



Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2018 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Marland (Chair).
Councillors Legg, Long, Nolan, Middleton, O'Neill and Priestley.

Officers: P Simpson (Corporate Director Resources), D Sharkey (Corporate Director Place), M Heath (Acting Director of Children's Services), V Collins (Acting Director of Social Services), M Kelleher (Service Director [Housing and Regeneration]), S Richardson (Service Director [Finance and Resources]), P Cummins (Acting Service Director [Legal and Democratic Services]), E Nickless (Head of Homelessness Prevention and Housing Access) and S Muir (Committee Manager).

Apology: Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Also Present: Councillors R Bradburn, Crooks, Ferrans, Jenkins, Morris and Walker and 11 members of the public

C101 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Nolan announced, with reference to the Walnuts Residential Home, that it was part of a local authority maintained school but was separately registered with Ofsted. As such, the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice required the Council to regularly monitor its structures and arrangements to ensure they continued to be appropriate.

Councillor Nolan continued that, with reference to the recent informal consultation at the Walnuts Residential Home which was to explore if the residential provision should continue, a routine OFSTED inspection of the home had taken place which had graded the home as inadequate. OFSTED had issued timelines for concerns to be addressed and planned to return for a further inspection in December 2018.

Councillor Nolan indicated that, as a result, it was not her view that it was the right time to move to a formal consultation to close the residential home. Once the residential home had been judged to be at least adequate, a formal consultation might then be considered.

Councillor Nolan also indicated that through the informal consultation, the Council had heard from families who were concerned about the immediate impact of any closure and worried about whether the children currently resident would be forced to move. The Council did not want anyone to move unless it was in their best interests to do so. Therefore

the plan was to consult on any closure after Autumn 2021 (when the youngest child currently resident would be aged 16). Meanwhile, she had requested that no new children became permanently resident at the home.

C102 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

C103 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Long disclosed a non-prejudicial interest in Item 13 (General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, and Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme Forecast Outturn Report for Quarter 2) in respect of Tickford Park Primary School and in connection with his employment as he dealt with Age UK.

C104 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) Question from Mr D Lee to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Marland thanked Mr Lee for his questions with reference to the 20 day response deadline for Freedom of Information requests that referred to a response under Freedom of Information which stated that the no data was kept for the response times to 996 requests. Mr Lee asked what measures were in place to ensure the legal requirement was met and what evidence could be produced to show compliance.

Councillor Marland clarified that data was kept about response times. All Freedom of Information requests were logged onto a system called REACT and data, including the length of time it took to respond to a request, whether individual or overall, could be reported.

Councillor Marland clarified that the Council had a target of disclosing information requested within 20 working days in line with statutory requirements. On the occasions where longer than 20 days was taken, this was generally agreed with the applicant. Freedom of Information performance was reported on a quarterly basis to both the Council's Information Governance Board and the Corporate Leadership Team for oversight and action if necessary.

In response to a supplementary question when Mr Lee asked about responses to his Freedom of Information requests that had not been received within the target deadline period, Councillor Marland indicated that information about any specific Freedom of Information request should be addressed to the appropriate Service Area.

- (b) Question from Mr Weller to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Mr Weller, with reference to a recent report in the press, asked Councillor Marland to clarify the Council's position on an alleged £15m error in the Council Accounts and the alleged overcharging by Mears of £80,000 a month which could amount to another £2m since the Mears contract was agreed in 2016.

Councillor Marland thanked Mr Weller for his question and indicated that he could confirm that the Council had received an allegation from a third party and the information was passed to Council's external auditors who had been asked to investigate.

Councillor Marland stated that it would therefore not be appropriate to comment further until the auditors had completed their investigation.

In response to a supplementary question, when Mr Weller requested that the documents for this be made public by 31 December 2018, Councillor Marland indicated that relevant documents would be made available as necessary.

- (c) Question from Mr Bobey to Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration).

Councillor Long thanked Mr Bobey for his question with reference to the responses to the two consultations on the Housing Revenue Account and the Housing Strategy, when he asked what the target response time was for these submissions, and when, in these particular cases, would a response be provided to the submission from the Residents of Regeneration Estates, which had asked for a formal and detailed reply on each. Mr Bobey added that no formal response had yet been received.

Councillor Long indicated that all the responses would be shared after the consultations had closed and all the submissions had been assessed.

- (d) Question from Mr Dunn to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Mr Dunn, with reference to rough sleepers at Station Square and the large amount of personal belongings they had, asked Councillor Marland why nobody seemed to be sorting this out because it was not a very good first impression for those arriving in Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland thanked Mr Dunn for his question and indicated that an operation had taken place on 2 November 2018 at Station Square, to engage with the two known rough sleepers who regularly bedded down at the station, and actively support both with access to accommodation and to store or remove, with their permission, the personal items they did not need. This had involved the Homelessness Prevention and Waste Services Teams and

Serco, following lead up work by the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team.

Councillor Marland also indicated that the Council was hopeful that following the work of the Outreach Team, both individuals would be ready to go into accommodation and facilitating this by the end of that week had been discussed with them. The Council was optimistic that it could support these individuals into accommodation and with continued support to settle. There would also be some follow up work at the Station once this had been achieved, to prevent any further rough sleeping and items being kept there for the purpose of rough sleeping or begging.

In response to a supplementary question from Mr Dunn who indicated that there were also rough sleepers in other parts of Milton Keynes, Councillor Marland indicated that officer colleagues were aware of rough sleeping issues in other areas of Milton Keynes and were investigating these.

(e) Question from Mr Francis to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Mr Francis, with reference to recent statements that the population of Milton Keynes was set to expand to 500,000 by 2050, indicated that this would have an even bigger impact on the area than the original 1967 Plan for Milton Keynes had, would affect a far larger number of people and asked if the Council planned to consult with residents about the proposed expansion and if so, when?

Councillor Marland thanked Mr Francis for his question and indicated that that aspiration to increase the population to 500,000 had been included in the Council Plan 2016-2020 and also that work was underway with regional partners, neighbouring local authorities and Government to prepare a Strategic Growth Study to examine the impact of a potential population of 500,000 by 2050. It was anticipated that this would assist the Council to effectively plan infrastructure such as roads, transport, schools and health provision to support the long term growth and future development of Milton Keynes.

In response to a supplementary question from Mr Francis who indicated that he hadn't seen any evidence of consultation, Councillor Marland indicated that the aspiration to expand Milton Keynes was part of the Administration's manifesto and had been considered at several Council meetings including the Cabinet meeting on 5 June 2018 (Minute C25 refers) as part of the six monthly update of the MK Futures 2050 Programme; Project One of the Six Big Projects, included in the Milton Keynes Council Plan at the Council Meeting of 19 July 2018 (Minute CL33 refers), and at the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee of 17 October 2018.

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor Crooks to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

In response to a question from Councillor Crooks who requested that the submission of the Housing Infrastructure Bid to Government be delayed until March 2019 in order that submissions from the Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group Workshops could be included, Councillor Marland indicated that he would investigate with the Acting Director of Policy, Insight and Communications if delaying the submission of the bid to the March 2019 deadline would have any adverse effects.

- (b) Question from Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Nolan (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

In response to a question from Councillor Jenkins with reference to the announcement about the Walnuts Residential Home referred to at Minute C101 above, Councillor Nolan agreed that the announcement would be circulated.

- (c) Question from Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet Member for Resources and Innovation)

In response to a question from Councillor Jenkins with reference to the parking provision in the industrial area at Caldecotte which was previously considered at the Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2018 (Minute C77 refers), when residents advised that inadequate parking provision on land had resulted in employees parking on the neighbouring residential area, Councillor Middleton indicated that to learn what was needed and to try and find solutions, a meeting would be set up, inviting the Ward members and representatives from the Parish Council, with himself and the Corporate Director Place.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Middleton indicated that he recognised the need to include a more strategic approach to issues that might develop along Brickhill Street if further development took place.

- (d) Question from Councillor Walker to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, who asked with reference to the proposed expansion of Milton Keynes to 500,000 residents where the mandate for this originated, Councillor Marland referred to his response at Minute C104 above and added that some of the potential 500,000 population was growth outside the borough by neighbouring local authorities that would impact on services and infrastructure in Milton Keynes.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Marland indicated that consultations and surveys on this topic had not been ruled out.

- (e) Question from Councillor R Bradburn to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

In response to a question from Councillor R Bradburn with reference to the proposed expansion of Milton Keynes to 500,000 residents and requesting that all the facts be made clear, Councillor Marland referred to his previous answers and indicated that he would be happy to meet with the local MPs to discuss the issue.

C106

REFERRALS FROM HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Cabinet considered referrals from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 September 2018.

The referrals were presented by Councillor Jenkins who summarised the issues that included:

- discharge from Hospital - Procedures and Discharge Planning (Home1st Service);
- alcoholism in Milton Keynes;
- integration of Social Care Services (Milton Keynes Council) and Health Services (Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group); and
- Healthwatch Annual Report 2017/18.

Councillor O'Neill, the responsible Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, thanked Councillor Jenkins and the Health and Adult Social Care Committee for its work and indicated that work was ongoing in most of the areas highlighted, and with reference to the Home1st Service, changes in funding were not expected.

Councillor O'Neill added with reference to Alcoholism in Milton Keynes, that she would be meeting with Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss this further and that the figures quoted by the Health and Adult Social Care Committee evidenced that putting financial support into public health issues at an early stage successfully saved money in the longer term.

Councillor O'Neill also indicated with reference to integration with the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group, both the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group were committed to this but it was a complex process that would take time to progress to ensure that it worked well. Councillor O'Neill added that a report with reference to this had been sent to the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group that day.

With reference to the surplus of £20k that Healthwatch was holding in its reserves, Councillor O'Neill indicated that she was aware of this and the remaining funds were yet to be drawn down from the Council.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Marland during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

That the referrals be noted.

C107

BUDGET AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23 OCTOBER 2018

The Cabinet considered the referral from the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 23 October 2018 that was introduced by Councillor R Bradburn (Chair of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee).

Councillor R Bradburn outlined that during October 2018 the Committee held three focused meetings where it met with and received presentations from Cabinet members and the Council's senior budget holders to review, scrutinise, and form judgements on the financial environment as part of the development of the 2019/20 budget and the Financial Sustainability Plan 2019/20– 2021/22.

Councillor R Bradburn summarised the findings of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee and indicated that the guidelines issued to all those involved had worked well and the standard of information provided this year was much improved. Business cases had been produced for the identified pressures which were supported by technical details and evidence gathering. This information had improved the discussions and allowed more time for the Committee to discuss strategic aspects.

Councillor Bradburn gave examples of the areas that were causing most areas of concern and possible measures to improve which were typified by:

- Place Directorate, in future, the Committee would like to see more robust analysis and stringent modelling applied to any large, technically complex projects such as the Residual Waste Treatment Facility and evidence of this included in business cases before they are added to the draft budget.
- In Growth, Economy and Culture, the Committee would like to see more rigour applied to the undelivered savings from previous years during the preparation of budget proposals, to ensure that any savings targets remain realistic.

Councillor R Bradburn also indicated that as a result of the strict budget measures taken by the Council over the past few years, it was better placed than many local authorities with regard to its financial situation

Councillor Middleton, the responsible Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation, thanked Councillor R Bradburn and the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee for its work and indicated that the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee Challenge meetings had been open and honest, and that most of these had taken place before the October 2018 Government budget announcements. These announcements would be incorporated in the Council's draft budget that was scheduled for consideration at the December Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Middleton also indicated that a detailed written response to the referral would be included at the 4 December meeting of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Marland who thanked all those concerned for their work to improve the budget setting process.

RESOLVED -

1. That the referral be noted.
2. That a detailed written response to the report of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee be submitted to the 4 December 2018 Cabinet meeting.

C108

DRAFT HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

The Cabinet considered approving the draft Housing Allocation Scheme and consultation which was introduced by Councillor Long, the responsible Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration.

Councillor Long reported that the current Allocation Policy was adopted in 2007 and was now out of date. The current Policy effectively incentivised applications under Part VII of Housing Act 1996 (i.e. homeless applications) as the route to social housing in Milton Keynes. This resulted in higher temporary accommodation costs and increased demands on the Council

Councillor Long also indicated that a 12 week consultation on the draft Allocation Policy would be carried out following which the policy will be brought back to Cabinet for adoption, having taken account of the consultation responses.

The Cabinet considered the alternative option to do nothing but recognised that the current Allocation Policy was out of date and required amendments to ensure it was compliant with legislation. Additionally, the current policy was not effective in managing homelessness and risked an increase in the use of temporary accommodation.

Councillor Long also indicated that the draft Allocation Policy had been developed to ensure that the allocation of social housing in Milton Keynes was made to those in greatest need, and to give applicants a clearer and more realistic view of their chances of being allocated social housing. The new Policy supported the creation of a housing register and aided the option to implement Choice Based Lettings.

Councillor Long further indicated that it was anticipated that the Policy would offer more protection to those who rented accommodation in the private sector and give more choice on the allocation of housing.

Councillor Long clarified that all the proposals that came forward during the consultation process would be thoroughly investigated and the final Allocation Policy would be brought back to the Cabinet for adoption.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Ferrans during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That a 12 week consultation on the draft Housing Allocation Policy be agreed.
2. That it be noted that following the consultation, a final Allocation Policy would be referred back to the Cabinet for adoption.

C109

MAKING THE CAMPBELL PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Cabinet considered recommending that the Council make the Campbell Park Neighbourhood Plan, which was presented by Councillor Legg, the Cabinet member for Customer Services.

Councillor Legg indicated that at the referendum held on 11 October 2018, there were 991 votes in favour of making the Neighbourhood Plan and 155 against. Under the changes to S38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, following a successful referendum, a Neighbourhood Plan came into force as part of the statutory development plan. The Plan was required to be made (brought into force) by the local planning authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.

Councillor Legg also indicated that if the Council agreed the Neighbourhood Plan, notification of the decision would be sent to Campbell Park Parish Council, and published by this Council to bring it to the attention of people who lived, worked or carried out business in the neighbourhood area.

Councillor Legg also congratulated Campbell Park Parish Council for its work in preparing and submitting the successful Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Cabinet recommends to Council that it makes the Campbell Park Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and that:
 - (a) a decision document setting out the results of the referendum and the Council's decision to make the plan, and the Campbell Park Neighbourhood Plan be published on the Council's website and in other means, to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area; and
 - (b) the decision document and details on how to view the plan be sent to the qualifying body (Campbell Park Parish Council) and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.
2. That Campbell Park Parish Council be congratulated.

C110

**THE MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19
PROGRESS REPORT**

The Cabinet considered an update on the Council's Business Plan 2018/19 which was introduced by Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council.

It was reported that the revised Council Plan 2016 - 20 was adopted by the Council on 20 June 2018 (Minute CL33 refers). The Delivery Plan, which formed part of the revised Council Plan, was a comprehensive overview of key milestones and targets to deliver the commitments that reflected the Council Plan priorities and set out actions that covered the one year period.

It was also reported that the Business Plan included performance indicators, management information and timely updates that it was anticipated would be used to report progress against the priorities to Cabinet. The service planning process would be reviewed to ensure all the key priorities were reflected and the appropriate performance information was collected for reporting and monitoring purposes.

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council was not required to have a Business Plan framework, but by having one meant that progress against the delivery of the revised Council Plan could be monitored quarterly.

Councillor Marland also indicated that the Local Government Association Peer Review Challenge had taken place between 1- 4 October 2018 and an action plan was being prepared detailing the Peer Group's findings.

The Cabinet also heard from one member of the public during consideration of the item

RESOLVED -

That the progress on the implementation of the Council Plan Business Plan be noted.

C111

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT,
DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME
FORECAST OUTTURN REPORT FOR QUARTER 2**

The Cabinet considered the General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme Forecast Outturn Report for Quarter 2 that was presented by Councillor Middleton, the Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation.

It was reported that General Fund Revenue Account indicated:

- (a) an overspend of £1.350m; (compared to £2.778m overspend in the previous quarter);
- (b) the General Fund Revenue Account planned savings of £11.171m had been delivered (64% of the annual savings target) and by 31 March it was forecasted that £15.302m savings would be achieved (88%), leaving a shortfall of £2.034m in planned savings. This had

been reflected in the forecast overspend above (an increase of £0.218m since Quarter 1);

- (c) the Housing Revenue Account was currently forecasting a break even position by 31 March 2019 compared to a £0.123m deficit in Quarter 1). This forecast included no unplanned use of reserves;
- (d) the Dedicated Schools Grant budget was set with an estimated surplus carry forward into 2019/20 of £0.067m, the forecast position at Quarter 2 was reporting a surplus carry forward of £1.999m;
- (e) as at the 30 September 2018, the Capital Programme was showing:
 - an overall forecast £556.814m compared to budget (of which £114.448m in 2018/19) which was a £2.887m underspend; and
 - £45.785m projected re-phasing into later years.

It was also reported that the changes required to the Capital Programme had resulted in a revised Capital Programme for 2018/19 of £162.43m and spend approval of £145.005m.

It was also reported that the Council was responsible for the management of the Milton Keynes Tariff, which was a forward funding mechanism to deliver infrastructure in the expansion areas of the borough. It was anticipated that the impact of the proposals would result in a revised Tariff Programme for 2018/19 of £37.50m; with the total spend approval for these contributions at £20.43m and a forecast outturn of £19.655m.

Councillor Middleton summarised that the General Fund Revenue Account Council was reporting a projected overspend of £1.350m at the end of September, which had reduced the General Fund balance to £18.326m. This was above the minimum level of reserve of £15.427m approved for 2018/19 and therefore the Corporate Leadership team was working with managers to mitigate overspends and reduce costs. Within this, one-off funding had been received for Adult Social Care winter pressures which had specific grant conditions that were being assessed and therefore had not been included in the current forecast.

Councillor Middleton also indicated that simplified information had been included with reference to the projected adverse and favourable impacts of the General Fund Account variances which it was anticipated would improve scrutiny of these. 88% of savings had already been delivered although a further £25m of savings were required up to 2021.

Councillor Middleton also summarised that, the forecast outturn for the Capital Programme compared to budget for both the projects as a whole, and the 2018/19 position, was an overall underspend of £2.887m. Although several projects had been slipped, other projects had been approved which included:

- a 12 form of entry Secondary School at Whitehouse for which a contract had been awarded, and also planning permission had been obtained for the Whitehouse Health Facility.
- A principle contract being awarded for the A421 improvements which were scheduled to commence in April 2019 with a completion programmed for autumn 2020.
- A CMK multi-storey Car Park for which Planning approval had been granted, and the award of the contract was imminent.

With reference to a question from a member of the public requesting clarification of Lakes Satellite Sites, Land Value Enhancement of £919k, Councillor Middleton indicated that a written response would be supplied.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Long and 2 members of the public during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the General Fund Revenue Account forecast outturn of £1.350m overspend be noted.
2. That the forecast outturn on the Housing Revenue Account break even be noted.
3. That the Dedicated Schools Grant surplus carry forward of £1.999m be noted.
4. That the forecast outturn spend on the Capital Programme of £556.814m total project of which £114.448m in 2018/19 be noted.
5. That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2018/19 capital programme be approved.
6. That the overall funding position for the 2018/19 capital programme be noted.
7. That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approvals for the 2018/19 tariff programme be approved.
8. That the current position of the 2018/19 tariff programme be noted.
9. The debt performance as at 30 September 2018 be noted.

C112

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019/20

The Cabinet considered the Council Tax Base and Business Rate Baseline proposals for 2019/20, which was introduced by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation).

It was reported that the Local Government Finance Act 2012, required billing authorities to make calculations and supply information on their anticipated collectable business rate income for the following year.

It was also reported that the Business Rates Baseline 2019/20 would be included with the draft budget report to Cabinet at its meeting in December, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992

and related Statutory Instruments which required the Council to set its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year by 31 January 2019.

Councillor Middleton clarified that the 2019/20 funding contribution to parish and town councils was proposed at £530,000 and would be recommended to Council for approval as part of the final Budget in February 2019.

Councillor Middleton highlighted that the Council was continuing to support parish and town councils; if the funding had been reduced in line with the Revenue Support Grant reductions to this Council, the funding contribution to Parish and Town Councils would have been reduced to a total of £0.070m.

Councillor Middleton indicated that in implementing the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the Council had invested in a discretionary fund currently set at £100k to help those Council Tax payers affected by the change to create and promote easier ways to pay. As a result, collection rates were better than initially predicted, helping to maintain the overall collection rate at 98.4%. Additionally, by continuing with the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20, this would maintain the maximum level of Council Tax support for working age claimants at 80%.

RESOLVED -

1. That the 2019/20 Tax Base be set at £84,876.77 Band D equivalent properties.
2. That the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2019/20 be set at 1.6% producing an expected collection rate of 98.4%.
3. That the proposed 2019/20 funding contribution to parish and town councils of £530,000, be recommended to Council for approval as part of the final Budget in February 2019.
4. That the distribution methodology to be used to allocate funding from Milton Keynes Council to parish and town councils be approved.
5. That the Council be recommended to continue the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as adopted by the Council on 17 January 2018, for 2019/20, with amendments that reflect changes to related benefits and to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations; retaining the delegation to the Corporate Director Resources to make technical legislative changes.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.51 PM