



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

held on

Monday 11 November 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Covington (Chair), Cllrs J Reynolds (Vice Chair), M Covington, R Gilbert and the Clerk.

Also present: Ward Cllrs Hosking and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Stainton and Ward Cllrs P Geary and Mclean.

2. Declarations of Interest Relating to Matters on the Agenda.

None received.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 14 October 2019 were agreed subject to paragraph in 4 on being amended to 'speed camera signs' would be fitted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

4. To Consider the Proposals Develop a Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr J Covington introduced the item and summarised that the Parish Council had considered this in the previous year and had decided at its meeting on Monday 13 November 2017 (Minute Page 634) to not continue with preparing a Weston Underwood Neighbourhood Plan at that time but to keep the matter under review.

It was reported that at 9 October 2019 meeting of the Parish Council , Ward Cllr P Geary had advised that the Milton Keynes Council 5-year land housing supply estimate had been reduced following 2 recent planning successful appeals which had impacted on the validity of Plan:MK.

In view of this information and the impact it may have on the possibility of large planning application being submitted within the village boundary, Cllr Gilbert suggested that it would be timely to review the 2017 decision and start a conversation to consider developing a Weston Underwood Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk circulated a response that she had received from MKC Planning that advised that MKC were currently in the process of challenging, via Judicial Review, the appeal which concluded that it did not have a 5YHLS. MKC was also maintaining its position that it could demonstrate a land supply of 6.42 years, as outlined in its June 2019 annual report. This was the position that MKC were taken in decision making with regards to planning applications for residential development.

Cllr J Covington (Chair) indicated that to review the Weston Underwood previous decision could attract speculative planning applications from developers, and as far as he was aware, there were 5 sites within the village boundary that could come forward.

Cllr Reynolds indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan was not a guarantee that there would not be developments on other sites that were not included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr M Covington indicated his concerns that the recent Neighbourhood Plan Referendum at North Crawley had not been successful and had caused division within that community. Cllr M Covington also indicated that the central part of Weston Underwood was in a conservation area that was currently being reviewed by the MKC Conservation Officer.

The Parish Council heard from Ward Cllr Hosking who indicated that the Ward Cllrs view was that Neighbourhood Plans offered protection against speculative planning applications and gave local examples. He also advised that a Neighbourhood Plan maybe too late for the current 5 YHLS issue, but it if one was in place than only a 3 YHLS was required for that particular Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Hosking also suggested that Chris Akrell of Town Planning Services, who had assisted Ravenstone Parish Council with their Neighbourhood Plan, be invited to the January 2020 Parish Council meeting to summarise the process, resources available and next steps.

The Parish Council also heard from 2 residents who indicated that they might put sites forward should a Neighbourhood Plan be progressed, as there may not be opportunities to do this once the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted, that there was a need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be reviewed every few years, that development in the village to date had been gradual and that further sites could come forward during reviews.

Resolved: That Chris Akrell of Town Planning Services be invited to the January 2020 meeting.

Action: Clerk

Proposed Cllr M Covington, Seconded Cllr Reynolds - All in Favour

5. To consider the Clerk's Report

1. To Consider the Proposals from MKC to Reduce Speeding Issues in Weston Underwood.

Application submitted, however MKC advised that although the application details were included on their website, the deadline for 2019 /20 was earlier in the year and this had now been amended.

2. Call for Evidence for Milton Keynes to be the Greenest City task & Finish Group seeking feedback from business, communities and Schools contact Roslyn.tidman@milton-keynes.gov.uk Deadline for evidence 31 January 2020
3. What's On at the Cowper and Newton Museum December 2019
4. TVP Weapons Sweeps Training 21 November 3-4-m at Civic Offices
5. MKC Emergency Planning Flooding Report

10. Report on the Alcove and Grounds Maintenance.

1. The Clerk reported that that no bookings had been received.
2. Cllr M Covington advised it had been quiet and that there had been little rubbish left.

11. Ward and Parish Councillor Items

1. Ward Cllr Hosking reported that there had been an incidence of Travellers at the Emberton Park layby and that they had now left and the site was now secure.
2. Cllr J Covington reminded those present that the Parish Council Christmas Tree light switch on would take place on Sunday 1 December 2019.

13. Open Forum

Ward Cllr Hosking responded to a question from a resident about a road closure on Olney High Street that had caused considerable disruption, that he had contacted the MKC Head of Highways about this issue.

14. Next Meeting

The Parish Council noted that the next meeting would be 13 January 2020 at 8pm.

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.