

## Full Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 6:30pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes**

**Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair),** Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Luke Louis, Ruth McMillan, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson.

**Also present:**

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)  
Steve McNay (Council Manager)  
Ian Tegerdine (Landscaping Manager)

**In attendance:**

One (1) member of the public.

**FC 59/23 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Donna Fuller (personal)  
Cllr Nick Scott (personal)

**AGREED**

**FC 60/23 Declaration of interests:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**NOTED**

**FC 61/23 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Were **AGREED** and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

**FC 62/23 Chair's Announcement(s):**

The Chair said that this is the last meeting before the summer break, the deadline has been confirmed as Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to apply to be a coopted Councillor.

**NOTED**

**FC 63/23 Questions from the public:**

There were no questions from the members of the public.

**NOTED**

**FC 64/23 Ward Matters arising:**

Cllr Alan Williamson – update on the empty properties on Beanhill.

The Council Manager responded Milton Keynes City Council are investigating ownership, it has been indicated that some properties are classed as economically unviable for repair due to subsidence.

Cllr Liz Simpkins – Eaglestone residents have said that bus stops are being removed on discontinued routes due to alleged antisocial behaviour, the Highways Directorate have been contacted, the Council Manager said that Woughton Community Council has not been consulted, Cllr Simpkins asked to be kept updated.

**NOTED**

**FC 65/23 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:**

Cllr Sue Smith – lots of casework mainly with the cost of living crises, council tax issues, in talks with officers at Milton Keynes City Council on issues affecting the Woughton Ward.

**NOTED**

**FC 66/23 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:**

a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Maggie Ferguson – the Chair of the Trust has been in contact with Cllr Sue Smith, who will include Cllr Ferguson with further details.**

b) MKALC – **Cllr Ruth McMillan, Cllr Liz Simpkins, Cllr Sue Smith – Meeting has taken place which agreed to hold a conference on planning issues.**

c) Parishes Forum - **Cllr Liz Simpkins, Cllr Sue Smith – Meeting recently took place which discussed implementation of the new wheelie bin service, the landscaping service which has been devolved to 13 Parish Councils, the White Ribbon campaign Cllr Emily Darlington said that the taxi service is being encouraged to be involved.**

**NOTED**

**FC 67/23 To note the minutes from the following Committees:**

a) Planning, Licencing & Development – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

b) Operations & Resources - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

c) Services & Communities - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**NOTED**

**FC 68/23 Council Manager's report:**

The Council Manager attended the following meetings events and activities since the last meeting:

- Councillor engagement events at Netherfield, Beanhill, Eaglestone and Coffee Hall.
- A 'handover' meeting with Naomi from the Flood Team, as she is moving on to a new role.
- A 'Clerks Connections' gathering was held in Chambers by B&MKALC, where around a dozen Clerks from around the city came together to discuss issues.
- Netherfield Meeting Place given a once over, clearing the space at the front of the building for the Netherfield Residents Association and assessing the damage to the brick walls to the court and protective fencing.

- Woughton Community Council was represented at Newport Pagnell Carnival, working with the 'Under the Umbrella' group to provide a 'Wizard of Oz' themed float.
- Further meetings held with representatives from Milton Keynes City Council with regard to the landscaping contract.
- The launch of the MK:CAN project took place at the Milton Keynes Rose in Campbell Park.
- Councillor training on Data Protection.
- The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Annual General Meeting in Waddesdon.

The following delegated decisions were made since the last meeting:

- Replacement of tyres on the 4x4.
- Cancellation of the Festival, due to extreme weather.
- Some additional equipment in the café, following the closure and some changes that have been made in response to the feedback offered by attendees.
- Refreshments for the Operations Team when meeting with the Operations Manager.
- Catering for the Chairs Awards.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That council notes the report and the delegated decisions made.**

#### **FC 69/23 To decide to agree to the Landscape contract for September 2023, with details now provided for funding offered:**

The June Full Council and the July Services & Communities Committee meeting has discussed this matter.

Additional funding over five (5) years by Milton Keynes City Council for the new contract and the LCTRS grant recognising levels of deprivation for the next two financial years, although even with the additional funding there will still be a short fall, and there are no additional monies for investment equipment and other overheads, the funding is not guaranteed and the contract could become unaffordable, as at present additional monies have been spent to improve the service.

There is a break clause included within the contract, at any point, Woughton Community Council can provide six (6) months notice, at the end of which the contract would revert to Milton Keynes City Council.

The Landscape Team is currently two (2) members down and no recruitment has taken place, due to the considerations around the new contract. In the event that the contract is agreed, the current team will continue, and will aim to appoint two (2) new operatives. If the contract is passed back, officers will be covered by TUPE regulations and would transfer to the new Milton Keynes City Council provider.

After undertaking online surveys there is a majority of residents wishing to see Woughton Community Council continue the landscaping service.

Part of the discussions that have been ongoing are around the 'added value' that in house provision brings. This includes the responsive nature of the current delivery (quick response to questions and queries, effective resolution where appropriate) and the local knowledge that comes with having a team that works purely in the area.

Additional requests were made by councillors at the last Full Council meeting for details of a 'parish plan', identifying the areas where additional work might take place.

The new maps provide an overview of the spaces that Woughton Community Council are responsible for, and can be shared if helpful to do so.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Council considers the report, previous papers, the 'consultations' and the contract documents and supporting papers.**
- 2. That the Council agrees to sign up for the new Landscape contract with Milton Keynes City Council, for a period of five (5) years, with the potential to extend further if both parties are happy.**
- 3. That the Council agrees to 'top up' funding where necessary to ensure the quality of the service remains sufficient.**
- 4. That the Council agrees to additional financial provision to ensure equipment and resources are in place (e.g. new truck, mowers, chipper, etc.) as previously discussed.**
- 5. That the landscape 'Parish Plan' is included within the delivery of the new contract, alongside any additional provision that can be provided through additional funding / support.**
- 6. That there is a review of the service provided every six (6) months, as part of the regular service overviews within the Services & Communities Committee.**

#### **FC 70/23 To discuss if Councillors wish to attend and if so to agree the names of delegates of the upcoming MKALC Conference:**

Milton Keynes City Council held a conference on planning without inviting Parish & Town Councils, it was agreed at the last MKALC meeting to almost repeat the same conference but with everything aimed at the Parish & Town Council sector.

The conference will cover how Parish and Town Councils can contribute into Plan MK, Neighbourhood plans and how much importance do they play in the plan. Etc.

The conference will be held at The Milton Keynes Christian Centre, Oldbrook on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 between 9.30am – 4pm with Speakers from the Office of National Statistics, Mr Neil Homer, who was instrumental with helping a lot of Parish and Town Councils with their Neighbourhood Plans in Milton Keynes. Planning Officers from Milton Keynes City Council and newly appointed officers being invited as well.

Each Parish and Town Council will have two (2) free spaces, with more being available at £30 per person. Priority will be given to the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee. Council is to agree the maximum number of attendees, and Councillors should let the Council Manager know if they would like to attend, so

that the places can be booked. Councillors attending will report back to a meeting of the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee.

Council agreed that the following will attend as delegates to the planning conference: Cllrs Sue Smith, Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Ruth McMillan, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That at least two (2) named Councillors, with priority going to the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee, Council to decide if other Councillors to attend with a cost to the Council of £30 per head, and if so, how many.**
- 2. That Council agrees that the following will attend as delegates to the planning conference: Cllrs Sue Smith, Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Ruth McMillan, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson.**
- 3. To invite any of the coopted Councillors when appointed if they wish to attend.**
- 4. That councillors to let the Council Manager know if they wish to attend.**

**FC 71/23 To propose submission of a nomination to the Star Council awards for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (B&MKALC) as the 'County Association of the Year':**

The annual National Association of Local Councils (NALC) awards project is currently looking for nominations and a suggestion was made to the Council Manager that Woughton Community Council may wish to consider nominating the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association (B&MKALC) as the 'Local Association of the Year'.

Council agreed to nominate the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (B&MKALC) for the 'County Association of the Year' Star Councils award and the Council Manager will write a submission, Members were welcome to contribute with any other information.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That council agrees to nominate B&MKALC as the County Association of the Year.**
- 2. That council is encouraged to consider how B&MKALC meets the criteria noted in the report and provides examples to the Council Manager.**
- 3. That a submission is made using the online portal before the closing date of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

**FC 72/23 To decide whether to make a submission on the Netherfield Post Office, 23 Farthing Grove, Netherfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 4JH, Variation to premise licence:**

An application to Milton Keynes City Council Licencing Directorate has been received from the Netherfield Post Office 23, Farthing Grove, Netherfield at the Local Centre.

The application seeks to extend the hours for the sale of alcohol and the opening times of the premises to be from 06.00hrs to 23.00hrs each day and to remove condition 3.2 relating to no sales of beers, lager, ciders or perry products over 6.5% ABV.

The Netherfield councillors are against this application due to the anti social behaviour that takes place around the area, the applicant encourages clients to purchase alcohol at 7:00am, with the knock on effects being shoplifting, violence taking place, which is intimidating to residents using the shops, the noise is not acceptable for residents living nearby.

Bottles are constantly found dumped in the nearby local park.

Concerns about too much alcohol consumption and the affects to individuals health along with a number of fast food outlets nearby.

It was thought that there was a previous case of a lease on a nearby unit that was not allowed to sell alcohol which was a condition of the lease.

It was pointed out that the drinking control area was not being policed as alcoholic drinks are not being confiscated.

Residents were encouraged to report any breeches to the licence conditions, along with evidence, as this will help in ensuring enforcement and banning, or turning down any further extension of hours serving alcoholic products.

The Netherfield Residents Association will be making a submission against this variation of licencing hours and Council also agreed to do so.

**RESOLVED**

**That Woughton Community Council to make a submission to the Milton Keynes City Council's Licencing Directorate against the variation of hours to extend the serving of alcohol from the Netherfield Post Office.**

**FC 73/23 To update council on the submitted 'co-option' forms for consideration by members:**

The meeting was updated on the co-option forms that had been submitted so far.

The vacancies are to be filled at the September Full Council Meeting, the extended deadline date for any further co-option forms to be submitted is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Council agreed to hold a pre meeting between 5:30pm-6:00pm to discuss the applications from candidates.

Candidates will be invited to address the Full Council meeting (2 Minutes each).

Followed by a discussion on the merits of each candidate.

A public vote will take place, successful candidates are then invited to sign the declaration of office form.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the council notes the report and the 'co-option' forms.
2. That the council agrees to offering co-option to people for areas other than the one they have expressed preference to.
3. That the final decision is made in September, as agreed, with any further applications that are received prior to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to also be considered.

**FC 74/23 Recruitment of Parish Representatives to Milton Keynes City Council Standards Committee:**

Milton Keynes City Council are seeking to coopt representatives from Parish and Town Councils to serve on the Standards Committee.

A covering letter, application form and recruitment pack has been circulated explaining the skill set required and duties involved.

The deadline to make an application is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Members who are interested are invited to contact the Council Manager who will provide a copy of the documents in word format which will be easier to fill in online.

**NOTED**

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 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 8:05PM**

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