

Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council

Finance & General Purposes Committee Tuesday 13th October 2009

Minutes

Present: Robin Bowen-Williams (Chair), Keith Ely, Steve Grimes, Tony Keller, Alan Webb, & Karen Sarson (Deputy Town Clerk)

Also present: Representative in respect of agenda item 17.4
Representative in respect of agenda item 20.3

FGP184-09 Apologies

Apologies were received from Bruce Abbott, Tim Haynes, Angela Kennedy, Joan Thomas

FGP185-09 Any other business – Tony Keller – Bookings on Stanier Square

FGP186-09 Declarations of Interest - None

FGP187-09 Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman

FGP188-09 Matters arising from the minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2009

FGP188-09 (FGP179.09) Future Jobs Fund – Tony Keller is progressing this

FGP189.09 Bletchley Market

Members agreed to bring forward agenda item 17.4 as market traders were in attendance

FGP189.09.1 - The finances to the end of September were noted

FGP189.09.2 - Income comparison figures were noted

FGP189.09.3 – Report from Town Centre Caretaker noted, including an update on electrical pillars in Queensway. The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal report of the meeting held regarding the pillars.

Agreed: Clerk to write to MKC to request this matter is resolved as a matter of urgency

FGP189.09.4 – Members considered the issue of 'like and identical stalls' with particular regard to those selling food produce, as detailed in the Town Centre Caretaker's report.

Members of the Hill family who trade on the burger van on the market were present in respect of this matter and were invited to ask questions at this point

Mrs Hill expressed concerns that there is not enough trade currently to support more than 2 catering stalls. Queries were also raised concerning the sale of traders businesses.

Agreed: The Town Council recognises the issues raised by Mrs Hill and it was agreed that it would be appropriate that the Town Council discuss this matter with the Market Manager.

FGP189.09.5 – Proposed calendar of specialist markets (as detailed in report from Paul Hyde) was considered.

Agreed: Calendar of specialist markets approved. Thanks to go to Paul Hyde for his ideas and efforts.

FGP189.09.6 – Market Working Group (29th September) - Tabled report from Robin Bowen-Williams noted. Members considered suggestion by Robin Bowen-Williams that a market banner be installed.

Agreed: Banners as follows:
'Specialist Market - 1st Saturday of each month – Stanier Square'
+ banner for the general market in Queensway to be arranged.
Costs for the banners to come from refund for market rates.

FGP189.09.7 – Noted that an executive meeting is to be held regarding the review of hours and responsibilities for the Town Centre Caretaker.

FGP189.09.8 – Any Other Issues regarding Bletchley Market – none.

The Hills left the meeting following the market agenda item

FGP190.09 Staffing & Accommodation

Members agreed to bring forward agenda item 20.3 as representatives from MK Community Mediation were in attendance

FGP190.09 – Request for Room Usage (MKCMS)
Zarina Dossaji from MKCMS, together with one of their volunteer mediators presented the request. The organisation is finding that referrals are being received at a late stage in disputes. It is hoped that by providing a drop in service this will allow them to be involved at an earlier stage. West Bletchley Council are also being approached to provide a similar drop-in service for their residents. Zarina reported on the high number of referrals from MK2 & MK3 postcodes.

Agreed: To approve the request, subject to approval of the Town Clerk and Spotlight-Co-ordinator regarding dates/times/arrangements/etc. Use of the room at the Town Council and at Spotlight office to be free of charge during a trial period for the project until end of this financial year (31st March 2010). Charges to be reviewed for 2010/2011.

The representatives from MK Community Mediation left the meeting following their presentation

FGP191-09 Road Issues

FGP191-09.1 - (a) Temporary closure of Victoria Road - Noted

FGP191-09.2 - (b) Temporary closure of Fern Grove - Noted

FGP191-09.3 - (c) Installation of advance 7.5 tonne restriction warning signs – Chair reported that these signs are already in position.

FGP191-09.4 - (d) Potential closure of Tavistock Street - Noted that the Clerk has progressed and will clarify at the next meeting what is proposed and update on this matter

FGP192-09 Sustainable Transport & Road Safety Forum
Details of forthcoming meetings were noted. Any ideas to be fed to the Clerk.

FGP193-09 Aylesbury Street – parking on pavement / Bull & Butcher
Noted that “Camden” bollards were installed w/c 5th October.

FGP194-09 Denmark Street Recycling Banks
Issues regarding fly tipping in this area were noted and members considered arranging a meeting to progress this matter.

Agreed: Not to progress

FGP195-09 Stephenson House
Noted that the bollards to prevent parking under the building were installed 7th October.

FGP196-09 Update regarding St Martin’s Hall
Noted that this area continues to cause problems with anti-social behaviour, drug use and fly tipping. It was reported that the hall is currently under offer (for community use).

FGP197-09 Licensing
FGP197-09.1 -Thal Vegetarian Restaurant, new premises licence – no response

FGP198-09 Bletchley Town Centre – A Boards
Members noted Nottinghamshire County Council's policy for the display of advertising boards and goods on highways in Nottinghamshire and considered requesting the support of ward Councillors with this matter.

Agreed: To contact MKC as follows:
The Town Council welcomes the initiative of Nottinghamshire County Council and trust that MKC can follow suite with immediate effect.
A copy of Nottinghamshire County Council's policy to be attached.

FGP199-09 Financial Matters
FGP199-09.1 – Details as per the agenda were noted
FGP199-09.2 – Cheques for payment in October were considered and agreed for payment by the committee.
FGP199-09.3 – Budget figures were noted

FGP200-09 Albert Street Toilets
FGP200-09.1 – Report from TCCO regarding possible solutions to recent incidents in the gents toilets was considered. The issue of closing on a Sunday was also considered. Involvement of local police and PCSO was reported.

Agreed: Option 1 approved (to remove one cubicle completely). Therefore, the following to be taken to next F&GP Meeting, in order to progress this matter:

- a) Quotes for plumbing and any other associated works
- b) Quotes from cleaning company in respect of changes to the contract, should the toilets be closed on a Sunday
- c) Report to be requested from Police and local PCSO on what they have been doing/plan to do to help with this matter

FGP200-09.2 – There were no other items regarding the toilets.

FGP201-09 Community Parking Partnership Scheme

Members considered projects for inclusion in the scheme for 2010/11. No projects were put forward by the committee.

FGP202-09 Allotments

FGP202-09.1 – The Deputy Clerk reported that unfortunately attempts to date have not resulted in any funding, alternative possible funding areas have been identified and are currently being investigated. It would appear that many funding sources are now being inundated with applications due to the recession, as well as having huge reductions in the amount of funding they now have available.

FGP202-09.2 – Members received a tabled report from Robin Bowen-Williams following the allotment working group meeting on 6/10/09.

FGP203-09 Bletchley Landfill Site

FGP203-09.1 – Alan Webb gave a verbal report following the Bletchley site liaison meeting on 16/09/09.

FGP203-09.2 – Creation of a civic amenity site at Bletchley Landfill Site – The Deputy Clerk reported that feedback is awaited from MKC further to meetings held

FGP204-09 Staff & Accommodation

FGP204-09.1 – Spotlight Co-Ordinator - Noted that the vacancy has been filled and that Paula Collinson joins the Town Council formally on the 2nd November.

FGP204-09.2 – Spotlight Opening Hours – Noted that an emergency Executive decision had been made to change the hours (prior to Spotlight Opening Event on 10th October). Details of changes made were noted.

FGP205-09 Working Together Project – Report Findings Questionnaire

Members noted details and agreed no response.

FGP206-09 Consultation on amendments to Statutory Main River Map:

Members noted update and agreed no response.

FGP207-09 Dissolvment of the Bletchley Development Board

Update from the Solicitor acting on behalf of BDB was noted.

FGP208-09 Nomination for Membership of the NALC Larger Local Councils' Committee 2009-11

Members considered nomination and agreed no nomination to be made.

FGP209-09 Questions from the Public – None

FGP210-09 Any Other Business

Bookings on Stanier Square – Tony Keller reported that MKC had approved a booking on the square on a day that the Town Council will be holding a special market. TC staff are aware of the situation and will liaise with MKC to ensure this does not happen in the future.

FGP211-09 Correspondence - None

FGP212-09 Confirmation of date and time of next meeting

Agreed as Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Offices

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm