHTON–LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

24 JUNE 2019 AT 1930 HOURS

Present:  Councillors  A Dodwell  
T Morris  
C Palmer  
G Perham  
D Bowater  
K Cursons  
J M Freeman  
F Kharawala  
S Jones  
C Chambers  
R Berry  
V Harvey  
J Silverstone  
S Hemmings  
R Goodchild  
S Owen  
P Snelling  
A Gray  

Also in attendance:  M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)  
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central Services)  
Ian Haynes, (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services)  
M Jahn (Committee Officer)  

Members of the Public:  3

19  APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor J D'Este-Hoare.

20  DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

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.

Councillor K Cursons declared a personal interest as a member of All Saints Church and Councillor V Harvey as a member of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth.

Councillors Berry, Dodwell, Bowater, Harvey, Snelling and Perham declared an interest in item 11 Central Bedfordshire Consultation as elected Members of Central Bedfordshire Council.
21 **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor D Bowater advised he had attended various events since becoming Mayor, from breakfast meetings to Open Gardens, with the highlight being the opening of a Sports Hall at Oak Bank School. This facility would give the students excellent opportunities for participation in sporting activities and events.

22 **FAIRTRADE**

Council received and considered a report for formal renewal of Town Council support for the Fairtrade principles and the town’s Fairtrade Town status. Three members of Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade gave a presentation informing Members that UK Fair Trade was now the biggest in the world with a local business, The Coffee House, now receiving Fair Trade recognition to supply coffee to businesses and retail customers. Thanks were given to Leighton-Linslade Town Council for its commitment and support promoting Fair Trade to renew their status for another two years.

RESOLVED to:

(a) note the report
(b) renew the Town Council’s support of the Fairtrade status for the town.

23 **LEADERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor S Jones spoke to Members asking them to think about any ideas, projects or schemes they would like considered in preparation for next year’s budget setting cycle. Any suggestions should be submitted by 20th July, before the next Policy & Finance Committee on 29th July 2019. One suggestion made concerned the Land South of the High Street and the possible use for a Community Cultural Centre for Art and Music. An update on the plans for the Land South of the High Street would come back to Council as Central Bedfordshire Officers were carrying out soft market testing for retail and commercial groups at present.

A question was raised asking if the option of borrowing for a project would be considered. It was confirmed that borrowing would not be the first option considered but if appropriate it would be considered.

Another question was raised regarding the content of the Committee Work Plans and Objectives and whether these should these be more detailed, showing how projects were progressing and managed.

24 **QUESTIONS**

(a) There were no questions from members of the public

(b) No questions had been received from Councillors
25 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Council received the draft minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 20 May 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 May 2019 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

26 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Council received the draft minutes of Committee meetings held since the Council Annual Meeting on 20 May 2019.

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) **Planning & Transport Committee 22 May 2019**

Minute reference 008/P Transport Matters – it was confirmed that resurfacing work would be taking place at Vimy Road roundabout and an order had been raised with Central Bedfordshire Council Lighting to remove the leaning lamp column.

(b) **Cultural & Economic Services Committee 3 June 2019**

Minute reference 7/CE Community Events Update – attention was drawn to the change in date of the May Day Holiday 2020 from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May for VE day celebrations.

Minute reference 13/CE: Council gave consideration to the recommendation made by Cultural & Economic Services Committee on 3 June 2019 in respect of Town Centre Wi-Fi.

**RESOLVED**

(i) to enter into a delivery contract with supplier ‘B’ for town centre WiFi provision and footfall insight provision for three years at a cost of up to £38,000

(ii) that officers liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council to draw down s106 monies reflective of Council’s endorsed recommendation.

(c) **Partnership Committee 6 June 2019**

Minute reference 12/LLP Standing Items, Neighbourhood Plan - a question was raised regarding the use of an Independent Planning Consultant to review the possible merit of creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Minute reference 13/LLP Committee Objectives and Work plan – a request was made to invite Education officers to the next meeting to discuss school plans for the new developments in Leighton-Linslade.
(d) Grounds & Environmental Services Committee 10 June 2019

Minute reference 6/GE Allotments – it was confirmed clearing of the allotments had begun and should be completed by mid-July enabling allocation to commence from the waiting list.

Minute reference 7/GE ‘Friends’ Groups- a concern was raised concerning issues raised regarding volunteers involved with In-Bloom to provide reassurance their groups would not be affected by additional ‘Friends’ Groups.

(e) Planning & Transport Committee 12 June 2019

Minute reference 016/P Information Items – Council were advised that Councillor C Palmer had attended the Central Bedfordshire draft Local Plan hearing on Thursday 20 June in respect of land north of Soulbury Road and his comments had been noted.

(f) Policy & Finance Committee 17 June 2019

A correction was made to the spelling of a surname in the Present Councillors list.

Minute reference 5/PF Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minute reference 467/PF – it was confirmed an update on the Central Bedfordshire Boundary Review process would be given at the next Policy and Finance Meeting on 29 July 2019.

Minute reference 5/PF Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minute reference 468/PF an update would be given at the next meeting on 29 July on the Central Bedfordshire Council project to move from analogue to digital cameras.

Minute reference 5/PF Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minute reference 469/PF. A question was raised regarding whether suggestions made would be circulated to Councillors.

Minute reference 6/PF Sub Committees – it was suggested that Central Bedfordshire Council be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the Community Emergency Plan before a final version created. It was confirmed the Plan was a generic plan for the Central Bedfordshire Area and local Councils were encouraged to create their own more detailed plan for their own parishes.

Minute reference 20/PF Policies: Council received draft policies for approval regarding Market Policies and Procedures and the Tree Management Policy.

RESOLVED -

(i) to endorse the decision made by the Market Sub-Committee in respects of the Critical Incident Policy.
(ii) to endorse the decision made by the Market Sub-Committee in respects of the Trader Disciplinary Policy.
Minute reference 20/PF: Council gave consideration to the recommendation made by Policy & Finance Committee on 17 June 2019 to re-endorse the Tree Management Policy for the period 2019-2022. It was confirmed that the grammatical errors had been addressed within the Tree Policy as requested at the last Grounds & Environmental Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the Tree Management Policy be re-endorsed for the period 2019-2022.

27 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018-2019 AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2018-2019

Minute reference 11/PF and 12/PF Council received the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2018-2019 and following recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 17 June 2019, gave consideration to the approval of these documents.

RESOLVED:

(a) to approve and sign section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018-2019
(b) to approve and sign section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018-2019

28 TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Council received and considered a report in respect of the creation of a Town Council Environmental Ambition Statement to encourage best practice within town council operations and the wider parish. The document would be a ‘live’ document and come back to Policy and Finance for review and comment.

Council agreed outside traders at events should be encouraged to use recyclable containers and to add this to enquiry forms. Sustainability should be included as part of the tender or application process for all events or contracts.

A suggestion was made to install drinking water in our parks using £50,000 from earmarked reserves. Members were all in agreement with this being added to the Town Council list of future objectives and would be subject to further scoping work.

RESOLVED to:

(a) note the report.
(b) endorse the set of ambitions and in doing so, embed them within Town Council best practice.
(c) endorse the inclusion of installing of drinking water fountains in some of the Town Council owned parks within the list of future objectives for the Five-Year Plan 2019-2024.
29 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION

Council received and considered a consultation document detailing the future of the Westlands Older Persons’ Home and the options proposed. All councillors were encouraged to respond individually to the consultation.

RESOLVED to note the information and for councillors to submit individual responses to the consultation.

30 REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor R Berry advised Council that Dog Waste bins had now been installed around Astral Lake Park.

Councillor A Dodwell advised that works to Leighton Road on the canal bridge would commence at the end of July and repairs in Grovebury Road would start on the 4 July.

Council were informed about a Public Consultation SEND which opened on 22 May and would close on 3 July and another on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping opened 24 June to 15 September, 2019.

Councillor B Spurr advised Council Central Bedfordshire Council would be repairing the road in the High Street from 17 July and the quality of the work would be overseen by a Central Bedfordshire Officer.

RESOLVED to note the information.

31 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council were informed of amendments to memberships of outside bodies as follows –

National Association of Local Councils  Councillor T Morris was replaced by Councillor K Cursons

LB First  Vacancy filled by Councillor R Goodchild

Sports Council  Councillor R Goodchild was replaced by Councillor S Hemming

Rushmere Parishes Group  Vacancy filled by Councillor V Harvey

RESOLVED to note the information.

32 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

There were no changes required to appointments to Committees
The meeting closed 2108 hours.


Chair

30 SEPTEMBER 2019