



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council held remotely on Monday 21 December 2020 at 7.30pm**

Location: held virtually by zoom technology.

**Parish Members present:** Councillors Todd (in the Chair) Altieri-Douglas, Dyer, Feeney, Hoyle, Howe, Nayee, Nolan, Sargent.

**Staff :** Philip Compton (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the public present: 2**

Cllrs were reminded all the rules about code of conduct at meetings applied to virtual meetings, and that as had been requested in September all meetings would be recorded.

**FC126/20 Apologies:** An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Bailey, through his sister, to which the Council consented. Apology for anticipated lateness was received from Cllr Nolan, who arrived during item FC128/20, at 7:55pm.

**FC127/20 Declarations of interest:** There were none.

**FC128/20 Public participation:** Members of the public were invited to speak on agenda items they considered pertinent to their particular interests.

Mr Mistry, owner of 3 Whitworth Lane, stated his case in that he was disappointed with the decision of the Planning Committee to object as per minute PLC52/20(c). It was noted the procedure for calling in a decision of a Committee must be an agenda item at a Full Council meeting, but that the next Full Council meeting would be after the determination date by MKC of the planning application 20/02905/FUL, regarding 3 Whitworth Lane.

Both members of public left the meeting at this point (8:00pm).

**FC129/20 Thames Valley Police:** The crime statistics report from Thames Valley Police was noted.

**FC130/20 Planning and licensing applications:** It was on the agenda to consider the recommendation from the Planning Committee on s.106 funding:

- a) Application regarding S.106 funding for Development of land at Elfield Park Application no: 20/02904/PREOFM. Councillors to consider application for S.106 funding and note email response with regard to possible expenditure on new allotment site.

**Action:** This was deferred to later in the meeting (item FC137/20 refers)

**FC131/20 Planning Applications:** there were none.

**FC132/20 Minutes: the Chair proposed the following amendments to the November FC minutes:**

- That there were 6 members of the public present and not 8
- Under Cllr Nolan's comments it was a petition and not a campaign (bottom p.2).
- The Chair's response to queries raised by a member of the public amended to:
  - o A consultation was carried out as to whether to apply for a grant from WREN for a refurbishment
  - o Copies of the plans prepared by MKC had been sent to all members of the Parish Council on two occasions and the Clerk. There had been no negative responses, and the only responses received were enthusiastic
  - o In addition the plans had been emailed to the equestrian centre and they had no objections
  - o The plans had been discussed at meetings of the Parish Council on a number of occasions and these had been minuted
  - o The plans had been reported on social media and a consultation carried out with potential users on the MK Kids facebook group
  - o The Chair had been to the play park to communicate with park users and local residents.
  - o Overall there was broad agreement that the play area was at the end of its life and dilapidated and therefore an application for a grant was indicated.
  - o The Chair hoped that through constructive dialogue with the Strategic Landscape and Countryside Manager an arrangement could be made that would resolve concerns of local residents.

**Action: Following the standing orders of the Council a vote was held:**

**In favour: 4**

**Against: 3**

**Abstain: 2**

**It was resolved therefore that minutes of the last meeting held on 16 November 2020 were an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting subject to the abovementioned amendments and the minutes would be signed at the January's Full Council meeting.**

**FC133/20 Committee meetings:** All draft minutes had been uploaded to the website and were provided in the meeting paperwork.

- a) Finance Committee 09 November 2020
- b) Planning Committee Meeting 07 December 2020
- c) Finance Committee 14 December 2020

**Action: Minutes and resolutions were noted.**

**FC134/20 Payments:**

**Action: Monthly payments were approved as per the monthly payment schedule which had been included in the meeting paperwork, and the bank account balance of £114k was noted.**

**FC135/20 External Audit report for 2019-2020 financial year:**

**Action: Cllrs noted completion of the external auditor report, and that there were no areas of concern, and the Clerk was thanked for successful work in accounting practices to date.**

**FC136/20 New Allotment Project:** It was on the agenda to consider the recommendation of the Finance and Staffing Committee not to go ahead with the field conversion on account of high expense.

**Action:** This was discussed under item FC137/20 below. The Planning Committee had recommended to the Full Council to consider approving application for the cost of the project, or a portion of it, as Section 106 funding linked to the Elfield Park development.

**Action:** It was resolved to approve the project in principle, and to approve the application for funding, either formal or informal, from the developers of the Elfield Park site, pending; funding received, Parish financial contributions, and community consultation results. The developers would be invited to meet the Planning Committee on 04 January 2021.

**FC137/20 Business Plan 2021-2022:**

**Action:** the business plan was adopted, adding back in item H, which had been erroneously missed out of the draft.

**FC138/20 budget for 2021-2022:**

Discussion: Councillors noted the real impact of covid on people's livelihoods, and that this was reflected in an increase in numbers of households who were taken out of the Band D tax base, resulting in a reduction of Band D properties from 2254 in 2020-2021 to 2210 in 2021-2022, with a material reduction in precept income to the Parish Council of 6.4%. Councillors also noted there was no precept grant of 0.5%. Including a likely 2% inflationary increases in expenditure, budgetary discussion resulted in the following agreements:

- forecast expenditure for the next financial year was £120,431,
- forecast income was £21,939 (which included rent from the Grumpy Cook café which Cllrs noted was at risk on account of lockdowns and covid measures).
- Budget transfer from reserves of £10,477

The purpose of this extremely conservative budget was to set a zero percent increase in the precept to the residents of the Parish, in acknowledgement of extremely tough economic times.

The Clerk advised that with no precept increase there would be a drop in reserves at the end of the 2021-2022 financial year to roughly £65k, although timing regarding Serco landscaping works (delays) might ameliorate this and spread costs into the next financial year.

**Resolution:** the budget as above was approved.

**FC139/20 Food Van pitch at the Community Centre in Great Holm:**

**Action:** Councillors noted this would be determined by Planning and Licensing at MKC, and if a licensing application were to pass to Councillors to consider, they would likely have concerns over the impact on local residents, with regard to noise, litter and car parking.

**FC140/20 Reserve Policy as recommended by the Finance and Staffing Committee:**

**Action:** This was adopted.

**FC141/20 Financial assistance to the Grumpy Cook Cafe:** It was on the agenda to consider whether to waive/forfeit rent from the Grumpy Cook Cafe for the months of December 2020

and January 2021, and to review the position of further rent payments at January 2021's Full Council meeting.

**Action: Rent forfeiture for December and January was agreed.**

**FC142/20 Community Consultation into dog bin at entrance to Millennium Meadow:**

**Action: Councillors noted the results, which indicated only a tepid interest from residents for a new dog bin at the proposed location, and resolved therefore not to put one there.**

**FC143/20 tree replacement on Ashpole Furlong:**

Discussion: Cllrs discussed the proposed tree replacement for £350 + vat on Ashpole Furlong.

**Action: A vote was held:**

**For: 4**

**Against: 4**

**Abstain: 1**

**Resolution: The Chair's casting vote was used in favour of replacing the tree.**

**FC144/20 Loughton schools traffic and parking project:**

Discussion: it was on the agenda to consider whether to support the project and to financially contribute up to £10,000, as per the diagrams and plans which were in the meeting paperwork.

**Action: After discussion, a vote was held:**

**For: 4**

**Against: 2**

**Abstain: 3**

**It was resolved therefore to support the project, as outlined in the plans, and to contribute up to £10k towards it.**

**FC145/20 General Power of Competence:**

**Action: Councillors had been provided prior to the meeting, in the paperwork, information describing the relevance of the General Power of Competence and the criteria for having it. Councillors resolved to note that the Parish Council met the conditions (that over two thirds of members were elected and the Clerk was qualified), and that the Parish Council therefore held the General Power of Competence.**

**FC146/20 H6 Childs Way Permanent Gap Closures – Ashpole Furlong and Knowl Gate junctions:**

**Action: Councillors noted Milton Keynes Council Highways right turn bans for Ashpole Furlong and Knowl Gate onto H6 Childs Way, that was impending.**

**FC147/20 Reports from members:**

- a) Cllr Nayee informed those present he had attended the AGM of the Hugh Parke Trustees, and funds generated from interest of the trust were distributed to local people.

- b) Cllr Hoyle had attended a virtual meeting of the trustees of the Shenley Leisure Centre Trustees in December, a bar had been successfully redecorated under 'operation sparkle'.

**FC148/20 Items for the next agenda.** Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk and follow the rules as set out in the Parish's Standing Orders for items to be requested on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Date and time of Next Meeting:** Monday 18 January 2021 at 7.30pm

The Meeting was declared closed at 10:20pm.