



Mark Saccoccio

Town Clerk

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8 April 2022

To: Members of the South Side working party (Councillors A Dodwell, M Freeman, R Goodchild, V Harvey, S Jones, F Kharawala, T Morris, S Owen, C Palmer and D Scott)
(Copies to all Town Councillors for information)

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **South Side working party** to be held on **Thursday, 21 April 2022** commencing at **10.30 am** in the The Council Chamber, The White House, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1HD.

**THIS MEETING MAY
BE RECORDED ***

M Saccoccio
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the Members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(i) Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the Member's Register of Interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

(ii) Should any Member have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in an item on the agenda, the Member may not participate in consideration of that item unless a Dispensation has first been requested (in writing) and granted by the Council (see Dispensation Procedure).

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTES PER PERSON; 15 MINUTES TOTAL)

To receive questions and statements from members of the public in respect of any item of business included in the agenda, as provided for in Standing Order No.s 3 (e)(f)(g) and 3(h).

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)

(a) To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the South Side working party meeting held on 7 March 2022 (attached) in accordance with Standing Order 12.

(b) To receive information updates on matters arising from the previous meeting (if appropriate).

5. BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHIVES

To receive a presentation from Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service.

6. COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

To receive a verbal update on the current situation and factors that may have an influence of future needs.

7. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

To receive any updates from CBC officers as available.

8. STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES

To receive updates from Stakeholder quests and members of the Working Party if available.

* Phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting by an individual Council member, officer or member of the public. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session. The use of images or recordings arising from this is not within the Council's control.

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

SOUTH SIDE WORKING PARTY

MONDAY 7 MARCH AT 1030 HOURS

Present: Councillors M Freeman
R Goodchild
V Harvey
S Jones
R Berry (substituting for F Kharawala)
T Morris
S Owen
A Dodwell
C Palmer (Vice Chair, Chaired meeting in
absence of Chair)

Also in attendance: V Cannon, Head of Cultural & Economic
Services
M Jahn, Committee Officer
Paul Brown, LBD AHS & Peppercorn Company

Members of the Public: 4

12/SSWP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor Kharawala substituted by Councillor Berry.

13/SSWP DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor V Harvey declared a personal interest as a member of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth and the Leighton Buzzard Society.

Councillor Palmer declared a personal interest as a member of the Leighton Buzzard Society and Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeology and History Society.

14/SSWP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTES PER PERSON: 15 MINUTES TOTAL)

Three members of the public from the Peppercorn Company and one from the LBD AHS attended the meeting to observe and support Paul Brown who reiterated that there would be a strong connection between the Arts and Heritage if their proposed building could go ahead. A question was raised from the Committee whether any response had been received from Central Bedfordshire

Council on what funding could be used, if available, for this project following the feasibility study to undertake architects drawings of the proposed building.

15/SSWP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) The Committee received the minutes of the South Side Working Party held on 7 February 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Side Working Party held on 7 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

- (b) Minute reference 7/SSWP Central Bedfordshire Council Work Update including Cultural Activity – an analysis was needed of Arts facilities in the area as Central Bedfordshire Council undertook the first research and would be circulating dates for holding focus groups.

Minute reference 9/SSWP Stakeholders and 11/SSWP Land Owners – work on going and information still to be circulated and some may need to be requested from Central Bedfordshire Colleagues. It was believed a map existed showing the ownership of different parts of the Land and it was felt informal meetings should be set up to have personal conversations with each landowner separately. It was felt a list of questions initially would not be productive and an informal approach needed.

16/SSWP LEIGHTON BUZZARD AND DISTRICT ACHAEOLOGY & HISTORY SOCIETY (LBDAHS)

The group received an introduction to LBDAHS which outlined their aspirations and requirements for a heritage centre.

The lack of a permanent premises was a problem for the society as artefacts had to be stored at private houses and were not easily available for school use or visitors and residents of the town. The Society were compiling a directory of items but it was a concern what would happen to these artefacts if a permanent premises was not available. Members agreed a permanent Heritage & Cultural centre was the solution but this would be a long-term aspiration. A suggestion was made in the short term to use any empty premises in the town to display and exhibit items in a pop-up capacity.

The library had in previous years hosted exhibitions where school children could view artefacts but these were not permanent and the Society did not feel they had the manpower or enough volunteers to run this on a regular basis. Logistically it would be difficult and time consuming to set up, run and take down a pop up facility and a permanent Centre with permanent staff would be the solution. The Head of Cultural & Economic Services to follow this up with Assets at Central Bedfordshire Council to see if any buildings in the town centre were likely to become available as a temporary solution.

Members agreed there was a need to keep pursuing a centre to be built, possibly on land south of the High Street and if a potential property became available then the town council could liaise with the LBD AHS on suitability.

RESOLVED to thank LBD AHS for their attendance and to note the information.

17/SSWP LUTON CULTURAL TRUST (TO BE CONFIRMED)

The Luton Cultural Trust could not attend the meeting.

18/SSWP STAKEHOLDERS

A proposal was taken to the Policy & Finance Committee to consider funding towards the cost of the Peppercorn Company commissioning plans/architectural drawings for a facility to be potentially located on land south of the High Street. These plans were intended to augment the existing feasibility study from which the Peppercorn Company would make a presentation to Central Bedfordshire Council. Paul Brown, the Peppercorn Company re-iterated there had been no prior agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council to charge them a peppercorn rent for such premises. He felt that the architectural drawings and feasibility study were needed to enable a request to be taken to Central Bedfordshire Council. Paul Brown thanked the Town Council for their offer of £7,500 saying it was unexpected, but felt the timescale of 31 July 2022 would not be achievable.

It was felt that CBC needed to recommit to developing this land and members agreed that discussions were needed to move the process forward. A suggestion was made to invite The Director of Place and Communities, Central Bedfordshire Council, and the Portfolio holder for Regeneration to a future meeting to update the group about what CBC is doing to develop Land South of the High Street and advise how the two councils could work together to achieve this.

RESOLVED to note the informaton and invite that the representative of the Peppercorn Company to return to the Town Council if and when the offer of financial help as indicated, might be timely appropriate.

The meeting closed at 1216 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022.

Chair

21 APRIL 2022

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