

# Woughton Community Council

## FULL COUNCIL (including some Services Committee issues)

15<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### MINUTES

**Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Nick Scott (Vice-Chair),** Eamonn Bobey, Tony Coughlan, Margaret Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Penny Glasgow, Michael Holland, Luke Louis, Charlie Marsh, Ruth McMillan, Deanna Norris, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson

#### **Also present:**

Steve McNay (Council Manager)  
Marta Sobis (Responsible Finance Officer)  
Tash Darling (Youth and Community Manager)

#### **FC 120/25 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from:  
Cllrs Stacey Munkley and Lorna Webb.

#### **NOTED**

#### **FC 121/25 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 122/25 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:**

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

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Two minor changes were proposed, to reflect that Cllr Louis was present (marked as absent) and that TVP weren't present at the Tinkers Bridge drop in.**

**Cllr Norris proposed that, with these changes, the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Marsh.**

**RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.**

The updated minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **FC 123/25 Chair's Announcement(s)**

The Chair noted the following points

- Congratulated the Clerk for being awarded the SLCC BMK Clerk of the Year
- Ward allowances – need spending if not already
- Café and fridge on Tinkers Bridge is closed this Saturday, alongside food to go on Friday and Sunday.
- Santa is coming to the estates this week – poster shared to update times and dates. There is also a tree decorating session on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Community Lunch on Thursday.



**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 124/25 Questions from the public:**

There were no questions.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 125/25 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:**

Cllr Fuller provided a brief update – usual casework challenges, but slightly different in the run up to Christmas (time pressures).

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 126/25 2 minute Estate updates from councillors**

Beanhill

- Santa coming!

Coffee Hall

- House locally noted as concerns regarding level of waste stored in and around. Ward councillor to follow up outside the meeting.

Eaglestone

- 21 lampposts reported for maintenance / repair.
- Pond area caused some difficulties with mud left on paths. Drain needs clearing – still being chased.
- Scaffolding down on Harrier Court and work ongoing.
- Suggested that there is a community forum growing on the estate – to be nurtured and supported.

Leadenhall

- Quiet, but Santa Grotto last week. Students praised for their work and involvement. Good relationship with the Academy growing.

Netherfield

- Last Fridge prior to Christmas – reopening January.

Peartree Bridge

- 20<sup>th</sup> December sees the decorating of the tree between 1.30 – 2.30pm and Santa

Tinkers Bridge

- Lamppost and street lighting an issue and reporting not allowed as already reported. Concerns re Safety.
- Issues at the shop area – needles, vomit, faeces, etc.
- Verges on the estate are challenging, due to parking on the grass, churning up. Parking an issue all over and causing difficulties for emergency services.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 127/25 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:**

a) Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Maggie Ferguson**. Focus on fuel poverty and food.

Recently, some white goods provided. Going well.

b) MKALC - **Cllrs McMillan, Cllr Rennie & Cllr Smith**. Meeting in Feb.

c) Parishes Forum - **Cllrs McMillan & Cllr Smith**. Lots around Artificial Information and suggestion that a policy would be needed before using. MKCC budget. Sports grant – getting football teams into deprived areas.

d) Sustainable MK - **Cllrs Ferguson and Rennie**. Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December – 5 fridges attended, how to move forward, collaboration, new vehicle needed, waste management, etc.

**RESOLVED – noted.**



**FC 128/25 To note the minutes from the following Committees:**

- a) Planning, Licensing and Development 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025
- b) Operations and Resources 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- c) Services and Communities 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 129/25 Council Managers report**

Larger Councils Committee elections completed and re-elected to this. Formal meeting with Sports England group. IT procurement ongoing. Some 'New Town' planning stuff – no impact on Woughton. Conference attended to present the food offer. Full detail in the paper pack. Request that Council Manager considers returning to MKCC regarding the naming policy (to be added to next years agenda).

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 130/25 To receive consultation feedback overview for consideration.**

The Council Manager provided an overview of the feedback offered – relatively low numbers, but widespread support in all areas from those that did provide a view. Contradictions (reduce landscaping / increase landscaping), requests for various elements. Some positive feedback, some less so. Majority support for reasonable increases to precept – feel details in the papers pack.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 131/25 Budget proposal for 2026/2027 (via Operations)**

The Council Manager and RFO spoke to the budget and precept issues, looking at the budget that has been spoken to for the past few meetings and recommended by the Operations Committee. The financial figures were also discussed with clarity around the impact of any proposed increases noted, in terms of actual impact on the various bands within the properties locally.

**Proposal:**

That the council agrees to the proposed budget, as detailed in the paper pack

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

**RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.**

**FC 132/25 To ratify the precept proposal for 2026/2027 (via Operations)**

Further discussion was held regarding the recommendation from Operations Committee of a seven (7) percent increase each year over a three (3) year period. It was agreed that the council would only ratify the agreement for the coming year and again, clarification of the specific figures, including the breakdown of increase for each band were provided.

**Proposal:**

*That council agrees to the proposed 7% increase in precept for the 2026/2027 council year, meaning a total precept of £977,318.72p.*

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

**RESOLVED by way of majority vote, with 3 against and 1 abstention.**

**FC 133/25 To consider a grant application from Community Arts Development MK for a carnival workshop event**

There was discussion about the proposed provision of a workshop event, linking this to the previously agreed aim of recreating carnival for 2027. Due to the nature of the applicant (a CIC) and the timescales for the event, advertising has already taken place. These issues



mean that a grant would NOT be compliant with the policies in place. It was suggested that the funding could be provided through alternative budgets, given the partnership between the applicant and the council. Awarding a grant was felt to be potentially setting a precedent where the guidance can be ignored.

**Proposal:**

That the applicant is supported to deliver the event through a subsidy through existing budgets (£500) but is NOT awarded a grant.

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

**RESOLVED by way of majority vote with abstentions from four (4) councillors.**

**FC 134/25 To consider an approach for funding from St Marks Meals**

Following correspondence, council considered whether a full application from St Marks Meals is suitable. The council discussed the proposal and felt that the investment into community food approaches from the council is already significant and that the other partners within the parish (all statutory services), would be better funding routes. As a result, the following was ratified:

**Proposal:**

*That the council does not feel an application from St Marks Meals would be suitable or compliant with the grants process.*

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

**RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.**

**FC 135/25 To inform council of a consultation regarding a 'no u-turns' rule for Marlborough Street**

Following correspondence from MKCC Highways department, information regarding the consultation and consideration of any response was discussed. The council made the following feedback:

**Proposal:**

*That the council is supportive of the proposal, but requests that the following feedback be provided to the Highways department, via the consultation feedback:*

- *That the speed limit on the road be reduced*
- *That the junctions be closed, rather than no u-turns*
- *That Highways to provide any information on alternative considerations*
- *That cameras are considered to assess any difference in behaviours*

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

**RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.**

**FC 136/25 To provide council with the Interim Internal Audit report provided by Auditing Solutions.**

The Council was provided with the Internal Auditors report, that offered a clean bill of health for the council. The RFO was congratulated on her work towards this outcome.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC 137/25 To inform Council of a consultation around 'on-call' fire stations and engines from Bucks Fire and Rescue**

Cllr Fuller spoke to the current consultation and considerations for the parish, detailing that whilst there would be some changes, these would be minor within the immediate vicinity and have limited impact – some movement of vehicles between stations, but the majority of the main issues lay elsewhere within the wider area (main in Buckinghamshire).

**RESOLVED – noted.**



**FC 138/25 Festive period updates**

The Council Manager clarified the events programme over the coming weeks, alongside the closure of council services over the festive period.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**FC139/25 To update council on the outcome of the recent Community Governance Review**

Although no direct impact, provision of the report noting changes following the recent review of parish councils within the city was offered, with some updates from the Council Manager.

**RESOLVED – noted.**

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 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 7:22PM**

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

