

## Full Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 6:30pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes**

**Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Nick Scott (Vice-Chair),** Eamonn Bobey, Janette Bobey, Tony Coughlan, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Penny Glasgow, Michael Holland, Luke Louis, Ruth McMillan, Deanna Norris, Liz Simpkins, April Rennie, Alan Williamson.

**Also present:**

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)  
Steve McNay (Council Manager)  
Marta Sobis (Responsible Financial Officer)

**In attendance:**

Five (5) members of the public.

**Also in attendance:**

Two (2) members of the public on Zoom Video Call.

**FC 126/23 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr D'Anne Mordecai (personal)

**AGREED**

**FC 127/23 Declaration of interests:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**NOTED**

**FC 128/23 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

**FC 129/23 Chair's Announcement(s):**

The Chair thanked everyone who helped in the Santa Sleigh Tour, and apologised for the delay on Coffee Hall.

There will be a Carol Service at Christ the Vine Church, Coffee Hall, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 between 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

The Chair announced that the Committee & Member Services Officer was leaving and thanked him for his many years' service, an event will be arranged in which to recognise this.

**NOTED**

**FC 130/23 Questions from the public:**

There were no questions from the members of the public.

**NOTED**

**FC 131/23 Ward Matters arising:**

Cllr Micheal Holland suggested having a regular Full Council "Estate Spotlight" agenda item, to update members on what activities have taken place or issues that have been reported and work that has been undertaken by members from each estate.

**RESOLVED**

**To have a regular "Estate Spotlight" Full Council agenda item to update members on what activities have taken place or issues that have been reported and work that has been undertaken by members from each estate.**

**FC 132/23 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:**

Cllr Donna Fuller – Involved in the Santa Sleigh tours, casework mainly on traffic issues, housing and adult social care, and are often time consuming and very complex in which to deal with, members are encouraged to contact Cllr Fuller with any issues, that they or their residents which to raise.

A Christmas meal for elderly and vulnerable residents has recently taken place.

**NOTED**

**FC 133/23 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:**

- a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Maggie Ferguson – No report.**
- b) MKALC – **Cllr Ruth McMillan, Cllr Sue Smith – No report.**
- c) Parishes Forum - **Cllr Ruth McMillan, Cllr Sue Smith – There was a presentation on potential new transport systems.**

**NOTED**

**FC 134/23 To note the minutes from the following Committees:**

- a) Planning, Licencing & Development – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- b) Operations & Resources - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- c) Services & Communities - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**NOTED**

**FC 135/23 Council Manager's report:**

The Council Manager attended the planning conference, organised by MKALC, which was well attended by Members from Woughton Community Council. The conference covered a range of information about Neighbourhood Planning, statistics from the census, health impacts and touched upon the Milton Keynes City Council 'New City Plan'.

There was a multi-agency event where trees were planted through the link between Two Halls Park and St Georges Playing Field. This will provide a 'tree lined avenue'

in the fullness of time, as well as some significant Oaks and a selection of other trees.

The Council Manager attended the following online events:

- Assets of Community Interest, looking at how assets that could be lost can be taken on by local councils,
- Neighbourhood Planning and twenty (20) Minute Neighbourhoods, and
- An Introduction to AI for Local Councils, exploring how artificial intelligence can support Clerks in their work.

The Council Manager also had meetings with Diversity Marketplace, The Cloudy Foundation and attended the Clerks Christmas event at the Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council offices.

The Council Manager was also involved with the Santa Sleigh events.

There were no delegated decisions of note.

It's been a month where officers are using up holiday entitlements, preparing for the festivities and the week long break.

**RESOLVED**

**That council notes the report.**

**FC 136/23 To agree membership of the following working groups:**

**a) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:**

membership to consist of one (1) Councillor from each ward plus one (1) representative from each residents association:

- Cllr Janette Bobey (Netherfield Ward).
- Cllr Eamonn Bobey (Netherfield Residents Association).
- Cllr April Rennie (Tinkers Bridge Ward).
- Mr John Orr (Tinkers Bridge Residents Association).
- Cllr Alan Williamson (Beanhill Ward).
- Beanhill Residents Association – representative to be appointed.
- Cllr Deanne Norris (Coffee Hall Ward)
- Coffee Hall Residents Association – representative to be appointed.
- Cllr Ruth McMillan (Peartree Bridge Ward).
- Peartree Bridge Residents Association – representative to be appointed.
- Cllr Liz Simpkins (Eaglestone Ward)
- Eaglestone Residents Association – representative to be appointed.
- Cllr Penny Glasgow (Leadenhall Ward)
- Leadenhall Residents Association – representative to be appointed.

**b) Environmental & Sustainability Working Group – Membership to consist of the following:**

Cllrs Tony Coughlan, Ruth McMillan, Deanne Norris, April Rennie, Alan Williamson.

- c) **DDay Event Organisation Working Group** – Membership to consist of the following:

Cllrs Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson, Michael Holland, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Nick Scott, Eamonn Bobey and Mr Dave Simpkins.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) **That membership of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to consist of one (1) Councillor from each ward plus one (1) representative from each residents association.**
- 2) **To appoint the following onto the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:**
  - **Cllr Janette Bobey (Netherfield Ward).**
  - **Cllr Eamonn Bobey (Netherfield Residents Association).**
  - **Cllr April Rennie (Tinkers Bridge Ward).**
  - **Mr John Orr (Tinkers Bridge Residents Association).**
  - **Cllr Alan Williamson (Beanhill Ward).**
  - **Beanhill Residents Association – representative to be appointed.**
  - **Cllr Deanne Norris (Coffee Hall Ward)**
  - **Coffee Hall Residents Association – representative to be appointed.**
  - **Cllr Ruth McMillan (Peartree Bridge Ward).**
  - **Peartree Bridge Residents Association – representative to be appointed.**
  - **Cllr Liz Simpkins (Eaglestone Ward)**
  - **Eaglestone Residents Association – representative to be appointed.**
  - **Cllr Penny Glasgow (Leadenhall Ward)**
  - **Leadenhall Residents Association – representative to be appointed.**
- 3) **Environmental & sustainability Working Group – Membership to consist of the following:**

Cllrs Tony Coughlan, Ruth McMillan, Deanne Norris, April Rennie, Alan Williamson.
- 4) **DDay Event Organisation Working Group – Membership to consist of the following:**

Cllrs Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson, Michael Holland, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Nick Scott, Eamonn Bobey and Mr Dave Simpkins.

**FC 137/23 To note the Internal Auditor’s interim report:**

Members were informed that there were no items that needed addressing from the report, but there were some recommendations to consider for the next financial year.

The meeting thanked the Responsible Financial Officer for all her hard work.

**NOTED**

**FC 138/23 To inform the meeting of the Waste service update events:**

Councillors were informed of upcoming sessions around the Environmental Services and Waste Contract.

Milton Keynes City Council’s Planning Department have put in place two (2) information sessions on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 to share more information with and to answer any queries. The events will be joined by Cabinet Member portfolio lead Cllr Wilson-Marklew and senior representatives from the Waste and Environment team.

One (1) session will be held at the Council Chamber between 10.30am – 11.45am in person.

Via Teams between 2:00pm - 3.15pm.

The Chair suggested writing to the Planning Department requesting for an additional evening event for those Councillors who are working during the day.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That council notes the report and the proposed dates.**
- 2. That councillors consider whether they would like to attend.**
- 3. That if sufficient demand, the 'Teams' session can be hosted in the Chambers.**
- 4. That the Council Manager to write to the Planning Department requesting for an additional evening event for those Councillors who are working during the day.**

**FC 139/23 To consider the following planning application:**

**a) Application no:** 23/02549/FUL

**Proposal:** Proposed demolition of existing store and construction of a retail unit

**At:** Former Milton Keynes City Council Landscape Store, Chadds Lane, Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes, MK6 3EB.

Local residents at the meeting and on Zoom video call expressed concerns about the effect to residential parking. The lack of bins proposed, and the loss of green space that is used by local residents. Submissions to Milton Keynes City Council's planning department highlight the issue of noise, the hours that the shop will be operational and delivery times, lack of parking spaces, no provision for staff parking, no space for delivery vehicles, and a lack of bin storage. Milton Keynes City Council's planning department is recommending refusal of this application. A resident was concerned about the change of use provision, if the shop was granted permission and ceased trading in the future. There were conservation concerns about the area, along with privacy issues for 2, Waterside and 6 and 8 Troutbeck. Concerns were also expressed about the proposed design and materials, a lack of consultation with residents, and that the proposed store would be an over development of the area, would increase the amount of litter and anti-social behaviour. A question was asked about the use of the proposed first floor, and would the retail store be able to apply for an alcohol licence? and that the signage would have a negative visual impact. Concern was further expressed that if this planning application was granted the effect demolition with the noise and debris would cause to residents. Residents requested Woughton Community Council to call in this planning application so that it is considered at a meeting of the Development Control Committee. Cllr Sue Smith as Ward Councillor said she would keep local residents informed about the progress of this application. Residents also would like Woughton Community Council to make a submission incorporating their concerns to the Milton Keynes City Council Development Control Committee.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Council notes the report and associated documents.**
- 2. That Council calls in this planning application and requests it is considered at a meeting of the Development Control Committee.**

**3. That Council submits a response to Milton Keynes Council's Planning Department incorporating the concerns on this planning application as raised by local residents.**

**b) Application no:** 23/01985/FUL

**Proposal:** Erection of five dwellings

**At:** 4, Holmfield Close, Tinkers Bridge, Milton Keynes, MK6 3AB

A resident at the meeting expressed concern that there are four (4) Tree Preservation Order's (TPO's) on trees in the present garden, there are two (2) trees that are to be removed that are not mentioned in the planning application. Milton Keynes City Council have requested sight of a tree shading plan, that was not submitted with the previous planning application. Although plans indicate the properties having three (3) bedrooms the proposed study is big enough to be a fourth bedroom, which would increase pressure on parking spaces. The access road has a sharp bend and has no lighting, even the canal footpath has no lighting either, making the area very dark and with no pavements, this would be a health and safety risk with children living in these proposed properties. There would be issues with space for recycling bins and refuse vehicles would find it difficult to access, especially as the present turning area would be taken up with parking spaces. Recycling bins would therefore need to be left at the top of the access road. At present it is known that bats and great crested newts reside at the site. Residents need to give permission for use of the access road by contractor vehicles. There are issues with the drains and residents living on Holmfield Close have experienced their back gardens becoming flooded, Anglian Water are not allowed to let the service water go in to the canal, unless arrangements are made with the Canal and Waterside Trust for an additional payment. Council agreed to further consider this application at the next Planning, Licencing & Development Committee meeting, as there was enough time before the deadline to make a submission if that is the wish of the committee.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Council notes the report and associated documents.**
- 2. To further consider this application at the next Planning, Licencing & Development Committee meeting, as there was enough time before the deadline to make a submission if that is the wish of the committee.**

**FC 140/23 To note the Rent and Service Charge Consultation submission letter:**

The consultation submission has been sent to Milton Keynes City Council by the Council Manager, and members were thanked for their contributions for the content of the letter.

**NOTED**

**FC 141/23 To note the content of the New bus service and support from retailers:**

A letter has been circulated to thirteen (13) local retailers asking for financial support towards a new bus service. The Council Manager will inform members of any response(s).

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Council Manager to inform members of any response(s) from the thirteen (13) retailers that have been written to asking for financial support towards a new bus service.**

## **FC 142/23 To note the letter received from the Beanhill Residents Association:**

The letter from the Beanhill Residents Association was circulated to members, which thanked Woughton Community Council for the start-up monies received.

## **NOTED**

## **FC 143/23 To note the results of the priorities survey:**

There were 149 responses in total, with the most responses from the Netherfield estate, landscaping and community fridge were rated as the services that were most important to them. Services most frequently used by residents was the community fridge which is highest, with environment, events, community centres and landscaping all over 50% of respondents. As regards any precept raises 33% wanted a low or no increase, 52% a medium increase, 15% a large increase. This suggests that two thirds of respondents are supportive of an increase of around £2 a month to ensure that the council continues to deliver the essential services. There were various comments made on services residents would like to see and on their immediate environment.

It is evident from the responses on ethnicity that more work needs to be done on engaging more with all demographics across the communities.

This is the first time in the consultation that a question was asked about physical health and being able to access services, and in terms of understanding the needs of the communities. Half of respondents say that they, or someone in their house, has a physical disability, with a further 41% stating the same with mental health issues.

It was felt that it would be useful when the final version of the consultation survey is ready for publication, that a breakdown is provided of the figures between those residents who responded that they had a physical disability or mental health issues or both.

Almost 37% of people said that they feel involved and connected within their communities which was felt to be very positive.

## **RESOLVED**

**That when the final version of the consultation survey is ready for publication, that a breakdown of the figures is provided between those residents who responded that they had a physical disability or mental health issues or both.**

## **FC 144/23 To update the meeting on the draft 2024 / 2025 budget:**

A new format of the draft budget has been produced which falls in line with the budget software. With a breakdown of the budget headings in more detail, this makes no difference to the budget totals. The receipts and payments are listed, and any budget figure that is highlighted in red means it is in deficit. Budget figures as listed are the same as previously for the third quarter, at the end of December it will be more clearer on the size of any deficit. £400,000 in reserves is the recommended

bottom line, in this new format there are no budget forecasts as previously, the draft budget figures as listed are just shown for the financial year.

**NOTED**

**FC 145/23 To discuss any items to be included from each ward for the Strategic Plan:**

Items are required for each estate, a response is needed from ward members who have not replied already, otherwise their estates could miss out on any potential projects / infrastructure investment(s).

**NOTED**

**FC 146/23 To agree the List of Payments, Bank Reconciliations for the month of October and November 2023:**

The meeting agreed for the chair to sign off on the accounts that has been provided by the Responsible Financial Officer.

**RESOLVED**

**That the chair to sign off on the October and November 2023 accounts that has been provided by the Responsible Financial Officer.**

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 6:30pm, at the Woughton Community Council Hub, The Council Chamber, the Local Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

**THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:58PM**

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_