

## Woughton Community Council

### Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 6:30pm, Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

**Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Maggie Ferguson (Vice-Chair),** Jeanette Bobey, Penny Glasgow, Ruth McMillan, John Orr, Sue Smith.

**Also present:**

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)  
Steve McNay (Council Manager)  
Sean Perry (Community Services Manager)

**SC 86/23 Apologies:**

Cllr Liz Simpkins (personal)  
Cllr Pam Wilson (personal)

**AGREED**

**SC 87/23 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Janette Bobey agenda items SC 91/23 & SC 92/23 (personal).  
Cllr Penny Glasgow agenda item SC 93/23 (personal).

**NOTED**

**SC 88/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**NOTED**

**SC 89/23 Chairs announcements:**

The Chair thank all members of the committee for their hard work and commitment and is looking forward to the start of the new council year.

**NOTED**

**SC 90/23 Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and was signed by the Chair.

### **Communities and Environment Fund Application(s)**

**SC 91/23 Netherfield Residents Association:**

**Cllr Janette Bobey declared a personal interest in this agenda item.**

Application received for £500 towards coach hire costs for a trip to Skegness.

**RESOLVED**

**To award £500 towards coach hire for a trip to Skegness.**

**SC 92/23 Netherfield Residents Association:**

**Cllr Janette Bobey declared a personal interest in this agenda item.**

Application received for £500 towards coach hire costs for a trip to Great Yarmouth.

**RESOLVED**

**To award £500 towards coach hire costs for a trip to Great Yarmouth.**

**SC 93/23 The Friends of the Coffee Hall Community Café:**

**Cllr Penny Glasgow declared a personal interest in this agenda item.**

Application to be submitted for £400 towards coach hire costs to visit the Black Country Museum.

**RESOLVED**

**To award a grant of £400 towards coach hire costs to visit the Black Country Museum.**

**Reports**

**SC 94/23 To update the committee on Community Food activities:**

The Community Fridge at Coffee Hall is one of nine across the city that make up the Milton Keynes Community Fridge network. Food comes from a variety of sources, mainly supermarkets, distributors and manufacturers, plus donations from faith groups, local residents and allotments. Since the post Covid relaunch in July 2020, the Community Fridge has distributed well over 100 tonnes of food to the community.

March 2023:

Total visitors - 609 (average 68 per session)

Food received – 3,184kg

Food distributed – 3,095kg (equivalent to 7,369 meals)

Waste – 2%

March 2022 – March 2023:

Total visitors – 7,272 (average 68 per session)

Food received – 37,100kg

Food distributed – 32,511kg (equivalent to 77,407 meals)

Waste – 4%

Food waste has reduced significantly over the last year, due to developing a relationship with Milton Keynes Muslim Association and Al Fikr, who take the remainder of the fridge food for distribution within the local community.

**Community Café:**

The Community Café menu is driven by food donated through the Community Fridge. Regular donations from Café users helps to finance future sessions.

The Café and Community Fridge are overseen by the Coordinator and run mainly by volunteers made up of local residents and students from Milton Keynes College Inclusive Learning.

March 2023

Total visitors – 316 (average 35 per session)

Net income (donations) – £17.41

March 2022 – March 2023:

Total visitors – 2,735 (average 31 per session)

Net income (donations) – £724.02

### **Community Larder:**

There has been a decline in membership at the Coffee Hall community larder, down to 40 from a peak of 63 in Summer 2022. This trend is at odds with the other larders in Milton Keynes, which have generally increased their membership. There are a number of reasons why this may have happened:

- Coffee Hall Larder relies exclusively on food from Fareshare, whereas many other larders supplement their food with surplus stock collected by volunteers. So the variety of food on offer at Coffee Hall appears limited compared to other larders.
- The recent cost of living increases have led to a few larder users cancelling their membership.
- Recently, the limited variety of food on offer means that there aren't always basic ingredients that can be used to make a meal.

Despite this, the Community Larder offers good opportunities for community engagement and offers good value for money for members (£3.50p per week for approximately £15-£20 worth of food).

### **Warm Rooms:**

The warm room funding from Milton Keynes City Council provided various opportunities throughout the winter. Extra funding was agreed by Council on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to continue the warm rooms for a limited period.

#### **Tinkers Bridge Warm Room**

December 2022 - March 2023

Total visitors – 721 (average 42 per session)

#### **Eaglestone Café**

December 2022 - March 2023

Total visitors – 400 (approximate)

#### **Netherfield Café**

January 2023 - March 2023

Total visitors – 50 (approximate)

## **Other Community Food Activities:**

### **Netherfield Slow Cooker Course:**

A five week slow cooker course at the Netherfield Meeting place, in conjunction with Lisa Lovell. Attendees learned about:

- Using slow cookers to cook a wide variety of food
- Enhancing general cooking skills
- Energy-saving cooking
- Cooking on a budget
- Reducing food waste by using surplus food from the community fridge

### **Community Food Event – Coffee Hall:**

This was held on the evening of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023, with food provided by Milton Keynes Muslim Association and Al Fikr. Around sixty (60) people attended from the local community. This was the first of three (3) collaborative events in March and April, and it is hoped to be able to plan more events in the future.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the committee notes the report.**

### **SC 95/23 To propose match funding Coffee Hall Residents Association's contribution towards a memorial stone for the Memorial Garden:**

The Coffee Hall Residents Association were awarded money from Milton Keynes City Council in 2019 towards agreed projects within the estate. This was agreed as provision of a range of elements within the 'village green' electrical supply for lighting for the memorial and for a sound system during events, installation of new seating, improvements to paths and ramps and the creation of a 'memorial garden'.

This work has mostly been completed, but with some variation from the original plans. Milton Keynes City Council are unable to spend anything further on the project.

There has been an ongoing discussion around the missing 'memorial stone' within the community garden space with Coffee Hall Residents Association contributing towards the provision of the stone, in line with the proposal made. In line with this, a request was made for Woughton Community Council to 'top up' to enable the full amount to be provided (the previous quote was £1,140.00p).

There is currently money sitting within the 'memorial' ringfenced budget, this was £1,000 in 2022/2023 financial year and would increase to £2,000, based on previous agreements for £1,000 per year to be allocated. This would leave £1,300 in that fund for any emergency works needed.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee agrees to a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of buying and installing a memorial stone at the gardens on Coffee Hall.**
- 2. That this amount is limited to 'match funding' the contribution made by the former Coffee Hall Residents Association towards this installation of £700.**
- 3. That this money is taken from the 'memorial ringfenced reserve'.**

**SC 96/23 To update the committee on Coronation event(s) and seek clarification on the proposal:**

Following the discussions at this committee last month (SC 82/23 refers) around the coronation, there remains some confusion around what is wanted this is, in part, due to a lack of information from the palace with regard to certain aspects of the weekend, specifically the timings of the Sunday concert.

The event is currently proposed to be part of the 'Big Lunch' project, bringing people together on the Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to share food and have some fun, this is in place, advertised and a plan is also in place to deliver this (coronation chicken (plus vegan alternatives), puddings, fruit punch, etc.) with music and / or a screening of the concert.

The timings of the concert remain unclear, other than a sentence within the ticket application process that states 'early evening' start. This has led to some concerns that without the concert as a 'pull', nobody will attend the big picnic event.

If the timings were to change to the evening (at whatever time the concert starts, once agreed and shared), there is a risk that any 'picnic' would be held at a time where outdoor eating is less appealing, due to temperatures dropping.

An additional consideration is the idea of formally opening the Memorial Garden, as part of the overall event. This has been suggested to the former Coffee Hall Residents Association (who were responsible for the creation) and they are supportive of this idea. This may also be better during the day, but an early evening opening ceremony could also work.

Given these concerns noted by some councillors around screening the concert, it is recommended that the committee gives some clear guidance on what is requested so that plans can be changed if appropriate, to reflect the wishes of the community.

Staffing needs will be relatively minimal for an event such as this, especially if councillors are also available to engage with residents, welcome any new visitors and potentially help with set up / clearing up (although this may not be needed, depending on the timings).

If the event is to be held as a 'Big Lunch' and continue into the evening with a concert screening, there may be a need for 'teams' of officers to take shifts across the event.

Until such time as a clear view is given, it isn't possible to effectively plan.

The lack of clarity around timings for the weekend is unhelpful, but at the current time no information has been forthcoming.

The committee agreed to the opening taking place of the community garden on the same evening, to provide refreshments such as coronation chicken and Yorkshire pudding and not to screen the concert.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee notes the report and the previous discussions.**

2. That the committee notes the continued lack of clarity with regard to timings for the events planned by the Palace.
3. That the committee agrees to provide refreshments such as coronation chicken and Yorkshire pudding.
4. That the event includes a formal opening of the Memorial Garden.
5. That the committee agrees not to screen the concert.

**Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 6:30pm, at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, The Local Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

**THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:30 PM**

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

DRAFT