

# Woughton Community Council

## FULL COUNCIL

28<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## MINUTES

**Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Nick Scott (Vice Chair),** Tony Coughlan, Margaret Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Donna Fuller (until 18:29), Michael Holland, Charlie Marsh, Ruth McMillan, Deanna Norris, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson

**Also present:**

Steve McNay (Council Manager)

Tash Darling (Youth and Community Manager)

**FC 62/25 Apologies for Absence:**

The following apologies were received by the Proper Officer:

Cllrs Eamonn Bobey, Lorna Webb, Luke Louis, Stacey Munkley, D'Anne Mordecai and Penny Glasgow

**FC 63/25 Declaration of interests:**

Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, members must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting, and any additional interests not previously declared.

**No declarations were made.**

**FC 64/25 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:**

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on:

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Cllr Smith proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

**This was seconded by Cllr Michael Ferguson.**

**RESOLVED by was of unanimous vote.**

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

**FC 65/25 Chair's Announcement(s)**

The Chair noted the following points

- They were disappointed with the level of attendance at the recent Councillors training session, with only 4 attendees. Please try and prioritise this.
- There is no Thursday café following the decision made at Services Committee
- Wednesday sees the Peartree Bridge picnic, between 11 – 3. Open to all and free.
- 6<sup>th</sup> September is the Festival, with both RA stalls and councillors attendance requested.

**FC 66/25 Questions from the public:**

No questions were tabled.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 67/25 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:**



Cllr Fuller provided an update:

- SHDF on both Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge continues apace.
- Rough sleeping appears to be increasing. Please report if this is known, whilst acknowledging that action can take some time.
- Some delays in road works, but they are coming. The process has been messy with information stating a date which then doesn't happen.
- ReggaeLand at the Bowl this weekend – please use emergency number if any issues.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

### **FC 68/25 2 minute Estate updates from councillors**

BH – Damaged lampposts have been repaired. Bushes have been cut back as some issues with overhanging growth, plus ASB and knives found. The Knife Amnesty Bin at the church on Netherfield was noted.

CH – Fly tipping issues and police presence higher than usual.

ES – Hospital car park has opened, but not being used so parking remains an issue – unclear as to why this is. Caravan has been removed, freeing up space. Rats and rubbish issues being addressed. Harrier Court update provided, with an anticipated completion date of October (previously July). HMO issues noted and reporting encouraged.

LH – no councillor present.

NF– TVP and ASB teams looking at Netherfield shops, following ongoing, long term issues.

PB – a 'walkabout' with the new Housing Officer took place. Footpath near dinosaur field has been repaired. Lots of leaflets being delivered, which Cllr McMillan clarified.

TB – SHDF continues and is going well, but some impact on residents. Two accidents on Groveway with fatalities. Issue with unhoused person, with aggression and ASB outside the local centre. Statutory services have declined to be involved. Impact on community is considerable. Currently a lack of housing officers which is being felt. Unregistered HMO's also appear to be a growing issue.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

### **FC 69/25 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:**

a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Maggie Ferguson** – no update

b) MKALC - **Cllrs McMillan, Cllr Rennie & Cllr Smith** – no update

c) Parishes Forum - **Cllrs McMillan & Cllr Smith** - no update.

d) Sustainable MK - **Cllrs Rennie and Maggie Ferguson** – meeting took place.

Some challenges around the recent changes and impact on quality of food provided.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

### **FC 70/25 To note the minutes from the following Committees:**

a) Operations and Resources 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

b) Services and Communities 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**RESOLVED – noted.**

### **FC 71/25 Council Managers report**

The Council Manager spoke to the paper, giving an overview of activities and points of interest since the last meeting – detailed in the papers pack.

The Council Manager also noted some recent issues, including the updated dog bin contract, pay scale agreement coming through and the traffic plan for the Bowl for the August events.

**RESOLVED – noted.**



### **FC 72/25 Sustainability Action Plan consultation feedback**

Following delegation at the Planning Committee meeting, a working group met to discuss this issue and developed a proposed document covering the feedback from the council. This was shared with the meeting

#### **PROPOSAL:**

*That council agrees with the proposed submission and tasks the Council Manager with completing the relevant form, on behalf of WCC*

**Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Rennie**

**RESOLVED by way of majority vote (1 abstention).**

### **FC 73/25 To review and agree three (3) policies**

Following the Operations Committee cancellation and to keep on top of reviews, agreement for the following policies. The Council Manager spoke to the paper and explained the minor changes, as well as clarifying that councillors, where given permission to drive council vehicles, would be covered by the Driving at Work policy.

- i) Driving at Work
- ii) Redundancy
- iii) Officers Allowances and Expenses

#### **PROPOSAL:**

*That the committee agrees to the changes noted within the documents noted and ratifies these policies in line with the review timings noted within.*

**Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Coughlan**

**RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.**

### **FC 74/25 To consider an approach regarding potential nursery provision within a community centre**

Following a recent approach, for council to consider the pros and cons of a nursery provision within a community centre, with the potential impact on other groups and services. There was a robust discussion that weighed the pros and cons of a nursery provision on parish with the income that brings, versus the community use of buildings. Concerns were noted that a 5 day a week nursery would mean space would be lost for current activities (e.g. youth services, cafes / food, etc.), parking concerns and the 'community' nature of the venue(s) being lost. This was countered by the view that nursery provision IS a community provision, that parking could be managed with staggered starts and that the income would be very welcome. Queries were raised about whether the nursery would support local residents, the current level of nursery provision locally (including the recent closure of two pre-school provisions) and the potential for this to be for people outside the area.

#### **Proposal:**

*That the council tasks council officers with continuing to liaise with the nursery providers looking to offer provision that doesn't negatively impact on current community provision.*

**Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Scott**

**RESOLVED by way of majority vote (2 against / 1 abstention).**

#### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, to commence at 6.00pm. Held at Council Chambers, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG

**THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6:50PM**



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

