

Woughton Community Council

FULL COUNCIL

22nd September 2025

MINUTES

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

Also present:

Steve McNay (Council Manager)
Five (5) members of the public

FC 75/25 Apologies for Absence:

No apologies were received.

NOTED

FC 76/25 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 77/25 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:

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

- Monday 28th July 2025

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

This was seconded by Cllr Norris.

RESOLVED by was of unanimous vote.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

FC 78/25 Chair's Announcement(s)

The Chair noted the following points

- A reminder that there is a meeting (informal) to look at the Neighbourhood Plan on Monday 29th. The Chair encouraged feedback and consideration of what might be included in advance of the meeting.
- That the picnic in the Community Garden on Sunday was good and they passed thanks to the staff involved, especially James who managed the event.

FC 79/25 Questions from the public:

Questions were asked within the item FC 86/25 and form part of the minutes within that item.

There were no further questions.

RESOLVED – noted.



FC 80/25 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:

Cllr Smith provided a brief update:

- The bus strike that was due to take place on Thursday has been cancelled.
- Ward Councillors continue to be busy, with lots of work around housing issues and similar.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 81/25 2 minute Estate updates from councillors

BH – Moorfriends have a table top sale this weekend and are planning a Halloween event, details to be shared once clear. Fly tipping is an increasing issue and consideration of use of a CCTV camera was mentioned. Parcel thefts also on the increase. Concerns about parking issues, especially on the ‘turns’ at the end of the cul-de-sacs – David Ellis is the Housing Officer and may be able to assist. Landscaping dealing with issues quickly.

Residents have requested some work on Wastel small playpark to bring back into use – **Council Manager will discuss with Landscape Team.** Community Gardens on Beanhill would benefit from some additional volunteers to help keep on top of things.

CH – Kids are using conkers inappropriately (throwing around and into gardens) and have also accessed the new play park site over the weekend – this could be dangerous so parents encouraged to keep an eye, where possible.

ES – James and the Landscaping Team have done some nice work on the estate. Some recent issues with young people having some conflicts with other community members. Parcel theft also an issue on Eaglestone.

LH – The Leisure Centre has been subjected to some racist graffiti – whilst MKCC cleaned this quickly, it returned. Traffic is getting more challenging as the schools return.

NF– Fly tipping increasing – potentially linked to the SHDF work and people clearing out stuff. Bingo on Friday – more attendees needed to make it worthwhile, so please share.

ASB at the shops continues to be an issue – people being rude, aggressive, etc.

Suggestion that this is getting worse. May be linked to garage break ins nearby, where forced entry is used to provide somewhere to sleep.

PB – Road closure (Marlborough Street) over the weekend caused some difficulties. Poor signage.

TB – SHDF continues – they have reached the final road. Lots of fly tipping (again, linked to SHDF?) and dumping on Community Gardens – all reported. Housing Officer Drop In planned for 3rd October at the meeting place. ASB and break ins happening on the estate by known individuals, but residents are fearful of involvement. This follows a situation where it was suggested that when attending court, residents had to share their addresses in public and are now worried about reprisals. Drains / potholes remain unaddressed – four different email addresses tried with no response from any of them.

RESOLVED – noted.

In agreement with the meeting, the Chair proposed moving item FC 86/25 forward, to enable members of the public to contribute at an earlier stage, allowing them to leave once completed. This was followed by the following motion:

FC 81a/25 – To suspend standing orders to allow discussion of item FC 86/25 with public participation.

Under Standing Order 10, a, xiv, specific Standing Orders can be suspended, with a formal motion, agreed by a majority vote. This motion was proposed, to suspend Standing Orders 3f and 3g, to allow members of the public to speak to the item, without time constraints and outside the usual ‘public participation’ session.



Proposal:

To suspend Standing Orders 3f and 3g, for the duration of the discussion regarding item FC 86/25

Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Marsh
RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote

FC 86/25 To discuss planning application PLN/2025/1688 - Proposed change of use from Use Class C3 (dwellinghouse) to Use Class C4 (house in multiple occupation) to accommodate up to four unrelated individuals at 22 TRUBYS GARDEN, COFFEE HALL, MILTON KEYNES, MK6 5HA

Due to timing and cutoff date for comments, council was invited to consider the above application and provide any comments to the authority prior to 1st October 2025. The Council Manager shared some pictures that had been sent by local residents, that provided clear measurements of the space around the property in question. There is only one parking space allocated to the property and no space elsewhere for additional parking. It was explained by a member of the public that the main space is in fact a private road, not owned by MKCC.

It was reported that the property is currently being used as an 'Air BnB' property, with the associated challenges this brings. This includes parking but also damage caused by vans parking and breaking sewers, leading to smells and effluent being present.

Concerns were also raised regarding the planning statement that was part of the application, as this was incorrect in many places.

Proposal:

That the council objects to this application, based upon failure to comply with parking standards and negative impact on locale. The council also requests that this application is heard by the Planning Committee, rather than being an officer decision and tasks the Council Manager with responding accordingly'.

Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Williamson
RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.

There was then the following motion:

Proposal:

To unsuspend Standing Orders 3f and 3g

Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Michael Ferguson
RESOLVED by way of majority vote

FC 82/25 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**

Cllr McMillan provided an overview of the issues discussed within the Parishes Forum:

- Update from MK Hospital regarding new units and other hospital based issues. Also noted that the hospital AGM takes place on 6th October.

- DAFS also gave a presentation on the services and support they offer to families of people using drugs and / or alcohol.

- Gary from MKCC gave an update on Family Help and Family First Partnerships – this is a service that sits between Family Centres and the MASH, for families with mid-level needs.

- Presentation from Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council on Landscaping services.



d) Sustainable MK - Cllrs Ferguson and Rennie

Partners meeting due over the next month or so, following an official launch that took place on Saturday.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 83/25 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

- a) Planning, Licensing and Development 7th July 2025
- b) Services and Communities 21st July 2025

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 84/25 Council Managers report

The Council Manager gave an update on activities and spending since the last meeting of Full Council. This covered the summer period, where events and delivery has taken place which was presented at Services Committee, plus updates on new staff members and recruitment processes for new staff.

RESOLVED – noted.

FC 85/25 To provide detail of the completed External Audit and the completed AGAR process

The Council Manager updated council on the feedback regarding the external audit from PKF Littlejohn and provided the finalised AGAR, alongside details of the public inspection timings and compliance.

Proposal:

That council acknowledges the successful conclusion of the external audit and thanks the RFO for their hard work in the submission and delivery of this and the AGAR’.

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

RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote.

FC 86/25 was moved to earlier in the meeting – see above for details.

FC 87/25 To consider the new ‘Councillors Statement of Assurance’ and whether this should be introduced within the council.

Following a recent update from umbrella bodies and the publication of a new statement, for council to consider whether this is something that WCC should adopt. The statement sits alongside the already agreed statements regarding code of conduct, standards, the Officer and Member protocol and others, all relating to behaviour expectations from councillors. Queries were raised regarding the effectiveness or otherwise of another piece of paper signed, where there remain no actual sanctions that can be taken in the event that behaviours standards slip. As a result, no motion was proposed, and the form can be signed by individual councillors if they choose so to do.

A further point was raised in so far as councillors who are subjected to complaints may benefit from support whilst navigating the standards board and any investigation. With some WCC Councillors having recently been subjected to complaints (dismissed) and having felt that they didn’t have sufficient support, it was suggested that MKALC may wish to consider whether a mentoring / support person scheme may be helpful.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 27th October 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 7:07PM

Chair _____ Date _____

