

Woughton Community Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom Video Call and Facebook Live.

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Elina Apse, Janette Bobey, Tina El-Shabrawy, Margaret Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Phillip Hopcraft, Luke Louis, John Orr, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Lauren Townsend, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

Also present: Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer), Tash Darling (Youth Manager & Safeguarding Lead), Steve McNay (Council Manager), Samone Winsborough (Responsible Financial Officer / Operations Manager).

In attendance:

Cllr Carole Baume (Woughton & Fishermead Ward – Milton Keynes Council).

FC 231/21 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Ruth McMillan (Unwell).

Cllr Terri Page (Work commitment).

AGREED

FC 232/21 Declaration of interests:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 233/21 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020 were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

FC 234/21 Chair's Announcement(s):

The Chair said that she had been asked that the meeting wishes Jean, who is the Caretaker of the Coffee Hall Meeting Place and is unwell, a speedy recovery, a bunch of flowers has been delivered to her.

NOTED

FC 235/21 Questions from the public:

There were no questions from the members of the public.

NOTED

FC 236/21 Ward Matters arising:

Cllr Jordan Coventry said that he had recently attended a meeting of the Eaglestone Residents Association, who mentioned dog waste bins, and who felt were in the wrong locations, there was a request for the installation of a dog waste bin on the redway on Golden Drive that leads to the Milton Keynes University Hospital.

Cllr Coventry asked that Woughton Community Council considers this request, and he mentioned that the contractors emptying the dog waste bins were driving onto the grassed areas and were churning them up.

The Council Manager responded that there will be a paper at the next Services & Communities Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 26th January 2021, that will be suggesting that locations of dog waste bins are considered, and some bins could be relocated nearer to pathways to ensure contractor vehicles do not have to go on to the grassed areas.

Cllr Phillip Hopcraft mentioned about a park on Coffee Hall where contractor vehicles had churned up the grassed areas, some wood chippings had been laid, but it is getting worse as the vehicles keep driving over them.

Cllr Hopcraft said that he has informed the Council Manager about this, also he mentioned about the amount of litter and the condition of the roads in Coffee Hall, especially at the end of Chapter where there is a lot of pot holes.

The Chair informed Cllr Hopcraft that it is unlikely that Milton Keynes Council will fill any pot holes in until the icy weather has passed, as this normally creates the problem in the first place, but none the less this matter needs to be looked in to at a later date.

Cllr Brian Hepburn said that he had already spoken to the Council Manager about contacting Milton Keynes Council to find out who is responsible for the alley ways on Beanhill, would it be left to the Beanhill Residents Association or Woughton Community Council to do something.

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting that there is a budget from Milton Keynes Council that has been allocated, for remedial works to the alley ways, for example the members of the residents association laid down chippings to the rear alley ways on Tinkers Bridge.

Cllr Tina El-Shabrawy responded that there is money from the public realm budget that has been applied for and that there is an April deadline for the money to be spent, otherwise the money would not be allocated, and that it is all in hand.

The Council Manager suggested that he will contact Milton Keynes Council to find out if there are any future plans as regards the alleyways.

Cllr John Orr said that there is problems with vehicles parking on the grass verges, there a van on Tinkers Bridge that has churned up some of the grassed areas, photographs have been taken and it has been reported to Milton Keynes Council and Woughton Community Council, residents are saying nothing is being done about it,

the area is getting worse, the holes are filling up with water and is turning into a swamp, it just seems no one has the authority to be able to do anything.

The Chair replied that there are no laws being broken unless a vehicle is causing an obstruction, but this matter will be looked into and contact will be made to Thames Valley Police.

Cllr Liz Simpkins said that the whole of Milton Keynes is covered by a by law that prevents vehicles from driving onto grassed areas, all residents need to do is raise a petition, which has happened in Bletchley and other areas of Milton Keynes, and send to Milton Keynes Council, which would mean parking on a grassed area would be an offence.

The Chair responded that there are certain criteria's that have to be met such as the number of residents that have to respond which is not easy to obtain.

Cllr Jeanette Bobey informed the meeting that there had been some flooding at the ends of the redway between Netherfield and the Milton Keynes University Hospital, it was caused by a burst pipe, it has been fixed but the problem has reappeared again the contractors though have ruined the grassed areas, especially the area from the Milton Keynes University Hospital into Netherfield next to the local centre the grassed area has turned into mud, contractors should repair the damage caused.

The Chair asked the Council Manager to progress this matter with Milton Keynes Council.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson said that she has contacted Anglian Water about the flooding at the end of Broadlands on Netherfield, this has been addressed but it is up to Milton Keynes Council to repair the grassed area, but they cannot put seeds down due to the recent wet weather, any flooding in this area is due to surface rain water, it is now trying to find the right contact to get something done, the Council Manager has been copied in to keep an eye on things.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson also said that fly tipping is rife on Netherfield at the moment, it has been evidenced that a lot of it has been by residents, but also from people not living on Netherfield, all lights in the garage areas are not working and has been reported numerous times, but nothing is being done and does anyone have any ideas on how to get these lights fixed.

Cllr Phillip Hopcraft asked why Milton Keynes Council are still having booked slots at the Waste Recycling Centres as it takes two or three days to get one, when other centres outside of the Milton Keynes area do not, so this must be causing increased fly tipping.

The Chair said that she would look into the matter.

Cllr John Orr said a homeowner on Tinkers Bridge had concreted over Council owned land for additional parking purposes during the last week, but has not had the chance to report this incident yet.

The Chair asked Cllr Orr to provide details and send to the Council Manager to deal with.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council Manager to contact Milton Keynes Council to find out if there are any future plans as regards the alleyways.
2. That the Council Manager to contact Thames Valley Police about inconsiderate parking on grass verges on Tinkers Bridge.
3. That the Council Manager to contact Milton Keynes Council about damage to grassed areas when contractors have repaired burst water pipes.
4. That the Chair to contact Milton Keynes Council about the implications of fly tipping due to the difficulty in getting booked slots at suitable times at the local Waste Recycling facilities.

FC 237/21 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

- a) Woughton Welfare Trust - Cllr Elina Apse – A meeting will be shortly taking place and feedback will be provided at the next Full Council meeting.
- b) MKALC - Cllr Elina Apse, Cllr Sue Smith – MKALC will be looking into how to increase diversity in the Parish and Town Council sector.
- c) Parishes Forum - Cllr Janette Bobey, Cllr Sue Smith – The next meeting will be held on the 12th March 2021, at the last meeting discussion centred on the preparations for Covid-19, and potential financial support for those Parish and Town Councils that are managing leisure centres.

NOTED

FC 238/20 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

Planning, Licencing & Development - 21.12.20.

NOTED

FC 239/21 To update the committee on the stance of the budget as at Quarter three (3) up to the 31st December 2020:

The Responsible Financial Officer updated the meeting on the stance of the budget as at quarter three (3) up to the 31st December 2020.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

FC 240/21 To update the meeting on the details of the 2021/2022 budget consultation and any updates about projected income:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the Priorities and Budget Consultation feedback received.

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the report and attached information.
2. That Council considers this feedback when deciding on the Service Plan, budget and precept level for the year 2021/2022.
3. That Council agrees to the Council Manager providing a response to the specific elements noted in the feedback, where appropriate, providing this to council in February 2021 for publication in the Woughton Gazette in March / April 2021.

FC 241/21 To agree the draft 2021/2022 budget:

The meeting agreed the 2021/2022 Budget and Precept.

The Responsible Financial Officer recommended a 7% increase which amounts to £577,811 (a circa £3000 increase), this is to cover a loss of income and effects of using reserves due to Covid-19.

A significant amount of work has already taken place on cost and efficiency savings where possible.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Committee agrees to the proposed budget for 2021/2022.**
- 3. That the Committee agrees to the recommended precept for 2021/2022 of an increase of 7% which amounts to £577,811 (a circa £3000 increase).**

FC 242/21 Update on the 2021/2022 Annual Service Plan:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the proposed 2021/2022 Service Plan for agreement.

There has been proposed the following additions to the service plan:

- Work with the principal authority to address the issue of rats across the parish, focusing on education and direct responses.
- Additions made from previous meetings, that include post Brexit work, grit and salt bins evaluation and provision.

Otherwise, the plan remains the same as that previously discussed at the last Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council notes the report and version four (4) of the Service Plan.**
- 2. That Council makes any final additions / adjustments.**
- 3. That Council ratifies the document as the final Service Plan for the 2021/2022 council year.**

FC 243/21 Update on the impact of current Covid 19 restrictions and additional risk management proposals:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the impact of current Covid-19 restrictions and additional risk management proposals.

Significant concerns remain around the continued opening of the Community Fridge this is, in part, to do with the vulnerability of some staff members, the noncompliance of some people attending the fridge and the recent infections of fridge staff at both Great Linford and Conniburrow community fridges (which share the same delivery method and staffing structure).

With the new national lockdown in force, alongside high infection rates across the city, there are concerns about the risk to officers, councillors and the public so a further review of risk management and service delivery has taken place.

Further adjustments have already been made with regard to the Landscape Team who have been extremely conscientious about compliance, both whilst outside working and when visiting the offices. This includes provision of further sanitisers, allocation of specific tools and further sanitisation at the end of each shift and further PPE provision (additional face coverings to enable a full weeks worth per operative, reducing the 'single use' waste).

The adjoining door to Coffee Hall Meeting Place will be opened to enable the Landscape Team to have access to both toilets and other equipment / space to ensure safety and wellbeing.

The Hub is currently closed, and staff are working from home.

Public Health have confirmed that staff will not be prioritised for the vaccine even if the Community Council paid for vaccines.

Milton Keynes Council have said staff are not covered for a lateral flow test taking place at the Central Milton Keynes Library.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council notes the report.**
- 2. That Council agrees to weekly reviews within the Senior Team.**
- 3. That Council agrees that if necessary, further restrictions on service delivery are put in place.**

FC 244/21 Update on the Salt / Grit bins and specifically regarding the Eaglestone area:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on Salt / Grit bins, specifically regarding Eaglestone.

Following a request from some residents, investigations have been taking place into the costs of provision and filling of grit bins across the parish.

The cost is up to £100 which is considerably less than the provision for a dog waste bin.

The Council Manager will circulate the grit bin location map to all Councillors.

Grit bins that have been removed due to building works or vandalism should be replaced by Milton Keynes Council.

The Chair said that Cllr Emily Darlington Cabinet member for the Public Realm needs to be asked to replace these grit bins.

The Council Manager asked the Coffee Hall Ward Councillors to look around Leadenhall and suggest locations for additional grit bins and identify ones already there.

Cllr Brian Hepburn offered to use the map and take photographs of each of the grit bins.

Cllr Jordan Coventry asked that the Environment Officers look around the area on a regular basis to ensure all grit bins are in good condition and to report any that have been removed or vandalised.

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the report.
2. That Council agrees to further exploration of costs for provision of grit and whether this can be managed via the principal authority.
3. That a further paper comes to either Full Council or Services & Communities Committee once these issues are clarified.
4. That the Council Manager to circulate the grit bin location map to all Councillors.
5. That the Chair to write to Cllr Emily Darlington Cabinet Member for the Public Realm asking for those grit bins removed due to building works or vandalism be replaced.
6. That the Coffee Hall Ward Councillors to looked around Leadenhall and suggest locations for additional grit bins and identify ones already there.

FC 245/21 to agree the October, November and December 2020 Bank Reconciliations:

The meeting agreed the October, November and December 2020 bank reconciliations, and the Chair said that she will sign them off on behalf of Woughton Community Council.

RESOLVED

That the meeting agrees the October, November and December 2020 bank reconciliations and to be signed off by the Chair on behalf of Woughton Community Council.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 8th February 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom Video Call and live on the Woughton Community Council Facebook page.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:44PM

Chair _____ Date _____