Central Milton Keynes Town Council

Meeting held on 7th January 2021

by Zoom videoconference

Present:
Rebecca Kurth (Chair)
Andre Brady
Linda Inoki
Gill Kirkup (to item 21/012d))
Andrew Thomas
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

Apologies:
Amir Chahardehi
Oya Discombe
Thomas Walker

Absent:
Ramo Erdogan

In attendance: None

21/001 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Chahardehi and Discombe and Thomas Walker

21/002 – Declarations of Interest

None.

21/003 - Ratification of Minutes of the Town Council meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on 3rd December 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

To be signed as such by the Chair at a future face to face meeting.

21/004 - Clerk's Report on Outstanding Items

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

Updates to the action sheet were agreed, as follows:

Item 19/073- Mark on to March
Item 20/003- Mark on to March
Item 20/008- It was agreed that Thomas Walker prepare a response to the Gear Change and Cycle Infrastructure Design consultations. This should be a composite high-level response to be submitted by 30 January. To enable this Thomas to circulate bullet point observations and convene a Zoom meeting prior to that date for councillors, and the final submission to be subject to Chair's Action.

ACTION: TW to prepare response for submission by 30 January

Item 20/009- Closed
Item 20/017- Closed
Item 20/018- Closed
Item 20/023- Mark on to March
Item 20/024- Mark on to April
Item 20/030- Closed

21/005 - Representations from the Public

No members of the public were present.

21/006 - Finance Paper

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

21/007 - Forward Plan Monitoring Sheet

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

21/008 – Arts and Culture Strategy

The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor Inoki spoke to this item, noting that the exercise was complex and engaged a number of stakeholders. It was felt that the process had gone well, with support from Simon Wright, and that co-operation from MKCouncil had been welcomed. This has provided councillors with a closer understanding of the views of MKCouncil Officers.

The process has developed new ideas as well as refining and adding greater weight to ideas that have been discussed for some time.

Councillor Thomas commented on the amount of work that has gone into this exercise. He requested that notes of sub-group meetings be shared informally with councillors.

ACTION: RK/LI- Arrange to share notes of sub-group meetings with councillors

Councillor Kirkup expressed her disappointment with the report, noting that there had been no substantial engagement with residents with regard to options.

Councillors Inoki and Kurth agreed in principle that residents would need to be engaged at some point in the process, but that this would be best to feature later in the process. It was felt that the completion of Phase 2 would best inform viable options, which could then be put to residents for their input.

The Strategy was approved, subject to engagement with residents at a future stage.

ACTION: SW- The Phase 2 report should include a clear evaluation of how projects could deliver for residents, and how/when they will be engaged in the process.

21/009- Arts and Culture Phase 2 Feasibility Studies

The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.

The Chair spoke to the paper, noting that the task and finish sub-groups as outlined would prepare feasibility reports, exploring high level delivery plans.

MKCouncil has agreed to provide data on potential venues. The Digital and Light Circuit sub-group will be led by the Town Council and Thomas Gray.

She noted that Andrew Morphet would, as part of his agreed project manager work, provide secretariat and project manager support for the venues work.

Councillor Kirkup expressed concerns that the proposed sum to develop the thinking further was too great. It was noted that the sum requested for this work was an 'in principle' allocation and subject to further consideration by councillors in due course.

Councillors observed that if the Town Council did not 'pump prime' this work it would not happen. The benefit of the sub-group model is that the Town Council is working with MKCouncil. It was agreed that joint working is the best way of getting things done.

After further discussion, all four recommendations were agreed unanimously, as follows:-

£5,000 for Thomas Gray to assist the Digital and Light Art Circuit from the 2020/21 budget.

£4,000 for Simon Wright to provide admin/project management support from the 2020/21 budget.

£2,000 for Simon Wright to continue admin/project management support from the 2021/22 budget.

A further £10,000 was agreed 'in principle' from the 2021/22 budget to support further feasibility work and early delivery work as required, subject to Town Council approval of the detail.

21/010 – Newsletter Production

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

The target dates for receipt of newsletters from the printers were agreed.

The Chair observed that 'hit rates' on the website had declined during 2020 and expressed a hope that rates would increase once residents receive the current newsletter.

ACTION: PC-Dates for receipt of newsletters to be included in action log.

21/011 – MHCLG Consultation on Permitted Development

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

It was agreed that Thomas Walker be requested to prepare bullet points for consideration by councillors. Councillor Thomas agreed to provide support. To enable this Thomas to circulate bullet point observations and convene a Zoom meeting prior to that date for councillors, and the final submission to be subject to Chair's Action.

ACTION: TW to prepare response for submission by 28 January

21/012- Dog Bin Installation update

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

It was agreed that no further action be taken at this time.

21/013- Items for Information

a) Licensing application- Urban Dhaba
The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

b) Town Council response to Strategy 2050 consultation
The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

The Chair noted that she had spoken at Cabinet reflecting the Town Council's concerns. The decision has now been referred to the Placemaking Scrutiny Committee, where those who spoke at cabinet have been invited to speak.

c) Action Plan 2021-2031
The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

d) Budget Update for Action Plan
The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

Councillor Kirkup left the meeting at this juncture.

e) Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement
The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

At this juncture the Chair request that Clerk arranges a Zoom meeting with the MKCouncil Finance Officer to discuss this year's precept calculation.

ACTION: PC to arrange meeting

f) Parishes Forum Meeting Minutes 10 December 2020
   i) LCTRS presentation
The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.

The meeting closed at 7.37pm.

The next scheduled meeting is the Budget meeting, to be held on Thursday 21 January 2021 by videoconference

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 11 February 2021 by videoconference

Appendix to Minutes of Meeting of CMK Town Council on 7 January 2021

Cheques:-	
BMKALC	£ 83.10
Simon Wright	£1,666.00
Sammy Jones	£ 900.00
Thomas Gray	£1,250.00
Eagle Printers	£1,266.00
Debit card items:-	
Vonage	£ 10.25
Google	£ 55.20
	£ 1.59
Tsohost	£ 5.99
NEST	£ 72.94
Royal Mail	£ 14.76
Microsoft	£ 79.99
Cartridge Save	£ 100.03
Monthly Standing Orders:-	
Salaries	£1,925.00
MK Community Properties	£ 518.84