



Minutes of the meeting of the MILTON KEYNES PARISH/NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY held on THURSDAY 24 JUNE 1999 at 7.15 pm

- Present:**
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Councillor K Wilson | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor B Gibbs | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Seymour | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Mabbutt | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Long | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| | | |
| G Mann | - | Emberton Parish Council |
| K Sisson | - | West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council |
| J Marling | - | Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton
Neighbourhood Council |
| J Jeffreys | - | Woburn Sands Town 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 Scarland | - | Newport Pagnell Town Council |
| R Newth | - | Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood
Council |
| D Labbett | - | Great Linford Parish Council |
| J Geary | - | Hanslope Parish Council |
| R Nix | - | Central Milton Keynes Neighbourhood
Council |

Officers: A Prockter (Landscape and Countryside Manager), P Robinson (Corporate Policy Officer) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

- Apologies:**
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor Bartlett | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Hopkins | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| Councillor Tapp | - | Milton Keynes Council |
| | | |
| I Fraser | - | Campbell Park Parish Council |
| P Waterman | - | Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Council |
| R Seymour | - | Gayhurst Parish Meeting |
| K Sidebottom | - | West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council |

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Milton Keynes Parish/Neighbourhood Consultative Assembly held on Thursday 11 March 1999, were received.

The Assembly noted that I Fraser had attended the first meeting of the Crime and Community Safety Partnership, and would circulate a report to Members once she had had an opportunity to digest all the information.

RESOLVED -

That a report of the Crime and Community Safety Partnership would be an agenda item for the December meeting of the Assembly.

2.0

BEST VALUE

The Assembly received a presentation on the likely timetable for the implementation of Best Value for Local Authorities, and its implications for Milton Keynes.

It was noted that the Council had run best Value Pilot projects in four areas and that five further pilot areas would follow in 1999/2000. Guidance still remained unclear about the level of exemption from Best Value for the smaller local councils. However, the Government had indicated that it would be issuing an order in September/October on this subject.

Concern was expressed that, although Best Value could lead to an improvement in public services, there were also potential problems. In particular, it was noted that the concept was flawed if it was not equally binding to all parties involved in the service.

The Assembly noted that the pilot review of landscape maintenance had been received positively and would be completed by September 1999. Although it presented a challenge to the way the Council operated, the Assembly noted that Best Value would help to drive change.

3.0

PARTNERSHIPS - LOCAL COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

The Assembly noted that meetings had been held between Milton Keynes Council and representatives of the two Bletchley Neighbourhood Councils, in order to discuss their concerns about the Bletchley Partnership Board. It had been agreed at that meeting to talk further when a constitution had been formalised for the Partnership, and the outcome of the Single Regeneration Budget bid was known.

4.0

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM

The Assembly noted that, at its last meeting, concerns had been raised that the Sustainable Transport and Road Safety (STARS) Forum meetings were being largely dominated by special interest groups. Local Council representatives felt that the Forum was not one they would wish to share with pressure groups.

The Assembly received a paper which set out a number of options for consideration. These included restructuring the STARS Forum to enable more detailed consideration of Local Council issues, referring transport and road safety issues to this Consultative Assembly, or arranging a separate meeting for Local Councils on these issues.

The Assembly agreed that the paper should be circulated to Parish and Neighbourhood Councils for their consideration, and brought back to the Assembly at a future meeting.

5.0 COMPLAINTS - SIX MONTHLY REPORT

The Assembly received six monthly monitoring report detailing the concerns expressed by Local Councils and the action taken by Milton Keynes Council to address those concerns.

6.0 LOCAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE - 11 SEPTEMBER 1999

The Assembly noted that a conference for local councils would be held on 11 September and that a letter had been sent to all Parish and Neighbourhood Councils inviting them to send representatives, and to contribute to the organisation of the day.

7.0 PARISH PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Assembly noted that application forms for the Parish Partnership Fund had been circulated to local councils, and that the deadline for submission of completed applications was 30 July 1999. It was further noted that a consultation document on future criteria for applications to the Parish Partnership Fund would be circulated shortly.

Some members of the Assembly continued to express their concern that the criteria for receiving funding discriminated against smaller local Councils, and expressed the wish for a re-consideration of Parish Partnership Fund. There was general consensus that any review of the criteria should not be rushed and that it would be preferable to schedule any changes to come into effect from 2000/01.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

The Assembly noted that an Environmental Panel was expecting to increase its membership. Amongst other things, the Panel addressed issues relating to the waste site at Newton Longville. It was likely that two representatives of local councils would be invited on the Panel, and recommended that at least one of these come from one of the Bletchley Neighbourhood Councils, as this was the area closest to the waste site.

RESOLVED -

That Jeanette Marling from Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton Neighbourhood Council, and one representative of West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council, be the local Councils' representatives on the Environmental Panel.

9.0

ITEMS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS

(a) Waste Strategy Bulk Skips

Concern was expressed by local Councils at the planned phasing out over the next 2 years of the bulk skip service. It was considered that this was a very valuable service which made a major contribution to the prevention of dumping and fly tipping. The Assembly noted that this service was also under external pressure to be withdrawn because of the Council's inability to 'police' each site to the standard required by the Environment Agency.

The Assembly noted that a number of alternative arrangements were being piloted in order to meet both the requirements from the Environment Agency and the demands for the service.

(b) Responding to Correspondence

The Assembly noted that representatives of MKALC had expressed their concern at the delay in responding to correspondence. It was noted that, in some circumstances, the consequences of such delays could be extremely serious for local councils, such as delaying opportunities for applying for Parish Partnership funding.

The Assembly agreed that current statistics on response times and performance data be presented to a future meeting.

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:

16 September 1999

9 December 1999

9 March 2000

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.07 PM