



**FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Flitwick Town Council meeting held on**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at the Rufus Centre at 7:45pm**

Present:

Cllr Roberts  
Cllr Snape  
Cllr Thompson  
Cllr Wilsmore  
Cllr Patterson  
Cllr Blazeby  
Cllr Hodges  
Cllr Parsons  
Cllr Earles  
Cllr Toinko  
Cllr Platt  
Cllr Harald

CBCllr Ian Adams

Stacie Lockey – Town Clerk & Chief Executive

**5745. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Connell – work commitments.

**5746. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – no items.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – no items.

**5747. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor had attended one event with the Bishop of Bedford. The Deputy Town Mayor had not attended any events.

The Town Mayor thanked Sue Livens for her work during her time as a Councillor and wished her all the best.

**5748. Leader Update**

No comments.

**5749. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS**

A Member asked what dropped kerbs were going in at Manor Way. CBCllr Adams was unsure and was happy to find out and send information to the Town Clerk.

Members asked for clarity on the situation with the Froghall Road estate. CBCllr Adams confirmed that the estate had not yet been adopted, however the drains had been.

There were complicated issues around the ownership of the ditch that was being investigated by CBC. Members commented that the ditch along Fry Grove smelled very unpleasant during the summer.

Cllr Thompson asked for an update on the completion date for the older people's development on Steppingley Road and the sale of the adjacent land. CBCllr Adams commented that the older people's development was due to be handed over on 21<sup>st</sup> April. There were no further updates on the sale of the land at this time.

CBCllr Adams advised that traffic issues on The Avenue were due to be discussed at the next traffic management committee, and an update would be provided in due course.

**5750. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

No items.

**5751. INVITED SPEAKER**

No items.

**5752. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Blazeby asked if Officers were aware that the light currently covered by the large tree in Chapel Road was not working. The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up; however explained that it was difficult to access because of the large, overgrown tree.

The Leader of the Council advised that he had been contacted by a resident recently about these matters and had since been in correspondence with Blake Stephenson's office, who had sent a letter to UKPN detailing the issues with street lights in Chapel Road. UKPN had responded, stating that the work would be getting done.

The Town Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the resident requesting them to cut back the tree, but no action had been taken. She advised that CBC were the only authority to be able to enforce this action.

The Leader advised that the other option would be for the Town Council to carry out the works and recharge the resident, but legal advice would need to be sought.

The Leader agreed to follow up on this with CBC members.

*Action: Cllr Snape/TC*

**5753. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. For Members to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre.

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at The Rufus Centre as an accurate record.

- b. For Members to receive and consider the resolutions and recommendations of the Community Services Committee meeting, held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre.

Members noted the resolutions of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January held at the Rufus Centre.

- c. For Members to receive and consider the resolutions and recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, held on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre.

Members noted the recommendations and resolutions of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January held at the Rufus Centre.

**5754. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

No comments.

- b. Members to receive any updates from Officers.

The Town Clerk gave a brief update on 3 Station Road;

- Officers attended a pre-start meeting last Thursday with Marlow's and LBC.
- Works were due to start on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and would take approximately 13 weeks to complete.
- Marlow's would be issuing a letter to all nearby residents and businesses to let them know work was due to start and provide details of site contact information.
- The site compound would be erected at the front of the building initially.
- Officers had met with the agent to discuss marketing the site. The restaurant part would be marketed first, and the agent discussed some bespoke packages to attract the best tenants. Options and costs would be presented to Members once they have been received.

**5755. OUTSIDE BODIES**

No items.

**5756. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Proposed Budget 2025-26**

It was **resolved** to approve the circulated Flitwick Town Council budget for 2025-26 with a 3% Precept rise.

- b. **Consultation on School Admission Arrangements 2026/27**

Members did not wish to respond to this consultation.

- c. **Community Services Committee Vacancy**

Cllr Thompson commented that the Community Services Committee was currently well represented with good attendance records. Comments were made that given the current number of vacancies on the Council, vacancies on this Committee could remain so that any new Members would have the opportunity to fill this in the future.

Members asked the Town Clerk if the deadline had been reached to start promoting the vacancies. The Town Clerk advised that the notification had been received and recruitment could now start.

d. **Business Improvement & Development Board Vacancy**

Members agreed that this vacancy did not need to be filled at this time.

e. **Flitwick Scout Group**

Members asked for clarification that this would be at no cost or time to the Council. The Leader confirmed this was correct, it was simply putting the Council's name on the application.

Members asked if the Town Clerk had received the up to date structural and asbestos surveys. The Town Clerk advised that these had not yet been received.

Members felt that approving this approach was a good opportunity to see and support the plans, which otherwise the Council would not be able to do.

Members asked for approximate timescales. The Town Clerk advised that she understood the Scout Group were almost at the point of submission, so if they did go ahead with the approach discussed, it was likely that the plans would be submitted to the February Town Council meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the Scout Group planning application to be submitted in the Town Council's name, providing a copy of the asbestos and building survey were received in advance, and the Council fully agreed on the plans.

**5757. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Finance Reports**

Members noted the finance reports.

**5758. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

No items.

**5759. EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

**a) Confidential Report**

Members noted the confidential report.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Meeting closed 8.15pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman)