

## **WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Summerlin Centre on Monday 12 October 2020 at 2.30p.m.

Chairs for Councillors and any members of the public were set at least 2 metres apart, hand sanitiser, and cleaning station made available.

**Present Councillors:**

Cllr M Geddes (in the chair)

D. Hopkins, J. Jeffreys, Dr J Rae, P. Skelton, C. Cowmeadow, J. Green,  
R. Lanyon-Hogg, P. Farrant

**Clerk**

Mrs L Stapleton

**Apologies**

Nil

**51/20 Town Mayor's Announcements**

Cllr Geddes informed members that Alison Jordan had signed and returned her contract of employment. Pauline Biggs Clerical Assistant has also sent in her resignation letter for the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

**52/20 Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**53/20 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 had been circulated, approved and signed as a true record After one amendment to minute 16/20a replace Yew Tree to Western Red Cedar.

**54/20 Progress Reports**

**a Clerk Report**

1. Closed Shoppers car parks bays for ground works for charging machines, to be completed week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> October.
2. Reconciled VAT for reimbursement
3. Chasing when Library to be opened
4. Worked with Cllr Rae regarding website version of the upgrade to the Recreation Ground and with Mike Smith to get an online survey / questionnaire.
5. Arranged works
6. Checked with deeds and gave copy to Solicitor for confirmation regarding ownership of Library fence. Awaiting second quote.
7. Obtained information from MKC regarding legalities of allowing the Fun Fair into the Recreation Ground, which did cause quite a bit of concern from residents. Police received 1 report regarding social distancing, they attended and was very happy with the way the fair were handling everything.
8. Cllr Baker had requested that S.106 Library funds from the Strawberry Farm development should go to Woburn Sands Library being the local Library for Aspley Guise, not Toddington, hence the correspondence from Central Beds. The S.106 agreement has to be signed before the application can be considered. Infrastructure will also be considered.
9. Returned the questionnaire to Shar Roselman regarding the sharing of an enforcement officer.
10. A lot of questions have been raised by residents regarding article in Hogsty fro the No Expressway Group regarding proposed travelers site.
11. Organized tickets for the second History of Fullers Earth Walk (which came under the new regulations of Covid-19
12. Organized all the QR codes for all venues and registered with the government as legal requirement.
13. Registered the Charity Year End figures on the Charity Commission website. (Legal requirement)

**Note of complaints registered to Environmental Services**

- Reported street light not working Chapel Street.
- Chasing the post on Mowbray Green Highway verge which is broken.
- Ringway sending a quotation to rectify some of the surface at Hardwick Road lay-by. Still no reply or quote

## Information

Auditor called, questioned the figure in box 8 for last year 18/19 on the Annual Return, as his record showed it to be incorrect. In looking I had transferred 17/18 figure by mistake. Box 8 makes no difference to figures. I also had to clarify why the end of year figures were approved after the 10 first days in July. I explained about no meeting in June, and that I had telephoned to explain in May that this would be the case, as difficult during Covid-19

### b. **Halls & Library**

Cllr Hopkins clarified the view of MKC was that there could not be a charge to use the Library, and still no news on when the Library will open.

There will be a halls meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2.30 in the Memorial Hall.

One quotation had been received to replace part of the fence in the Library Car Park, awaiting further quote.

### c. **Environment & Edgewick**

Cllr Skelton reported that a second Fullers Earth Walk had taken place with all necessary Covid restrictions in place. Meeting 20 October in the Memorial Hall at 2.30 to discuss budgets.

Cllr questioned that the details of the Rec. upgrade were not on the website. The Clerk informed her that it was ready to go live when the newsletter is delivered,

Edgewick Volunteer sessions have now resumed in groups of 6.

Apples have been left out for people to help themselves.

### d. **SEMK**

Cllr. Hopkins reported on the Bletcham Way extension and there might be another CAG meeting at the end of the month. Still waiting a traffic survey to be carried out, but suggested that nothing should be done until the future of the level crossing is known. It was suggested that MKC should asked to carry out a Woburn Sands Review..

### e. **Climate Change**

Cllr Skelton had circulated paperwork outlining proposals to calm traffic and increase cycling and walking within and around Woburn Sands. Aiming to do our own cycling plan and a concept of low traffic. Due to a lot of imminent traffic implications it was suggested that the Head of Highways be invited to a meeting to discuss these issues.

It is planned to consult residents on the suggestion of Woburn Sands having a blanket 20mph

55/20

## **Unitary Report**

Cllr Hopkins had circulated a full report mentioning:

Bus Services under threat, planning application for 73 houses at The Strawberry Farm, Aspley Guise, Oxford – Cambridge Arc, MKC pilot of wheelie bins to replace plastic bags and MKC setting aside £500,000 to provide new greener transport initiatives and Covid-19 national guidance.

56/20 **Planning**

Notification from Milton Keynes Council of the following applications:

- a. 20/02287/TCA Crown raise 1x Maple by 2m & remove lowest branch and prune in lower lateral branches. Remove lowest limb of 1 x Scots Pine & Silver Birch trees to crown raise & improve shape at:

#### **8 The Leys**

**Mary Davies**

*No objection subject to Tree officer's agreement.*

20/02288/TCA

To Crown raise 1 x Ash Tree 3m-5m, reduce 2 lowest laterals to let the light into garden, remove lowest branch of the tree and crown raise Sycamore 3m-5m, on right hand side of the tree reduce 2 lowest lateral branches to let light into garden to improve shape of both trees at:

#### **9 The Leys**

**Rodney Strowger**

*No objection subject to Tree officer's agreement*

20/02173/FUL

2 Storey & rear extension & single storey rear extension at:

#### **10 Elm Grove**

**Mr A. Hill**

*Application must demonstrate sufficient off street parking for a 4 bed property & consider carefully any objection from either neighbouring properties*

- 20/02244/FUL Improvement to Quaker burial ground to provide seating, landscaping, sculpture and an area for scattering ashes. Provision for pedestrian access from Hardwick Road at:  
**Friends Meeting House** Dr. Dobbin  
*No objection to improvements suggest a locking system on the gate so not accessed by unauthorised people or used as a gathering place.*
- 20/02351/FUL Removal of the existing conservatory and the erection of a single storey extension at:  
**13 Hillway** Mr Rolton  
*No Comment*
- 20/02331/TPO To Crown raise 1 x Oak tree by 5m to remove branches at:  
**81 Newport Road** Mrs J. Prentice  
*Leave to Tree Officer advice*
- 20/02103/FUL Change of use of part of the car park into a hand car wash/valeting centre at:  
**Frosts Garden Centre**  
*No Comment*
- 20/02497/FUL single side extension & internal alterations at:  
**14 Weathercock Lane**  
*No Comment*
- 65 Station Road, re submitted** Addressed some of objections  
*CB/20/01625/FULL*  
*Appreciate amendments but still need height reduced further suggest all of half storey.*

- b. **Notification of Decisions made from Milton Keynes Council**  
 Burlington Hall Granted (condition extension shall only be used as staff doffing & donning).  
 11 Bow Brickhill Road Tree Preservation Order on 2 Oak trees to the rear of property.
- c. **Central Bedfordshire**  
 Outline planning application to build 73 new homes at Strawberry Farm, Salford Road.  
 Letter sent supporting objecting to this application and Aspley Guise Parish Council objection.

57/20. **Planning White Paper** (*paper circulated*)

Cllr Skelton has circulated draft of response to the Government White Paper.  
 Councillors thanked Cllr Skelton for all his hard work on this draft, some other suggestions were mentioned which he will include, any further comments should be emailed to him for inclusion in the final submission.

58/20 **School Crossing**

Cllr Geddes reported that he had prepared a press release and MKC are talking mitigating measures at the level crossing and who pays.

59/20 **Parking**

- i. Consultation on Waiting Restrictions in Station Road, Theydon Avenue and High Street/Downham Road junction.

It was suggested that until we know what is happening with the level crossing, the Transport Study regarding SEMK which will all have an impact on traffic in Woburn Sands these restrictions should be deferred, also request a Woburn Sands Review for 2022.

- ii. Hardwick Road

Aspley Heath Parish Council had received quite a few complaints about the parking on Hardwick Road. Agreed to request MKC to repaint the yellow lines, but thought the situation was worse at the moment because some building works were taking place and that more people are working from home.

60/20 **Electric Charging Points**

Cllr Jeffreys questioned the electric supply to the new Electric charging machines as could be Greens Apartments supply, also the infilling on the access road which has not been completed she queried if the parking bays would be marked as cars who are not charging are using them.  
 The Clerk will clarify.

It was queried who registers these chargers on Zap Map, Clerk to make enquiries and the marking out the parking bays.

61/20. **CCTV**

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the CCTV contract for a further 6 months

62/20 **Remembrance Sunday**

The Clerk had contacted the RBL there will be no service, parade or wreath laying ceremony. A proposal of a virtual Service was mentioned but was told that they have been given instructions for the London ceremony to be the service to watch.

It was agreed that the Vicar would be contacted to perhaps have a Remembrance theme Sunday Service.

63/20 **Notification of Urgent Decisions that have been made.**

None

64/20 **Finance**

a. A list of payments had been circulated, all invoices were tabled, and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise all payments and duly signed by two members

65/20 **Councillor's reports and items for next agenda**

Cllr. Cowmeadow proposed that now our local area was in Tier 2 with possibilities of local tighter restrictions and lockdown that the Council should be looking to new software to enable virtual meetings, the Clerk mentioned that a whole new IT system should be investigated in preparation for the new Clerk..

The Clerk mentioned that the Fun Fair were very appreciative for being allowed to stay on the Recreation Ground longer to allow for the flooding to go down.

Cllr Skelton reminded members that the crocus planting will take place 24<sup>th</sup> October.

66/20 **Date of next meeting 9 November time Summerlin Centre 2.30pm**

Meeting Closed 4.31 pm