

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held by Zoom on Monday 18 January 2021 at 2.30p.m.

Present Councillors:	Cllr M Geddes (in the chair) Dr J Rae, D. Hopkins, C. Cowmeadow, P. Farrant J. Green, J. Jeffreys, P.Skelton, R. Lanyon-Hogg
Clerk	Mrs A Jordan, Mrs L Stapleton
Apologies	None

89/21 **Town Mayor's Announcements**

1. Cllr Geddes welcomed Alison Jordan, the new Town Clerk
2. Asplands Surgery started vaccinations on Thursday until Sunday and will continue every day from Tuesday 19th to Sunday 24th moving onto the 70+ age group. They are providing vaccination service for two other surgeries which has caused more traffic than usual. Initially this caused issues but Wood Street residents have been handling it very well and thanked them
3. MKC is due to repair a pot hole on Wood Street next week, Cllr Hopkins will ask if this can be postponed
4. So far the vaccination programme is running smoothly

90/21 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jeffreys: regarding the request for Bow Brickhill Road name plates (96/20)

91/21 **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020 had been circulated, approved and signed as a true record

92/21 **Progress Reports**

a Clerk Report

1. Hand over training from the outgoing Clerk to the new Clerk
2. Setting up the new laptop and having appropriate Microsoft Business software installed. Awaiting BT to complete. There is an unavoidable cost of £9.40 plus VAT per month, which will be incorporated in BT's monthly bill. Issues still to be resolved with Dell
3. Hosted a zoom meeting regarding CCTV in Woburn Sands
4. Attended an East West Rail meeting regarding the level and pedestrian crossings via Microsoft Teams
5. Together with the Clerk and Cllr Rae have been preparing to interview candidates for the Clerical Assistant post. The interviews will be by Zoom
6. Collating the WSTC newsletter
7. BT will be installing software on Wednesday, all our information and emails will be backed up, however, please be aware there will be a period of time when our emails won't be working. This will probably only be a couple of hours but if you need to contact the office urgently or need a reply the same day please phone
8. Traffic problems due to coronavirus vaccinations taking place at Asplands Surgery

b. SEMK / Level Crossing

Cllr Hopkins reports he contacted Davina Millership (Head of Highways) regarding the school crossing meeting last Friday but there has been no update yet. Davina Millership has emailed regarding the vaccinations; Asplands Surgery should liaise with MKC Highways regarding dates and extra traffic from Fishermead and Walnut Tree patients coming here for vaccinations, but to date she has not been able to speak with Asplands. Cllr Geddes said if the line is being electrified, as Will Gallagher said at meeting on 14.01.21, this would have major implications on cost. Cllr Hopkins said Will Gallagher skirted some of his questions and did not appear to know the answers.

93/21 **Unitary Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hopkins spoke with Peter Marland (Leader of MKC) who says the consultation regarding SEMK is going ahead as scheduled; 12 week from February to May to be published in January. Cllr Geddes suggested a public meeting to discuss this. Peter reminded the council in December's minutes Cllr Hopkins informed us the Head of Highways would try to attend a virtual meeting, so would February's meeting be appropriate to attend? Cllr Geddes suggested having SEMK as a focus at our next TC meeting and then invite the Head of Highways to the March meeting. Cllr Jeffreys said we don't have to wait for the TC meeting but could have a single item meeting at any time.

94/21 **Planning**

Notification from Milton Keynes Council of the following applications:

- a. *20/03320/FUL Two-storey extension to existing care home to create a total of 14no. additional bedrooms and two lounge/dining areas, two kitchenettes, a first-floor balcony along with additional parking spaces (re-submission of 20/02016/FUL) at:
Burlington Hall Care Home
WSTC observations are that there must be a condition clarifying use and access to spaces behind gates, and the continual removal of mature trees on the site as crucial to the conservation area statement the gates

*20/03319/FUL A resubmission for change of use of part of the existing car park and convert it into a hand car wash/valeting centre at:
Frosts Garden Centre
Details are needed regarding the traffic flow within the garden centre for the use of this car wash facility

*20/03401/FUL A single storey extension to waiting area
Asplands Medical Centre
No objections to the minor extension

*20/03295/FUL Demolition of existing building and erection of single dwelling with associated works
73 Newport Road
Town Council support this application
- b. **Notification of Decisions made from Milton Keynes Council**
Nil
- c. **Central Beds Planning Application (not officially notified)**
CB/20.04714/ADV New signage at
Deep Blue Fish and Chip Shop
We would not be happy with any increase in light pollution at this site
- d. *21/00001/FUL Four small retail units plus a dog grooming business
no objection
- e. Cllr Skelton to comment on Waste and Recycling consultation
- f. Cllr Skelton to respond to Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation on 28th Jan

95/21 **CCTV**

Justin is open to our suggestions, perhaps return to this in April and Councillors can offer suggestion before then. Cllr Skelton suggests the more focused input of a smaller sub-group. Cllr Geddes thought this might complicate the issue, suggests waiting until April. Cllr Jeffreys says there is no need to wait but could send suggestions to the Clerk prior to the next meeting.

96/21 **Request for Name Plates for Bow Brickhill in Woburn Sands**

Cllr Geddes said this is a MKC responsibility and we should write back asking them to consider it at their next budget meeting. The Tidbury Close sign is broken and needs a permanent repair. Cllr Jeffreys asked if the Clerk can investigate the cost of a sign for Club Lane/Greens Court.

97/21 **SID Report (circulated)**

The report shows a high number of drivers speeding. Cllr Skelton said it is very serious and we need to do more. Cllr Farrant pointed out that the speed signs on Newport Road are not clear the pole signs and painted road signs can appear conflicting. Cllr Skelton Suggested we ask the police to have speed checks more often. It was confirmed in the meeting that the speed camera on Station Road does work.

98/21 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Geddes suggested three councillors could revisit the Neighbourhood Plan and there is now more procedure and guidance that when the first one was produced. He asked anyone willing to volunteer should get in touch with him by May.

99/21 **Budgets for 21 – 22 and PRECEPT**

The effect of differing % increase in Council Tax on Provisional 2021/22 Budget had been circulated for information. Cllr Geddes proposed agreeing on a reasonable increase rather than discussing all budget items.

MKC are proposing a 3% increase, most councils proposing the maximum allowed of 5% (there is no maximum for parishes). Cllr Geddes asked for all councillors to say their preferred increase. Cllr Skelton enquired if the 21/22 budget included the funding uplift required to cover our additional landscaping responsibilities divested from Milton Keynes Council in their budget cuts. Cllr Rae's proposal is on the basis that everyone is increasing their budgets. Cllr Cowmeadow said if we do not increase much this year will have to in future years, it is prudent to increase more than the bare minimum to avoid larger increases in another year. He also said we cannot keep using reserves, a reserve should be approximately half the precept to avoid questions from the auditors.

Councillors were asked what the maximum increase would be acceptable.

Cllr Geddes 4% Cllr Farrant: 2.5% Cllr Green: 2.5% Cllr Jeffreys 2.5% Cllr Skelton 3.5% Cllr Rae 3.5 – 4% Cllr Cowmeadow 4.02% Cllr Lanyon-Hogg 3%

Cllr Geddes then asked for Councillors to agree on **3.5%**.

It was **RESOLVED** to increase the precept by 3.5%.

It was **RESOLVED** to use £19,000 from reserves.

Cllr Rae explained the Young Environmentalist event cannot go ahead this year so she would like the money to go into a reserve for future use on this project. The Clerk said the £1500 had already been budgeted for this.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve precept for 21/22 £139,420

Cllr Geddes suggested meeting to agree a future financial strategy, over three or four years, and returning to this matter in March or April. Agreed by Cllr Cowmeadow.

100/21 **Future meetings**

WSTC meeting for February and March will continue by Zoom, the third Monday at 2.30pm but could return to the second Monday at 7.30pm. Use of remote meeting to be reviewed as covid regulations allow.

101/21 **Notification of Urgent Decisions that have been made.**

Microsoft Office upgrade to Business 365. This means The Clerk's emails will be out of use for a short time on Wednesday morning. A new computer/lap top has been budgeted for at £1000

102/21 **Finance**

- a. To consider and approve payments on list enclosed.
- b. A list of payments had been circulated and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise all payments and duly signed by 2 Councillors.

103/21 **Councillor's reports and items for next agenda**

Cllr Jeffreys suggested an additional newsletter to communicate SEMK info to residents while to office is closed to the public. Cllr Geddes agreed.

Cllr Lanyon-Hogg asked for clarification of the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the SEMK plan. Cllr Hopkins attempted to clarify the difference between the SEMK plan (a strategic plan over 12 years) and the Neighbourhood Plan (looking in more detail at Woburn Sands) but poor reception interrupted his answer.

Cllr Skelton updated the meeting on the Climate Change Group. Wavendon are keen to collaborate.

Consultation is postponed until after the SEMK consultation. They will be responding to the cycling and pedestrian consultation of 30th January.

104/21 **Date of next meeting 2.30pm 15th February 2021 by Zoom.**

Meeting closed: 3.35pm