

Woughton Community Council

FULL COUNCIL

23rd February 2026

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Eamonn Bobey, Tony Coughlan, Margaret Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Luke Louis, Charlie Marsh, Deanna Norris, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Lorna Webb, Alan Williamson

Also present:

Steve McNay (Council Manager)
Tash Darling (youth and Community Manager)
One (1) member of the public

FC 155/25 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs Nick Scott, Stacey Munkley, D'Anne Mordecai, Ruth McMillan and Michael Holland

NOTED

FC 156/25 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 157/25 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:

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

- Monday 26th January 2025

The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Webb.

RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

FC 158/25 Chair's Announcement(s)

The Chair provided details of a variety of upcoming events. They also noted that Young Carers are back and operating – contact the Youth and Community Manager for more information.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 159/25 Questions from the public:

There were no questions.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 160/25 2 minute Estate updates from councillors

Beanhill



- Request for a dropped kerb on Lammas – will send a ‘pin’ to the Council Manager. People are driving across the field, causing issues - ? bollard being installed?. Fly tipping continues to be an issue. Road works have caused bin issues so contact to be made with Nick Hannon. Moorland Schools have started the walking bus. Community Shop would welcome donations.

Coffee Hall

- Nothing noted.

Eaglestone

- Harrier Court has been further delayed, to the end of March (this is an 18 month programme, which was originally 6 months). Issues in the play park with equipment and landscaping deteriorating.

Leadenhall

- Parking, resurfaced roads and verge parking.

Netherfield

- SOME lighting is back at the ABC park, but not all. Fly tipping an issue. Residents Association on Weds and then bingo on Friday.

Peartree Bridge

- Nothing noted.

Tinkers Bridge

- ASB, resulting in TVP involvement at MP over the weekend (incl. Closure of fridge). Potholes, verges, fly tipping, dog waste all ongoing. A significant clear up after SHDF is needed.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 161/25 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

- a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Maggie Ferguson**. Lots of positive work happening – helping many local families. Looking to release extra funds, due to demand.
- b) MKALC - **Cllrs McMillan, Cllr Rennie & Cllr Smith**. Annual Meeting on 25th Feb, 7.30pm. Online link upon request. There will be cake.
- c) Parishes Forum - **Cllrs McMillan & Cllr Smith**. Meeting on 12th March
- d) Sustainable MK - **Cllrs Ferguson and Rennie**. No update

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 162/25 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

- a) Planning, Licensing and Development 5th January 2026
- b) Operations and Resources 12th January 2026
- c) Services and Communities 19th January 2026

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 163/25 To consider an approach to public realm improvements and Environmental Visual Assessments (EVA)

The Council Manager spoke to the paper, explaining the background and impact noted in the estate updates noted above. The ‘public realm’ is frequently noted as an area that needs additional works – the discussion covered who should be responsible for this, with MKCC the lead authority, but with WCC also involved.

Proposal:

That the Council Manager is tasked with requesting estate level data regarding lights, faults, public realm issue, etc.

Proposed by: Cllr Coughlan. Seconded by: Cllr Rennie

RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.



A number of areas were identified as potential places for additional work and consideration of further areas was addressed, with councillors agreeing to provide 'what3words' locations and details to the Council Manager and a list to be prepared.

This discussion also included a letter received from a resident noting that Environmental Visual Assessments (EVA's) had taken place in some parts of the city, focusing on works that may be needed, specifically regarding the safety of women and girls.

It was suggested that Cllr Wilson Marklew, (cabinet lead from MKCC around public realm), would be helpful to explore options. **A meeting to be arranged.** It was also noted that 'whole population approaches' (both in terms of works that impact all, but equally getting everyone involved in solutions) were positive and getting the voluntary sector involved too (such as conservation volunteers, green gyms, etc.)

RESOLVED – noted and actions as above.

FC 164/25 To consider legislation updates

The Council Manager spoke to the paper, regarding both ongoing changes to standards in public life and the proposed new The Public Office (Accountability) Bill and possible impacts on WCC.

The standards changes were covered and reflect the discussions that have been ongoing for some time. Some positive changes (including the support to those subject to complaints) were noted. The Council Manager will update as and when the law formally changes.

The new Public Office (Accountability) Bill is newer, know colloquially as 'The Hillsborough Law'. The law relates to ALL public servants (this includes officers and councillors of WCC) and covers behaviour and openness in the event of any investigation into things (such as the Hillsborough disaster, Post Office scandal, Grenfell Tower, etc.). Having clear records and details of actions that WCC have taken will be key, in the event of being involved in any investigation.

This provided some queries around data collection and management, how to ensure that WCC interactions are suitably recorded and managing communications within the diverse parish WCC serves were all raised. A 'councillor casework' recording system was suggested and can be considered and ensuring that all councillors have access to internally managed IT equipment (such as having a 'loaner' for where equipment is damaged) were also suggested.

RESOLVED – noted and actions as above.

FC 165/25 To consider an approach to possible devolution and options regarding joint working within the parish council sector

Following initial discussions with some councillors, the Council Manager spoke to the paper that looks to consider any approach that council may feel appropriate regarding the changes coming with local government reorganisation and options for different ways of working. This included some considerations about devolution of services and / or resources (e.g. buildings) and the need to ensure that WCC manages any requests in a suitable way.

Given the nature of this whole area of work, it was suggested that some time to explore and research what this might mean was needed and an 'away afternoon' would be helpful to explore in more detail.

RESOLVED – noted.



FC 166/25 Consideration of involvement of the ‘Ready to Respond’ approach within the council.

To consider whether to sign up to / engage with / get training from the ‘Ready to Respond’ group, following feedback from councillors suggesting this may be a useful approach. One suggestion was some ‘Train the Trainer’ work, suitable approaches for WCC and to this end, invite someone to Full Council to discuss options.

RESOLVED – noted and actions above.

FC 167/25 To receive the new ‘Together we Can’ document

Following some recent updates, council was provided with the updated agreement between MKCC and the parish sector, known as ‘Together we Can’.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 168/25 To receive the update Parishes Advisory Group (PAG) Terms of Reference (ToR)

Following some minor changes, an updated version of the ToR for the PAG was presented, with further details of the purpose of the PAG provided.

RESOLVED – noted.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 23rd March 2026, 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 7:38PM

Chair _____ Date _____

