

Woughton Community Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom Video Call and Facebook Live.

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

Also present: Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer), Steve McNay (Council Manager).

FC 246/21 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Terri Page (Work commitment).

AGREED

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

Cllr Tina El-Shabrawry was not in attendance or gave her apologies.

Cllr Lauren Townsend was not in attendance or gave her apologies.

NOTED

FC 247/21 Declaration of interests:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 248/21 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021 were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

FC 249/21 Chair's Announcement(s):

The Chair said that following press reports about Ms Shammi Akter, if anyone from the media gets in contact with any Member, they are to simply say no comment and that she is no longer a member of Woughton Community Council.

The Chair informed the meeting that nationally there has been a take up of over 91% of 80 plus year olds who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 which was more than the Government had expected.

The Chair asked Members and the public to look out for vulnerable residents in their community and to see if they need anything during this very cold spell.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Donna Fuller for recently being selected as the Labour Party candidate for the Woughton & Fishermead Ward as Cllr Hannah O'Neill has decided to stand down at the next local elections in May.

NOTED

FC 250/21 Questions from the public:

There were no questions from the members of the public.

NOTED

FC 251/21 Ward Matters arising:

The Chair informed the meeting that the items raised at the previous meeting are being progressed.

Cllr Jordan Coventry reported to the meeting that the Secretary of the Eaglestone Residents Association has reported over seventy (70) incidents of fly tipping on Eaglestone to Milton Keynes Council.

The Council Manager was asked to find a contact at Milton Keynes Council's Environmental Crime Unit to deal with fly tipping.

The Council Manager was also asked to investigate why residents are having to report fly tipping to SERCO and the Environmental Helpline.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson informed the meeting that she has been having difficulties in progressing an area of open space which is to be grass seeded on Broadlands in Netherfield, after recent flooding following some remedial work undertaken by Milton Keynes Council.

The Chair advised Cllr Ferguson to contact Mr Andy Dickinson at Milton Keynes Council.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Council Manager to find a contact at Milton Keynes Council's Environmental Crime Unit to deal with fly tipping.**
- 2. That the Council Manager to investigate why residents are having to report fly tipping to SERCO and the Environmental Helpline.**

FC 252/21 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Elina Apse – An online meeting has taken place, funds are available for Woughton residents but there are not substantial, it was reported that a family had been assisted, if anyone knows of someone in need then they should contact Cllr Apse.**

b) MKALC - **Cllr Elina Apse, Cllr Sue Smith – A meeting has not taken place.**

c) Parishes Forum - **Cllr Janette Bobey, Cllr Sue Smith – A meeting has been arranged for March 2021.**

NOTED

FC 253/21 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

a) Operations – Monday 11th January 2021.

b) Planning, Licencing & Development – Monday 25th January 2021.

c) Services & Communities – Tuesday 26th January 2021.

NOTED

FC 254/21 To update the council on Eaglestone Activity Centre and the proposed transfer to Woughton Community Council:

The Council Manager informed the meeting that Eaglestone Activity Centre has been proposed as a centre that could be transferred to Woughton Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer programme.

The current proposal is a 99-year lease, with full repairing obligations placed on Woughton Community Council. This is something that has been under discussion for over three (3) years and the draft 'Heads of Terms' has now been issued.

The Council Manager also informed the meeting that there are concerns about the state of the centre with a view that the costs of getting it up to a decent standard would be prohibitive. Since then, Milton Keynes Council have undertaken some remedial work, with replacement toilets upstairs, refurbishment of the main entrance hall and some additional work to repair damage following the floods in May 2018.

However, there are some outstanding issues – the squash court remains affected by damp, the heating system continues to cause concern and there are some continuing challenges with the children's toilets and hot water system.

There is additional work that will be needed to bring the centre up to standard across the board whilst the majority of the building and surrounds appears to be in reasonable condition, the bottom storey changing rooms are in need of significant work, which is likely to be very costly (although grant funding may be possible, especially if linked to re-opening the squash courts).

A full survey, covering all essential elements and providing a detailed and full report is anticipated to cost between £600 to £1000. It can be undertaken relatively quickly, once agreed. This will form the basis of any further recommendations to council with regard to this building and its future with Woughton Community Council.

The Council Manager continues to work with Milton Keynes Council to address these issues and to ensure that these are resolved prior to any agreement.

Cllr Pam Wilson said that she has some paperwork that she will send to the Council Manager regarding repairs needed to the building.

RESOLVED

- 1. That council notes this report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager / Operations Manager arranges a full and complete survey of the building, ensuring any outstanding issues are identified and any significant costs are considered.**
- 3. That the Operations Manager continues to work with Milton Keynes Council to manage the existing repairs and ensure they are completed.**
- 4. That a further report is provided to Council based upon the outcome of the survey, costs evaluation, proposed use and similar, prior to any agreement with Milton Keynes Council about any transfer.**

FC 255/21 To update the council on the proposed responses to the Priorities and Budget Consultation feedback:

The Council Manager informed the meeting that he plans to publish an article in the Woughton Gazette to respond to the feedback provided by members of the public on the priorities following the budget consultation.

RESOLVED

- 1. That council notes the report.**
- 2. That council agrees to an article in the next edition of 'The Gazette' that includes these responses to comments made.**
- 3. That the article also includes an 'easy read' explanation of precepts, budgets and the process that agreed these for 2021/2022.**

FC 256/21 To update the council on preparations for the elections scheduled for Thursday 6th May 2021:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the preparations for the elections scheduled for Thursday 6th May 2021, this date could change by the Government for health and safety reasons, and informed the meeting of the need to ensure that the Meeting Places managed by Woughton Community Council, that will be used as polling stations are Covid-19 compliant.

The Council Manager reminded the meeting that an election will also take place to fill the Leadenhall Ward vacancy.

The Government has published guidance on what campaigning is and is not allowed to take place to ensure everyone's safety during the pandemic.

Woughton Community Council could publicise the option of postal votes for those who feel that attending a polling station is unwise at this time.

The Council Manager was asked to find out if Saxon Court will still be used for the Count as the building has just recently become a Vaccination Centre.

RESOLVED

- 1. That council notes the report and associated document.**
- 2. That council agrees that if elections take place, that Woughton Community Council Meeting Places can be used as Polling Stations.**
- 3. That council agrees to publicity around postal voting and registering for this be shared from Woughton Community Council online accounts.**
- 4. That the Council Manager returns to council with any update in the event that the government changes their mind and elections DON'T take place, including the impact on Woughton Community Council.**
- 5. That the Council Manager to find out if Saxon Court will still be used for the Count as the building has just recently become a Vaccination Centre.**

Date of next meeting:

Monday 15th March 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom Video Call and live on the Woughton Community Council Facebook page.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:29PM

Chair _____ Date _____

DRAFT