



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall in Loughton on Monday 21 February 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Councillors present:** Councillors Nayee (in the Chair), Altieri-Douglas, Bailey, Dyer, Feeney, Howe and Sargent

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

**Members of the public present: 4**

**FC164/22 Apologies:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hoyle and Nolan, and lateness from Cllr Altieri-Douglas, who arrived at 7:38pm. The apologies were approved.

**FC165/22 Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**FC166/22 Public participation:** There were four members of the public present, and they raised the following concerns:

The proposed development of the Station Square, increasing the height and adding another 64 flats and two storeys. The resident wished the Parish Council to object to this and to write to relevant parties, including ward Councillors and members of parliament. This was discussed further at item FC172/22.

Another member of the public was present to raise concern over the amount of ivy growing on trees around the Parish, noting that in Shenley Brook End many of the trees by road verges had had the ivy circled and cut round the bottom of the trunk, which went some way in safeguarding the tree from further ivy incursion. In particular there was one tree opposite 114 London Rd and adjacent to 101a London Road. Councillors would consider this at their next landscape review, which would be held when a new Clerk was installed.

The third member of the public was present to discuss biodiversity around the Parish, and notes were read, to adumbrate; the Parish Council was thanked in its' work to date in bringing to attention the biodiversity importance to MKC officials, the Parish Council was requested to stop spraying around the football pitches, the Parish Council was requested to select amongst its members a member to act as a biodiversity champion, to bring to the Parish Council's attention the poor state of some of the hedgerows in the Parish, namely those along Pitcher Lane, and School Lane.

Councillors considered the matter of trees being felled across the Parish, and brought to the member of the public's attention the lifespan of some of the trees in the Parish, particularly the willows which were reaching thirty and forty years old and where at this age their trunks were beginning to rot as that was their natural lifespan. Also bringing to the Council's attention the fact that MKC was designed with a surplus of trees, and that many were planted in order to be felled at some point, in a similar way to those along the edge of highways, in that when they attained a certain height their function would have been met and they could therefore be felled.

The Chair moved to discuss Station Square development at agenda item FC172/22.

**FC172/22 Station House CMK:**

This had been partly discussed as brought to the attention of the Council by a member of the public, see above. It was noted there was an online consultation which opened on Wednesday 23 February. Councillors noted they had objected a year previously, to the initial application to convert the Station Square building to residential, but that it had got through by being permitted development and the Parish Council's objection had not met with any success.

**Action: It was resolved to write a letter of objection, Cllr Sargent was delegated the power to do this with support from the Clerk, and this objection letter would also be forwarded on to the three Ward Councillors and local MP.**

**FC167/22 Minutes:** Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2022 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

**FC168/22 Payments:**

**Action:** Monthly payments for February were approved, and the current bank balance of £108k was noted.

**FC169/22 Landscaping Delivery 2023:**

It was on the agenda to consider 'Information for Parish and Town Councils interested in delivering Landscaping Services from 2023', and respond accordingly, and the information pack had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Action: A vote was held and it was unanimously resolved not to proceed with delivering landscaping services and the Clerk would respond to MKC accordingly.**

**FC170/22 Committee meetings:** All draft minutes had been uploaded to the website and were provided in the papers prior to the meeting. The minutes and actions and resolutions of the belowmentioned meetings were noted:

- a) Planning Working Party meeting on 07 February 2022
- b) Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held 14 February 2022

**FC171/22 Planning applications:** To consider any representations to be made to Milton Keynes Council on the following planning applications (pages 73-77):

- a) Application no: 22/00140/FUL Proposal: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension. The installation of 2x roof dormers to both sides of the house roof and raised porch to the front. Installation of new windows and 1x bi-fold door to original dwelling. Erection of new boundary wall with gate. At: 107 London Road Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AG.

**Action: It was agreed to object to this application and the Clerk would submit the objection letter.**

**FC172/22 Station House CMK:** see above.

**FC173/22 Grant application from the Scouts:**

**Action: The Grant application was approved, and £500 would be paid to the Scouts, upon condition that the Parish Council would be provided feedback after the Scarecrow Trail had happened as to its' success.**

**FC174/22 Recruitment of Clerk and staffing structure:**

Discussion: it was on the agenda to consider recruitment matters including; locum clerking, delegating an interview panel and setting a date for interviews. This had largely been discussed at the last Finance and Staffing Meeting and was discussed again at the end of the meeting. It was noted a deadline for applicants had been set for 28 February, and it was agreed to forward on the confidential minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee to those members not on the Committee, to keep all Councillors abreast of staffing matters, in the search for a new Clerk.

**FC175/22 Loughton fence posts:**

**Action: A vote was held:  
In favour: 6  
Abstained from voting: 1**

**It was resolved to approve the renewal of 54 posts at £29 each (£1,566).**

**FC176/22 Calorifier and showers work at Pavilion:**

It was on the agenda to consider quotes to renew calorifiers or have on-demand showers at the Pavilion, to reduce electricity consumption.

**Action: It was resolved to approve the option B as provided by Pure Group which involved: Removing both existing hot water cylinders, installing one Gledhill cylinder, 2x 3phase immersion in new cylinder, install a 42kw tankless electric water heater on cylinder outlet, at cost of £12,218 + vat.**

**FC177/22 Permanent football posts:**

A motion was on the agenda to rescind previous resolution (FC150/2022) on account of new information having come to light, the emails of the groundsman. It was resolved at the last meeting to install one set of posts, and that they should be good quality (as vandalproof as possible) and therefore those of soccertackle were chosen, and upon the condition that they were removable, and TYFC would be asked which pitch they would go on.

**Action: It was unanimously resolved to rescind the previous month's resolution, and so no permanent goalposts would be installed.**

**FC178/22 Thames Valley Police:**

**Action:** The crime statistics report from Thames Valley Police was received.

**FC179/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration event 2 - 5 June 2022:**

**Action:** It was noted the tenant of the Pavilion had requested use of the pitches over the celebration weekend. Councillors wished for further information before making a decision.

The two remaining members of the public left the meeting at this time (8:45pm).

**FC174/22:**

The confidential minutes of the last Finance and Staffing Committee were discussed, for those members not on the Committee. In summary, although having taken on work at a new Parish Council, the Clerk had agreed to allow for some hours of work from 11 March until 11 May, in order to; help the Parish Council run through both internal and external audit, year-end closing down of accounts, Clerk Full Council Meetings and make all the payments that the Parish Council was legally bound to, in order to provide time for the Parish Council to recruit a new Clerk. The Clerk cautioned that the timeframe for recruitment was ambitious, that there was a chronic shortage of qualified or part-qualified Clerks, and that it would be on the agenda for the March meeting to agree practicalities of applying for a locum Clerk, if recruitment was unsuccessful.

**FC180/22 Reports from members:** It was on the agenda to receive verbal reports from members attending external meetings. No reports were given.

**FC181/22 Items for the next agenda:** All members were reminded to notify the Clerk of any items for the agenda in accordance with the Parish Council's standing orders, in particular standing order 9b.

**Date and time of Next Meeting:** Monday 21 March 2022 at 7.30pm, at the Community Centre in Great Holm.

The meeting was declared **closed** at 9:10pm.