

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

27 JANUARY 2020 AT 1930 HOURS

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

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central
 Services)
 Vivien Cannon, (Head of Cultural and Economic
 Services)
 Ian Haynes, (Head of Grounds and
 Environmental Services)
 Clare Cummins, Finance Officer
 M Jahn (Committee Officer)
 Superintendent J Whittred (Bedfordshire Police)
 T/Inspector C Gurr (Bedfordshire Police)

Members of the Public: 3

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor J D'Este-Hoare, Councillor C Chambers and Councillor B Spurr.

63 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.

Councillors Bowater and Harvey declared a personal interest as friends of the Honorary Burgess nominees. Councillor Harvey declared an interest as a member of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth.

Councillor A Dodwell declared an interest as a member of Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor R Goodchild declared a personal interest in minute reference 65/P on the Planning & Transport Minutes of 20 November 2019 as his neighbour was the applicant.

Councillor C Palmer declared a personal interest relating to Leighton-Linslade in Bloom, of which his wife was a committee member.

64 BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

By invitation, Superintendent Whittred and Inspector Gurr of Bedfordshire Police attended the meeting to discuss policing matters.

A member of the public spoke to raise his concerns on behalf of his daughter regarding vandalism, graffiti, antisocial behaviour and public disturbance around the area of Bluebell Court. Incidents occurred on a regular basis and on a particular occasion when an offence was reported by calling 999 the caller was advised she could not report damage to property as she was not the freeholder of the property. Inspector Gurr replied that he would look into this call as this information given was incorrect and would liaise with Sergeant Ben Craven to increase patrols in this area to combat the antisocial behaviour.

Another question was raised from a member of the public via Councillor Bowater to ask whether it was planned to open a Community Police desk or hub where members of the public could go to report minor crimes or seek advice. It was suggested an empty shop be used where volunteers could support the police so not to take police officers from their duties. It was agreed this suggestion should be passed on to the Police Crime Commissioner.

The main areas of concern faced by Shop Watch were slow response from the police, members of the public feeling unsafe, drug taking in public places, traveller retail theft and intimidation, parking in disabled bays, begging and shoplifting.

Superintendent Whittred advised that structural changes and additional resources were planned for policing in Central Bedfordshire. An additional Chief Inspector would be appointed for the area and would work closely with Inspector Gurr. Recruitment for the whole area was taking place and it was anticipated that 54 officers would be appointed with 18 already in post and training. Recruitment was also taking place for Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables.

A question was raised regarding the difficulty encountered when calling 101 to report a crime and how this could be addressed. Bedfordshire Police were aware of problems and were working on solutions to this system.

Thanks were given to Superintendent Whittred and Inspector Gurr for attending the meeting and for the police's continuing hard work in Leighton-Linslade, particularly the Community Policing team.

65 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Bowater advised he had a busy Christmas and holiday period attending many functions, especially events held for the elderly in the area. The last charity event was held at the Shan Shui restaurant and raised £483. The Mayor's next charity event would be the Quiz to be held on Friday 7 February followed by Bingo on 13 March, both at Brooklands Residents Association, to be followed by a Spring Fayre on 25 April at Pages Park. The Civic Service this year would be held on 23 February at All Saints Church at 3.00 pm.

66 LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor S Jones, Leader of the Conservative group, spoke briefly about some of the projects undertaken recently, including the successful refurbishment of Pages Park Pavilion and the two BMX tracks, the introduction of town centre Wi-Fi and the installation of a Changing Places facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground. The Town Council also continued to achieve such accolades as the four Green Flags and the Quality Gold Council accreditation and this was in part due to Members and officers working as a team to achieve their goals.

After seven years of no change in the Town Council's part of the Council Tax, an inflationary increase from £149.58 to £155.50 was proposed for the financial year 2020-21 (a 3.96% increase on a Band D property).

Councillor R Goodchild, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group, informed Members of a CPRE Neighbourhood Plan Workshop taking place on 4 March from 10.00 am – 3.30 pm in Wilstead Village Hall.

67 QUESTIONS

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

68 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council received the draft minutes of the Council meetings held on 30 September 2019 and 14 October 2019.

Minute reference 46 (Minutes of the Last Meetings) – it was confirmed the lamp column at the Vimy Road roundabout had still not been repaired despite numerous requests and reminders to the principal authority.

Minute reference 48 (Committee Minutes) – a question was asked as to whether the future demand for allotments had been assessed and if any other sites had been sourced. This would be brought to the next meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 30 September 2019 and 14 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

69 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

Council received a recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 for approval of a proposed bid to the Future High Street Fund through Central Bedfordshire Council.

RESOLVED to endorse the content in the Project Ideas Submission Form, ready for submission to Central Bedfordshire Council.

70 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council received the draft and approved minutes of Committee meetings held since the last scheduled Council Meeting on 30 September 2019.

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) Cultural & Economic Services Committee 7 October 2019.

Minute reference 28/CE (Service Updates) – it was confirmed that the Town Centre WiFi had been launched and was now available. The possibility of adding speakers to use the Wi-Fi to transmit music in the High Street was suggested.

(b) Planning & Transport Committee 9 October 2019

Minute reference 52/P (Transport Matters)- parking issues were highlighted at Knaves Hill where cars were being parked close to junctions.

(c) Planning & Transport Committee 30 October 2019

(d) Policy & Finance Committee 18 November 2019.

Council gave consideration to the recommendation at minute reference 69/PF (Reserves Policy).

RESOLVED to approve the Reserves Policy, thereby providing clarity and certainty in the way the Town Council reserves were held and for what purpose.

(e) Planning & Transport Committee 20 November 2019.**(f) Partnership Committee 28 November 2019**

Minute reference 31/LLP (Enabling Delivery in Leighton-Linslade: Land South of the High Street and Westlands Care Home) - It was hoped that Central Bedfordshire Council officers would have a robust action plan to bring to the Partnership Committee meeting on 6 February 2020. The question of a commercial plan for project delivery was raised. It was noted that a public drop-in session had been arranged for 12 February, which was after the committee meeting date.

(g) Grounds & Environmental Services Committee 2 December 2019

Minute reference 35/GE (Review of Anglia in Bloom) – it was confirmed that letters from the Mayor would be sent to all key members to thank them for their achievements with Anglia in Bloom.

Council gave consideration to the recommendation at minute reference 45/GE Memorial Playing Field and Garden of Remembrance, Mentmore Road, Linslade. A vote was taken with one abstention by Councillor A Dodwell.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the changes in titles be amended with Fields in Trust and HM Land Registry as follows:**
 - a. “Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Garden of Remembrance”.**
 - b. “Linslade Memorial Playing Field” for the Park excluding the Memorial Gardens.**
 - c. “Linslade Garden of Remembrance” for Memorial Gardens.**
 - d. “Linslade Memorial Pavilion” for the pavilion.**
- 2. That the war memorials in both Leighton Buzzard and Linslade be listed by Historic England.**
- 3. That Linslade Recreation Ground, Pages Park and Parson’s Close recreation ground be registered as Fields in Trust to Protect them for future generations.**

(h) Cultural & Economic Services Committee 9 December 2019.

Minute reference 36/GE (Council Objectives (Older People)) – it was confirmed the Task and Finish Group would be formed for discussion on schemes for elderly people with a view to recommendation for the 2021/2022 budget.

Minute reference 38/CE (Budget Report) – it was noted that point (iv) should be reworded to say Remembrance Sunday 2020 instead of Remembrance Day 2020.

- (i) Planning & Transport Committee 11 December 2019**
- (j) Planning & Transport Committee 8 January 2020**

- (k) Policy & Finance Committee 20 January 2020.**

Minute reference 79/PF (Sub Committee Minutes) – it was noted that an update would be given in the Central Bedfordshire update report presented to the Partnership Committee on 6 February in respect of the CCTV Control Room relocation and digital upgrade programme, including proposed timings.

Cllr K Cursons left the meeting.

An amendment to the motion to receive the minutes was proposed by Councillor Owen and seconded. The amendment proposed a number of actions including steps towards the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was clarified that a resolution had been made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 16 September 2019 in respect of this (Minute reference 48/PF). Following discussion, the amendment was put to the vote. It was not carried (7 against, 5 in favour and 4 abstentions). The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 20 January 2020.

71 2020-2021 RISK REGISTER AND ACTION PLAN

Further to the recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 (minute reference 87/PF), Council received and was asked to consider endorsing the Risk Register Action Plan for 2020-2021.

RESOLVED to endorse the Risk Register Action Plan for 2020-2021, to be signed by the Town Mayor and the Responsible Finance Officer.

72 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Further to a recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 (minute reference 91/PF) Council received and considered the Community Emergency Plan.

RESOLVED to endorse the Community Emergency Plan.

73 STANDBY AND CALLOUT POLICY

Further to a recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 (minute reference 79/PF) Council received and considered approval of the Standby and Callout Policy.

RESOLVED to endorse the Standby and Callout Policy.

74 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Further to the recommendation made by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020, Council gave consideration to the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year 2020-2021.

An amendment was requested by Councillor Snelling for an extra Council meeting between September and January. This had previously been discussed by Policy and Finance Committee with the decision taken to call an additional meeting in November if required. Following discussion, the amendment was not carried with 7 in favour and 9 against.

The recommendation of 20 January 2020 was proposed, seconded and put to the vote with 9 in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2020-2021.

75 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(x)

It was proposed and seconded that in order to continue the meeting past 2200 hours, Standing Order 3(x) be suspended for a maximum of thirty minutes.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 3(x) for a maximum of thirty minutes.

In accordance with Standing Order 1(a) the remaining business would be taken in order of urgency as determined by the Chair.

76 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2020-2021

Council received a report and a proposed budget and precept for the financial year 2020-2021. It was noted that the proposed budget had been reviewed and recommended by all Town Council standing committees.

Councillor Snelling tabled a motion on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group regarding a variation to the Budget and Precept. After discussion the motion was put to the vote with 4 in favour, 10 against and 2 abstentions.

The recommendation made by Policy and Finance on 20 January 2020 was then proposed, seconded and voted on with 10 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

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- (i) to approve a precept of £2,265,946 for 2020-2021, which Central Bedfordshire Council would collect on behalf of the Town Council for the financial year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) that the Council Tax be raised from £149.50 to £155.50 (a 3.96% increase on Band D equivalent) for the financial year 2020-2021.
 - (iii) to approve the budget for 2020-2021.

Cllr A Gray left the meeting.

77 2020 HONORARY BURGESS NOMINATIONS

Council received and considered nominations for the 2020 Honorary Burgess award, as recommended by the Grants & Awards Sub-Committee on 4 November 2019 and the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 January 2020. On being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to award the Title of Dignity of the 2020 Honorary Burgess of Leighton-Linslade to John Halstead and Mary Cheshire.

78 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 Boundary Review Consultation.

79 BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION

Council received and considered notes from the Boundary Review Working Party meeting held on 13 January 2020 and recommended by Policy and Finance on 20 January 2020. An amendment was made to point (i) and the resolution was proposed, seconded and carried.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that 4 wards be created to represent Leighton-Linslade and with surrounding villages, they be represented by 11 Councillors.
- (ii) to suggest that Eggington parish be split into 2 wards to reflect the new profile of that Parish, given the recent housing development at Clipstone Park.

The meeting was brought to a close at 2230 hours with six agenda items to be deferred until a later meeting.

80 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY GRANTS

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

81 PLANTERS ROSEBERY AVENUE

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

82 TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

83 REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

84 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

85 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

This agenda item would be deferred until a later meeting.

The meeting closed 2230 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2020.

Chair

27 APRIL 2020