

## Woughton Community Council

### Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 6:30pm, Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

**Present: Cllrs Maggie Ferguson (Vice-Chair),** Jeanette Bobey, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Ruth McMillan, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith, Pam Wilson.

**Also present:**

Steve McNay (Council Manager)

Sean Perry (Community Services Manager)

**In attendance:**

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)

Tash Darling (Youth Manager & Safeguarding Lead)

**SC 16/22 Apologies:**

Cllr Jordan Coventry (personal)

Cllr Nick Scott (personal)

Cllr Sue Smith (another meeting – will be late in attending this meeting)

**AGREED**

**SC 17/22 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Pam Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item SC 21/22 as she is the Secretary to the Eaglestone Residents Association.

**NOTED**

**SC 18/22 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):**

There were no questions from the members of the public.

**NOTED**

**SC 19/22 Chairs announcements:**

The Vice-Chair informed the meeting that there is a barbecue at the Islamic Centre Trubys Gardens, Coffee Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 starting at 2:00pm.

**NOTED**

**SC 20/22 Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and will be signed by the Vice-Chair.

## Communities and Environment Fund Application(s)

Cllr Pam Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item SC 21/22 as she is the Secretary to the Eaglestone Residents Association.

### **SC 21/22 Eaglestone Residents Association:**

Application received for £500 towards the 'Picnic in the Park' event.

#### **RESOLVED**

To award £500 towards the 'Picnic in the Park' event.

### **SC 22/22 Coffee Hall Residents Association:**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Community Services Manager to look into a preferred coach hire company that can be used for Residents Association trips, with the possibility of negotiating a discount due to the amount of trips that take place each year.
2. To award £500 towards coach hire for a trip to Brighton.

### **SC 23/22 Tinkers Bridge Residents Association:**

Application received for £779 towards coach hire for trips to Brighton and Southend.

#### **RESOLVED**

To award £779 towards coach hire for trips to Brighton and Southend.

## Reports

### **SC 24/22 To provide feedback and recommendations relating to previous unspent grant funding allocations:**

There have been questions asked about two (2) specific funding awards that this committee has yet to hear back from. Following these concerns being raised, the Council Manager has been in discussions with the applicants to get an update on the situation with a view to concluding the process.

#### **Grand Union Vineyard**

An award was made towards the cost of a new storage unit, to enable the services that are offered in the North of the city to be replicated locally, making it easier for Woughton residents to access them. The original applicant is no longer with the church, but did respond and passed details over to the current team who said:

"Due to the impact of covid, we have yet to fully spend the grant of £3,000.00p although we have continued as a church to fund activities for the local area. These activities include the monthly Wellbeing sessions, baking events for children in the holidays, community cafe (running alongside the community fridge) and more recently, monthly art sessions.

The plans regarding the expansion of the storehouse for the local area, is that we purchase a container at a cost of approximately £2,405.00p. We will then store mainly school uniform items specifically for the primary schools within the Woughton area plus a stock of emergency clothing packs for distribution. The remainder of the funding will go towards purchasing storage boxes and shelving for the container.

We are hoping to order the container within the next couple of weeks and have the facility up and running by September.”

Given this response and the proposal to have used the funding within this calendar year, it is recommended that this funding be extended to the end of the calendar year, with an expectation that the evaluation report is provided to this committee by January 2023.

#### **Q Alliance**

An award was made towards the creation of films to support the experiences of young people, providing support to create a film. This award was made in July 2021 and was expected to be completed by now. However, after discussions with the applicants, a combination of covid, staffing issues and access to the filmmakers have all caused some delays. It is anticipated that the filming will be concluded this autumn, with a January 2023 completion date.

Given this response and the proposal to have used the funding within this calendar year, it is recommended that this funding be extended to the end of the calendar year, with an expectation that the evaluation report is provided to this committee by January 2023.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to extensions for spending, due to delays caused by the impact of the pandemic.**
- 3. That if unspent, the awards are reconsidered in January 2023 and, if appropriate, called back in with a view to the applicants reapplying once they are ready.**

#### **SC 25/22 To review feedback from the Tinkers Bridge Residents Association grant allocated for a Jubilee Event:**

The Tinkers Bridge Resident's Association produced a report on their recent Jubilee events along with photographs, and positive comments from residents.

The meeting felt it was well written and a useful example of the kind of information for use in funding bids, annual reports etc.

It was suggested to use the wall mounted TV in the Hub Reception area to highlight the information provided in this feedback form to show the positive work of residents associations and Woughton Community Council.

#### **RESOLVED**

**To use the wall mounted TV in the Hub Reception area to highlight the information provided in this feedback form to show the positive work of residents associations and Woughton Community Council.**

#### **SC 26/22 To update the committee on the current budget headings:**

An overview of the services budget for the July meeting, as agreed previously, was broken down into service directorates.

## **Community**

There is nothing of particular concern with this report, but a couple of areas to consider:

Additional income is £5,000. This was anticipated as grant applications made, which hasn't happened yet. This should be prioritised over the coming months.

Events (non specific) has a significant underspend. This is primarily due to events having been funded through other sources such as the Jubilee grants to residents associations, Grant Aid, etc.)

The other notable thing is the lack of budget for the Community Food delivery. Whilst these projects are mostly self-sustaining, there will be equipment needs and some other costs. It would be worth considering a smallish amount be allocated when budget reviews take place.

## **Landscape**

Nothing of concern with this budget, with most budget headings approximately where they should be.

The Landscape grant was budgeted as having an uplift in line with inflation, as previously agreed, but the amount currently agreed is the 'actual' amount as referred to in the report. This leaves a £7,500 shortfall, but this may change once uplifts are agreed.

Everything else is either at or below 75% of actual spend, which is excellent.

## **Environment**

There is nothing of note to report although all budget headings are underspent.

## **Youth**

To note that additional income is already £3,000 ahead of the expected total for the year. This bodes well.

The HAF funding has been received alongside the LEAP grant.

Everything else is mostly on track, with the exception of running costs, which is slightly over budget.

Generally, these budget reports show that all Services areas are within the budgets set and agreed and, in some cases, are doing better than expected. Additional income is likely to increase as and when grant applications come to fruition.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the committee notes the report.**

## **SC 27/22 To provide an overview of Community Food provision, with recommendations:**

As part of a regular review, the meeting looked at the Community Food services. As the Coordinator has been in post for just under a year too, this was an opportune

moment to reflect on what is being delivered, to consider plans for the future, challenges, and the impact that these services are making.

The meeting was informed about the current community café, community fridge and the community larder (which is a membership subscription) provision, and that a number of volunteers had been sourced to help run sessions.

Discussions were centred on the benefits to residents that were not just about the provision of food but the ancillary services accessed such as the advice service and volunteers gaining in confidence, that residents who attended felt comfortable and were able to socialise more.

Concern was expressed by members about ensuring Woughton residents benefitted from the services provided, as there was evidence that people from other areas of the city were accessing the café and fridge.

Donations were normally sought from those attending the café, and it was suggested that a pay it forward system is put in place.

Members wished for these services to be monitored and reported back at a future meeting for further discussion.

**RESOLVED**

**To defer any decisions until after the AwayDay to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

**SC 28/22 To provide suggestions for increased use of the wellbeing room and a suitable 'booking' route:**

There could be possibly other events taking place in the wellbeing room such as:

- Wellbeing Sessions supporting positive mental health in Woughton
- Education, training, and employment support. Such as a proposal from the MK Dons SET and the Job Club.

It was suggested that other buildings managed by Woughton Community Council could be used such as 95, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, subject to availability, Netherfield Meeting Place, but would need two (2) people in attendance, the small meeting room at the Eaglestone Activity Centre. The trailer at events, and the chamber at the hub as an overflow, reconfiguring the present reception area back for the use of the advice service could be tricky especially due to the acoustics which makes the room not that private anyway.

Some venues and drop ins are more used than others and the meeting felt it would be useful to find out why that is the case.

It was further suggested to have a combination of a drop in and or a triaged service, with a booking system of appointments in officer's calendars.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That committee notes the report.**

2. That further discussions take place with the Milton Keynes Council Job Club around the plans to improve and extend this provision, prior to any decision regarding the MK Dons SET proposal.
3. That the committee considers the MK Dons SET proposal for possible future procurement.
4. That the Community Services Manager (CSM) undertakes an evaluation of the use of the wellbeing room and the advice service, with a view to ensuring suitable space is available considering the potential for future demand as well as current use.
5. Following this evaluation, a further report to come to this committee with recommendations, if appropriate, for additional space:
  - a. Reinstalling the Woughton Advice Service (WAS) room in where the reception area is currently.
  - b. Provision of a suitable space within the Chambers (to include privacy and a phone).
  - c. Use of the Trailer as an 'overflow' space.
  - d. To audit the use of space of other buildings managed by Woughton Community Council.

**SC 29/22 To update the committee on Planned Events:**

A suggestion was made that Tinkers Bridge Residents Association delivered a breakfast club over the summer holidays, which was discussed with the Council Manager and Responsible Financial Officer, who both felt this would be fine. Due to the pressures of time, this was then arranged and advertised to start from the first week of the summer holidays. There is no direct cost to Woughton Community Council for this provision.

Apple Day, one of the standing events in the Woughton Community Council calendar, has previously taken place to the rear of No 95, Jonathans, Coffee Hall. However, with the installation of an external tap and the improvement works that have taken place to the area between the Hub and the Church (the 'green'), it is proposed that this year the event takes place there as it is a more open space.

The Children's Remembrance Parade is another long standing event, with Woughton Community Council having recently taken overall responsibility for this. As a result, of this, an initial meeting took place earlier this year where early discussions took place. Since this initial meeting, there has been a lack of follow up, and this needs to be progressed.

The Santa Sleigh tour, which has been very well received over the past couple of years, is also in the planning stage, with proposed dates of the week prior to Christmas week (14<sup>th</sup> December 2022), with a similar route to last year. It is proposed to offer something similar to last year, with a curtain sided truck, decorated at the start of the week and supported by Resident Association activities.

It was suggested that the apple day could be extended to an autumn event, and a system put in place to remind Councillors of events coming up.

There are also a number of events taking place over the summer, managed by Resident Associations and community groups. These include:

- Tinkers Bridge Dog Show and Summer Fayre. Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 12:00pm till 5:00pm at the Colne Park fields on Tinkers Bridge.
- Beanhill Fun Day. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 12:00pm till 6:00pm on the main Capron field.
- Trips to various locations from most estates!

There is also the full activity programme from the Woughton Community Council Youth Team, as discussed at the previous meeting. This includes the 'Picnic on the Promenade', similar to the Beach Party and open to all on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 11:00am till 3:00pm at the Jed Adderley Park on Netherfield.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the committee notes the report.
2. That the committee agrees to the following:
  - a. To support the delivery of a 'breakfast club' at Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place during the summer holiday, provided by the Tinkers Bridge Residents Association.
  - b. That the Apple Day event takes place on the 'green' outside the Hub, to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.
  - c. That whoever is interested in being involved in the planning and delivery of the Remembrance Parade makes themselves known and a meeting arranged to clarify roles and responsibilities during August 2022.
  - d. That the 'Santa Sleigh' events across the area take place on the following dates
    - i. Beanhill and Netherfield: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022
    - ii. Peartree Bridge and Eaglestone: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022
    - iii. Leadenhall and Coffee Hall: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022
    - iv. Tinkers Bridge Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022
3. That the committee notes the dates for local Residents Association events that are planned and updates the Council Manager / Community Development Officer with anything else that is known to update information accordingly.

**SC 30/22 To provide the 'Cost of Living' paper, where Services overseen by committee are discussed, for consideration prior to the extraordinary meeting:**

The meeting was informed that this report was only circulated for information purposes and not for a full discussion at this meeting, but will be more fully at the AwayDay to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### **NOTED**

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

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 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 7:39 PM**

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

DRAFT