



**Central Milton Keynes Town Council  
Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
At Centrecom, 602 North Row, Central Milton Keynes**

**Present:** Rebecca Kurth (Chair)  
Andre Brady (from item 1)  
Hilarie Bowman  
Ramo Erdogan  
Linda Inoki (from item 7)  
Andrew Thomas  
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Ken Baker

**In attendance:** Thomas Walker and 1 member of the public (Michael Blackwell)

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1	<p><b>Apologies &amp; Declarations of Interest</b> No additional declarations of interest were made.</p> <p>Michael Blackwell was invited to speak from the floor and outlined his background, expressing his desire to be considered for the vacant position within the Town Council. He was thanked for the information provided and the Town Council agreed that co-option would be considered at its May meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Brady arrived at this juncture.</p> <p>At this juncture Councillor Thomas referred to tabled items relating to the Shopping Area SPD consultation and the draft CMK Transport and Parking Strategy, requesting that an additional item be added to the agenda to consider the way forward with regard to the substantial consultation documentation. The Town Council agreed to consider this additional matter in item 15.</p>	PC
2	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes of the Town Council meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed as such by the Chair.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising &amp; Outstanding Items</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>Updates to the action sheet were agreed, as follows:-</p> <p>Item14/047- the Clerk reported that he had not been able to secure a date for a meeting. It was agreed that the item be deferred until after the election, and carried forward to June.</p> <p>Item 14/074- The Clerk advised that the Lessons Learnt exercise had yet to be completed, but was expected in the next few weeks. It was agreed to carry forward the item to the June meeting.</p> <p>Item15/002- Invoice sent- awaiting receipt of monies. If not reflected in the</p>	

	<p>statement balance in April the Clerk to chase.  Item 15/004- Actions pending.  Item 15/005- Completed.  Item 15/007- Outstanding. It was agreed that this item should be considered further in September.  Item 15/008- Completed.  Item 15/013- Completed.  Item 15/014- Completed.  Item 15/015- Informal meeting to be arranged in June by Chair.  Item 15/016- Completion date remains 14 May 2015.</p>	
4	<p><b>CMK Street Warden Update</b>  The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Clerk to clarify the reference to 'ten trees having been inspected which appear 'dead and unsightly'.'</p> <p>The Town Council agreed that it would be beneficial to use some of the images in the Street Warden's report and accompanying narrative in the 'news' section of the website. The Communications Officer was asked to extract items from the report on an ongoing basis for incorporation within the website.</p>	TW
5	<p><b>Finance paper</b>  The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>Anticipating the receipt of the first tranche of the 2015/16 precept shortly the Clerk was requested to enquire whether the current interest-bearing account would yield a higher rate of interest with a greater balance.</p>	PC
6	<p><b>Projects Update</b>  The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.</p> <p>The projects were reviewed:-</p> <p><b>PP14/001 Allotments</b>  The paper under item 10 refers.</p> <p><b>PP 14/002 Residents' Questionnaire</b>  Final detail to be placed on Google Drive by the next meeting.</p> <p><b>PP14/004 Adelphi Street Footpath</b>  Project closed.</p> <p><b>PP14/008 Community Facilities Working Party</b>  The paper under item 14 refers.</p> <p><b>PP14/010 CMKTC Notice Boards</b>  Members agreed that work should be commenced on this project. After some discussion three courses of action were discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replace the Perspex in the existing noticeboards if possible.</li> <li>- Explore alternative models for replacement of existing boards.</li> <li>- Consider additional locations.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk of noticeboards elsewhere in MK which they feel have greater impact. Additionally, larger noticeboards and those with the capacity for sponsorship on the exterior were also to be considered.</p> <p>The Clerk to produce a report for the next meeting, liaising with Councillor</p>	PC

	<p>Baker accordingly.</p> <p><b>PP14/011 CMKTC Strategic Plan</b> Deferred until September for further consideration.</p> <p><b>PP15/001 Litter Bins</b> The paper under item 7 refers.</p>	
7	<p><b>Litter Bins</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>Councillors expressed concerns that agreeing to the recommendations on the paper would indicate that in the eyes of the residents their views that additional bins were required had been ignored. After some discussion it was agreed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A small number of lamppost fitted bins be purchased, and if possible badged by the Town Council. These bins would be sited in one area, to be determined by the number of requests for additional bins within the survey. Whilst they are in situ the Street Warden would be asked to focus on that area, assessing usage and awarding 'on the spot' fines for abuse. Usage of the bins would be monitored over the pilot period and if they did not appear to have been actively used the bins would be relocated into another area to repeat the process.</li> <li>- Additionally, it was agreed that the issue of litter bins was placed on the agenda of the next Residents' Forum meeting to be held in June.</li> </ul>	PC/RH
8	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting 2015</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that this year there would not be a separate open meeting for residents linked to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council. However, it was felt that an open residents' meeting, which would perform this function, should be held in the autumn. It was further agreed that the date should be set to fall no more than two weeks after the autumn newsletter had been sent to residents, possibly mid- October.</p> <p>The Clerk to prepare a short paper for the next meeting providing an outline for the meeting.</p>	PC
9	<p><b>Community Activity Support Awards 2015-2016</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that the name of the scheme should be 'Community Activity Support Grants'. It was also agreed that grants should ideally not exceed £500 and that the address for submission should be that of the Office.</p> <p>The Clerk to make amendments and forward to the Communications Officer for insertion on the website.</p>	PC
10	<p><b>Allotments</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The proposal was agreed that the sum of up to £500 be allocated to facilitate the engagement of Marcus Young Landscapes to undertake a review of the non-development land within the parish, primarily Parks Trust green frame land, and provide a report on the viability of moving forward with a scheme to establish allotments. The Chair also requested that within the review the possibility of raised beds be considered if the land is not of itself suitable.</p>	

	The Clerk was also requested to contact Neil Sainsbury to request a copy of the Land Categorisation Plan for CMK to assist in this process.	PC
11	<p><b>MKALC</b> The paper, as previously circulated, were noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Town Council pay the annual membership fee of £115 to have a voice in the association. The substantial nature of the Town Council in the eyes of other parishes was noted.</p>	
12	<p><b>Parish Partnership Fund</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Clerk was requested to circulate examples of previous grants to all councillors for their information.</p> <p>The Clerk was also requested to diarise to January 2016 to ensure that councillors are able to consider potential schemes prior to the papers being released from MKCouncil. The Clerk did note that the scheme is renewed annually and may not be continued in future years.</p>	PC
13	<p><b>Play Area Improvement Scheme</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that she had alerted the CHRA of the existence of this stream of matched funding.</p>	
14	<p><b>Report from Community Facilities Working Party</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The following observations were made by the Chair:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The paper is not seeking to commit the Town Council, but to give confidence to the Working Party to move forward.</li> <li>- The project will entail the Town Council undertaking financial risk.</li> <li>- The proposals currently being pursued could see the need, over time, for precept to be increased by some 30%.</li> <li>- The option of a pre-school would provide an income, but leave the space available for residents and other users to access late afternoon, evening and weekends.</li> </ul> <p>Observations from councillors included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This project would result in the Town Council taking on a space considerably greater than it needs.</li> <li>- A firm commitment from a pre-school would be required prior to entering into any agreement to lease the space.</li> <li>- The precept increase is significant in percentage terms.</li> <li>- Legal advice throughout the process is essential, and will be expensive.</li> <li>- A community radio station could be housed in the space.</li> <li>- By voting for further work to be undertaken on the proposal the Town Council is not precluding other options.</li> </ul> <p>A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In principle to pursue the proposed option</li> <li>- In principle to engage a legal advisor within a budget of £5k.</li> </ul>	

15	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee 25 February 2015</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>At this juncture the Head of the Planning Committee, Councillor Thomas, drew councillors' attention to the two consultation documents, as tabled.</p> <p>He referred to an email which he had sent to all councillors recently alerting them to the need to develop a strategy for addressing the proposals within the two documents. He noted that the CMK Shopping Area SPD was the more urgent of the papers as the formal consultation on the document closes on 2 June.</p> <p>By contrast, the CMK Transport &amp; Parking Strategy is only an informal consultation. However, he indicated that the comments received at this informal stage would be integrated into the substantive document.</p> <p>Councillor Thomas noted that each document contained a great deal of information and whilst their having recommendations which could be supported, there were also a number of significant areas of concern for the Town Council. Because of this he suggested that assistance was sought in developing a response to the consultations, noting that in both cases substantial comments have already been submitted upon which more detailed arguments can be constructed.</p> <p>It was noted that the SPD would need to be withdrawn and reconsidered if the Business Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum, but that time was against the Town Council to determine a response in event of an unsuccessful referendum vote.</p> <p>Councillor Thomas proposed the following way forward:- Contact be made with Dominic Lawson and Motion to enquire how much it would cost to engage both to formulate the Town Council's responses to the consultations. He stressed that in his view the two documents needed to be considered together to produce a coherent approach. He noted that any work undertaken in respect of the SPD would be of value irrespective of the referendum outcome.</p> <p>A vote was taken and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chair of Planning move forward to discuss provision of responses to both consultation documents with both Dominic Lawson and Motion.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the cost of engagement should not exceed the sum allocated within the budget for planning advice and that the total sum sought (within guidelines as outlined) should be authorised by the Town Council by way of an email vote.</p>	AT/PC
16	<p><b>Step by Step Guide How to report Issues to MKCouncil</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p>	
17	<p><b>Licensing Application</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p>	
18	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.22pm</b></p> <p><b>The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at Centrecom and will be preceded by the Annual Meeting.</b></p>	