

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 9 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Councillors C Palmer (Chair)
 T Morris
 S Hemmings
 V Harvey
 E Wallace
 D Bowater (Vice-Chair)

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 M Jahn, Committee Officer
 S Sandiford, Deputy Town Clerk
 G Borelli, LB First

Joining Remotely: S Hughes, Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council
 L Salmon, Head of Cultural & Economic
 Services
 M Coiffait, Chief Executive, Central Bedfordshire
 Council
 Cllr R Berry
 Cllr R Goodchild
 I Haynes, Head of Grounds & Environmental
 Services.

Members of the public: 3
Members of the press 0

196/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodwell, Owen, Stock, T Humber (Community Forum) and C Andrews (Beds Rural Community Charity).

197/LLP DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harvey declared a personal interest as a member of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth and Councillor Palmer as a member of the Friends of Leighton Linlade in Bloom.

198/LLP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

There were no questions from members of the public.

199/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 8 December 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 8 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

- (b) Updates from the previous meeting would be covered during the meeting.

200/LLP FUTURE OF THE HIGH STREET

This item was brought forward for discussion from item 8 (Standing Items) on the agenda.

The Committee received an update in respect of the Land South of the High Street from Marcel Coiffait, Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council. It was confirmed that the principal authority would commence a public consultation on potential scenarios for Land South of High Street on 10 March 2023, to run until 2 June 2023. The findings would then be reviewed and processed with a report to be presented to the Central Bedfordshire Executive in October 2023. During the consultation window, two public open sessions would take place in Leighton Buzzard, with a further two on-line engagement sessions to also take place.

The major challenge with this land would be the need to balance deliverability and value, with the amount of land available and the many and varied potential uses of the site. It was confirmed that the consultation was based only on the land in the ownership of Central Bedfordshire Council.

It was felt this was an opportunity for the town to get together and look at best possible outcomes for this site to provide something positive for the public. Committee members looked forward to the consultation but disappointment was expressed that the town council had not been involved prior to the consultation being made public.

Thanks were given to Marcel Coiffait for attending the meeting and it was hoped Central Bedfordshire Council and Leighton-Linslade Town Council could move forward working collaboratively with this project.

201/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council on matters relating to the parish, including information in respect of social care, health and housing, crime figures, antisocial behaviour, business rates, car parking, transport matters, community services, waste, schools, public health and services to young people. Examples of recent projects included health and wellbeing activities, courses and workshops to help unemployed people back into work and a waste reduction and engagement programme. There has also been a good number of commercial property enquiries.

A question was raised regarding whether Town Council vehicles could be granted access to the Tidy Tip if picking up fly-tipped rubbish whilst working in and around the parish.

There were concerns expressed regarding the online portal for highways issues ("Fix-my-Street") and the length of time it took to complete repairs across the Leighton-Linslade area. A question was raised regarding the removal of the unloading area on Hockliffe Street which had resulted in local businesses being ticketed when taking deliveries or unloading. It was confirmed that a new contractor would be taking over the Highways work at the beginning of April and it was hoped the standard of work would improve.

RESOLVED to note the information.

202/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

The Committee received and considered the objectives and work plan for the municipal year 2022-2023.

RESOLVED to note the report.

203/LLP LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT LIST

The Committee received the Leighton-Linslade Town Council Partnership Project List with updated town council comments as of February 2023. As a working document, this would continue to be reviewed and revisited.

RESOLVED to receive the document.

204/LLP STANDING ITEMS

(a) Taxis

Concerns were raised regarding the condition and poor quality of the taxis in Leighton Buzzard and whether there were minimum standards and a code of conduct for the drivers which should be adhered to. Licensing advice would be sought.

The committee was reminded that a possible site for relocation of the taxi rank had been visited approximately eight months ago but there had been no progression since this meeting. Members agreed the site near the multi-storey car park would be preferable to having idling taxis next to a restaurant in the High Street where outside tables were used during the warmer months. This would also be followed up with Licensing.

It was confirmed there were no powers to limit the number of taxis in the High Street. Although there were only four spaces allocated for them at present, there were often more vehicles waiting and this caused them to park in inappropriate places such as on yellow lines and disabled spaces.

(b) Future of the High Street

The question of signage issues in the High Street was raised, especially regarding overnight car parking which continued to cause operational problems on market days.

(c) Land South of the High Street

This agenda item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

(d) CBC Councillors Updates

Councillor Harvey advised that following recent legislation green areas within Leighton Buzzard would be entitled to funding from developers to enhance these areas. The Countryside Access Team would manage any projects required.

Councillor Wallace spoke of the issues along Vandyke Road since the new road had been opened without a width restriction. This had caused an increase in traffic with larger vehicles using an already narrow and busy street. The speed limit should be reviewed and reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph and the enforcement of this limit and parking in the area followed up. It was hoped to see progress with these problems in the coming months.

(e) LLTC Councillors Updates – no updates given.

(f) Updates from co-opted members

G Borelli of LB First spoke to welcome the new Head of Cultural & Economic Services at the Town Council and looked forward to working with her to promote good ideas for the town. He felt there was a positivity around the town for businesses with lots of success stories and increasing demand for micro-units and start-up units.

(g) Community Forum – no updates given.

205/LLP ITEMS FOR REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

The Committee was made aware of the problems encountered with parking on cycleways/pedestrian paths around Kestrel Way. It was confirmed that parking on a pavement would be a police issue and could be dealt with by enforcement especially if the parking caused people to have to walk in the road.

A question was also raised regarding the adoption of roads on the new southern developments. Both these issues would be escalated to the appropriate Central Bedfordshire Council department.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 9 MARCH 2023.

Chair

15 JUNE 2023