

ITEM 2
PARISH/NEIGHBOURHOOD
CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY
9 DECEMBER

Minutes of the meeting of the MILTON KEYNES PARISH/NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY held on THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 1999 at 7.15 pm

- Present:**
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Councillor K Wilson | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Seymour | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor White | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Mabbutt | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| | | |
| K Sisson | - | West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council |
| A Laing | - | West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council |
| M Franklin | - | Lavendon Parish Council |
| D Pafford | - | Campbell Park Parish Council |
| A Francis | - | New Bradwell Neighbourhood Council |
| J Buxton | - | Stantonbury Parish Council |
| A Dnes | - | Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Council |
| D Labbett | - | Great Linford Parish Council |
| J Geary | - | Hanslope Parish Council |
| I Fraser | - | Campbell Park Parish Council |
| R Nix | - | Central Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Council |
| C Vaughan | - | Haversham-cum-Little Linford Parish Council |
| J Jeffreys | - | Woburn Sands Town Council |
- Officers:** A Prockter (Landscape and Countryside Manager), P Robinson (Corporate Policy Officer) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)
- Apologies:**
- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| G Mann | - | Emberton Parish Council |
| J Marling | - | Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton Neighbourhood Council |
| R Newth | - | Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council |
| D Scarland | - | Newport Pagnell Town Council |

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Milton Keynes Parish/Neighbourhood Consultative Assembly held on Thursday 24 June 1999, were received.

2.0 BEST VALUE

The Assembly received an update from the Leader of the Council on the latest developments relating to Best Value for Local Authorities, and its implications for Parish and Neighbourhood Councils.

It was noted that all but one of the local councils in Milton Keynes would be below the threshold of £500,000, and would be exempt from the full duty of Best Value. However, Parish and Neighbourhood Councils were encouraged to adopt the principles of Best Value. Representatives were asked whether they would like to receive training in the principles of Best Value. It was felt that, although the larger Parishes and Neighbourhood Councils might benefit from such training, it would probably be inappropriate for the smaller councils to be involved.

RESOLVED-

1. That larger Parish and Neighbourhood Councils be consulted over the type of Best Value training which they would like to receive
2. That the report be noted

3.0 PARISH PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Assembly noted the initial comments received on the consultation over proposals to review the arrangements for the awarding of grants from the Parish Partnership Fund.

It was felt that consideration should be given to the very smallest of councils being asked to meet a smaller proportion of grants than at present, because of their difficulties in paying for larger projects.

The Assembly agreed any proposed changes to the scheme would not be implemented until 2001/2002, to allow for full consultation on the proposals.

It was noted that a number of Council had yet to respond and it was agreed that further responses from local councils would still be welcomed. Detailed consideration of all the responses would be given at the Assembly's next meeting.

4.0 LOCAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE - 11 SEPTEMBER 1999

The Assembly received a report on the Local Councils' Conference, and welcomed the initiative as an opportunity for locals councils to share information and ideas. The Assembly formally thanked staff for their efforts in organising the day's events which had been so successful, and those who agreed to speak at the Conference. A Conference report was in the process of being prepared and would be circulated to all Local Councils in the near future. It was further noted that those attending had expressed the wish for the Conference to become an annual event.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM

The Assembly noted that, after concerns had been raised that the Sustainable Transport and Road Safety (STARS) Forum meetings were largely dominated by special interest groups, a paper had been sent out to Local Councils setting out a number of options for consideration.

It was reported that there had been no responses to the consultation, and it was agreed that this issue would be deferred to the December meeting of the Assembly.

6.0 LETTER MONITORING

The Assembly noted figures for response times to correspondence received by each Directorate within the Council from the public. It was noted that particular difficulties arose when letters were sent to departments on more than one subject, resulting in only one aspect of the letter being properly addressed. In such instances, Local Councils were urged to contact the monitoring officer in each Directorate who had responsibility for co-ordinating responses.

7.0 ITEMS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS

(a) The Local Government Review for Milton Keynes

Concern was expressed by West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council that the Council had yet to finalise its submission regarding the review of Parish arrangements within Milton Keynes. It was reported that there was still some work to be undertaken on preparing the submission, but that it was hoped that it would be available for final consultation in the near future.

It was noted that the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils had offered its help in ensuring that the submission was made at the earliest opportunity.

(b) To consider the funding of maintenance costs of projects funded by Parish Councils on Milton Keynes Council Property

The Assembly agreed that, as no representative from Woughton Parish Council was able to be present, the issue would be deferred to the December meeting of the Assembly.

(c) Identifying Parish Council Precept on Council Tax Bills

The Leader of the Council reported that the Council's Policy and Resources Committee had considered a proposal whereby the Parish Council precept would be shown separately from Milton Keynes Council precept on the Council Tax bill. It was noted although there would be difficulties that would need to be overcome, the proposal was generally supported by those present. All Local Councils would be consulted on the proposals in the near future.

9.0

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Assembly noted that the dates for meetings of this Assembly for the remainder of 1999/2000 were as follows:

9 December 1999

9 March 2000

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8:57 PM