

Woughton Community Council

Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023, 6:30pm,
Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee
Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Ruth McMillan, Liz Simpkins, John Orr, Pam Wilson.

Also present:

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)
Tash Darling (Youth Manager/Safeguarding Lead)
Steve McNay (Council Manager)
Sean Perry (Community Services Manager)

SC 74/23 Apologies:

Cllr Sue Smith (meeting)

AGREED

SC 75/23 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

SC 76/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

There were no questions from members of the public.

NOTED

SC 77/23 Chairs announcements:

There were no Chair's announcements.

NOTED

SC 78/23 Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and was signed by the Chair.

Communities and Environment Fund Application(s)

There were no funding applications for consideration.

NOTED

Reports

SC 79/23 To update the committee on the Youth Service proposed repainting of the Barista Park walls:

The Youth Manager has for some years now been exploring options for repair, rejuvenation and redesign of the Barrista park walls that face the road on Jonathans, Coffee Hall. Prior to Covid there had been some headway with local artists and funding options, but these unfortunately were not continued after the pandemic. The Youth Manager reached out to various artists and new funding streams in 2022. One of which was Motus dance company, because they have completed significant, high-quality projects which have incorporated street art, music and dance together. There have been a few meetings to explore options and share what Woughton Community Council want from a partnership. Not least funding. Motus went away with a very loose brief and the task of finding funding to develop a project.

The Youth Manager and the Motus director met again in January and February as Motus have now secured 16 months' worth of funding for a collaborative project, through the Arts Council England. The Youth Manager attended a Motus event on 18th March to get more of a personal insight into the quality and potential of the piece that is looking to be developed. They are a vastly professional organisation and have an impressive catalogue of excellent quality projects.

Following the most recent meeting, the Motus director is pulling in choreographers and artists from across the country who the Youth Manager will meet with in April, bringing some local music and a street artist along. Together the idea of a collaborative, multi-disciplined piece will be developed. The plan is to create a project that enables local young people to work on the different aspects: dance, sound, vocals and street art together over a period of time, working towards an event in July of 2024 when the walls will have been repainted and showcased as part of a dance and performance piece. There is a drive to work with anyone from the parish but incorporate pieces with distinct minority groups: Girls and women, the LGBTQ+ community, young carers and a group of blind young people. Everything will be captured throughout the project and documented so that both the process and the final piece can become part of Woughton's Arts Heritage walks that are being developed.

This is a phenomenal opportunity to work with some very big names, alongside local young people and local artists to create something very special. The Youth Manager will update the committee again in due course.

RESOLVED

That the Committee notes the report.

SC 80/23 To update the committee on the Environment Service activities:

Regular meetings take place with the Environmental Enforcement Team at Milton Keynes City Council, with some good positive outcomes regarding the installation of covert cameras around the Parish.

The expansion of the tool library (Library of Things) at the new landscape depot utilising a 20ft container currently on site waiting to be re-painted and Grafo-thermed (condensation proofed) by end of the month.

Flood equipment starting to arrive at the Hub ready to be placed in the container waiting to be re-painted.

£91,000 Big Lottery Grant has been awarded for establishing the new Community Garden on the land behind Rochfords, Coffee Hall. This can now be developed as a growing space for organisations such as Resident Associations, schools, playgroups and to incorporate Forest School.

14 new dog bins ordered for replacement and to move some existing ones. New litter bin ordered for Peartree Bridge at the community garden space.

Various species of new trees have been planted across the parish over the last few weeks.

Small orchards are planned for Eaglestone and Coffee Hall, these have been funded by a Branching Out grant, these will be planted in association with various youth groups.

The planting outside the Eaglestone Activity Centre is being reviewed to incorporate grass area seating and soft planting.

A breakdown of the situation with Fly Tipping over the past six months was circulated to Members of the committee.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

SC 81/23 To update the committee on the Wellbeing & Advice Services activities:

The Wellbeing and Advice Officer reduced their working time to 15 hours per week in January 2023. This had an effect on the amount of wellbeing support given to residents, options are being explored for supplementing the work that the Woughton Advice Service team provide. Meetings have been held with Arts for Health and the Milton Keynes Recovery College and the following is proposed:

Arts For Health

A fully funded 10-12 week course for up to 12 people, to take place at a Woughton venue. Arts For Health will provide a dedicated artist to run the course and an administrator to handle registrations and measure outcomes. They also provide materials and volunteers as necessary. There are a wide range of options for the actual course content, painting, collage, textiles, music, photography etc, and the course could have an overall theme, for example Milton Keynes becoming a city.

Woughton Community Council's commitment would be to provide a space for the course, and ideally basic refreshments for the participants. These can be provided through community fridge donations.

Milton Keynes Recovery College

CNWL and Rethink Mental Illness recently opened a Recovery and Wellbeing College in Queensway, Bletchley. They offer a "safe, empowering and non-

stigmatising space to explore, share and learn together and support each other on a journey of self-discovery” to residents in Milton Keynes.

In practical terms, they offer a wide range of workshops & courses to help cope with everyday life. Courses include:

- Coping with Loneliness and Isolation
- Understanding Health Anxiety
- Money Matters
- Interview Skills

A full list of upcoming courses and workshops has been circulated to Members of the committee.

The Woughton Advice Service team would like to run a series of ‘taster’ sessions in the Wellbeing Room at Coffee Hall to see if local residents could benefit from this service. The following sessions have been requested:

- Developing Resilience
- Exercising for Health
- Spirituality and Wellbeing
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Introduction to Managing Stress
- Low Mood

If successful, to then explore the possibility of running regular courses at venues on Woughton. This could be particularly beneficial for people who need to rely on public transport, for example it can take over an hour to get from Peartree Bridge to the Recovery College by bus.

Although the existing courses and workshops are open to all Milton Keynes residents, it has been agreed that any courses held on Woughton would be predominantly for local residents.

Chair Yoga

In September 2022 a 6 week Chair Yoga class at Coffee Hall was piloted. The course was very well received, with 9 plus attendees every week and positive feedback from all those who attended, including:

- Feeling less stressed/more relaxed
- Sleeping better/longer
- Feeling physically better, more mobile

The sessions also had a strong social aspect which led to some lasting friendships being created. There is an opportunity to repeat this course at other venues on Woughton and it was felt that it would be beneficial to other residents.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

SC 82/23 To propose an event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles:

The coronation of King Charles takes place over the weekend of Saturday 6th May 2023 to Monday 8th May 2023. The official itinerary is:

Saturday 6th May 2023

Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey, the Coronation Service will take place on the morning of Saturday, 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. The Coronation is a solemn religious service, as well as an occasion for celebration and pageantry.

Sunday 7th May 2023

Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May 2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship. From a cup of tea with a neighbour to a street party, a Coronation Big Lunch brings the celebrations to your neighbourhood and is a great way to get to know your community a little better.

Also on Sunday, 7th May 2023, a special Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle. Produced, staged and broadcast live by the BBC and BBC Studios, the Coronation Concert will bring global music icons and contemporary stars together in celebration of the historic occasion.

Monday 8th May 2023

The Big Help Out will be held on Monday, 8th May 2023 and is being organised by The Together Coalition and a wide range of partners such as The Scouts, the Royal Voluntary Service and faith groups from across the United Kingdom. The Big Help Out will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation. The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.

The Community Development Team would like to hold the Big Lunch event on the green at Coffee Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 7th May 2023. This could include:

- A family picnic, with residents encouraged to bring along and share their own food
- Cooked refreshments (ie. Coronation Chicken) provided by Woughton Community Council.
- Live entertainment, for example karaoke, singalong
- If the event was held later in the day the Coronation Concert could be shown outdoors on a big screen.

It Would require Council Officers and involvement from Councillors and volunteers in order for this event to work. The exact staffing requirements will only be known when a running program is agreed.

It will cost approximately £200 for entertainment, £100 for food.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee notes the report.
2. That the Committee agrees to a 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 7th May 2023, as detailed.

SC 83/23 To update the committee on the proposed Community Engagement activities with the Milton Keynes Islamic Centre:

Proposals are being developed to continue the existing relationship with the Milton Keynes Islamic Centre on Coffee Hall. At a recent meeting there was a discussion on ways of working together, with Ramadan being seen as a good opportunity to start this work.

The following proposals were considered that will be run together with Woughton Community Council and the Milton Keynes Islamic Centre:

Sunday 26th March 2023 – Community Food at Coffee Hall Meeting Place. Start cooking at 4.30pm. MKMA will provide and cook all the food. The event will be open to everyone.

Friday 7th April 2023 – A youth Iftar, for up to 50 young people at Eaglestone Activity Centre. Access from 5:00pm.

It is also being explored the possibility of starting a youth project after Ramadan. It was suggested that this would be a one off event, which if successful could happen on a more regular basis. The project would take the following form:

A Games / Video games night – possibly at Eaglestone Activity Centre. 12-18 years old. Thirty attendees. If successful to look at running this weekly on Fridays or Saturdays to promote youth engagement. Open to all Woughton Youth.

The Youth Manager sees this as a fantastic opportunity as the team have tried, with minimal success, to reach some of the minority groups within Woughton, the Islamic community being one of these harder to reach cohorts. Aside from it being an outcome on the existing service plan. The Youth Manager wants to endorse this and any open access and collaborative working, as the youth team is particularly keen to develop more relationships with diverse communities of young people.

A Council Officer or Caretaker will be needed to open and close buildings. If the youth engagement project takes off, to look at the possibility of a volunteer Youth Worker attending the sessions.

These projects will utilise buildings that are not currently being rented. It is proposed to not charge for access.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

SC 84/23 To update the committee on the Chairs Awards:

The Chairs Awards to be held on Friday 21st April 2023 at the Milton Keynes College atrium, subject to confirmation, an alternative venue can be sourced if necessary.

NOTED

SC 85/23 Update on the Community Garden, Memorial and Depot sites:

The Memorial Garden is taking shape the memorial bench has been installed and branded accordingly, Councillors are requested to speak to their residents and community groups about having a growing space, a library of things, looking into

holding a repairs café and geeks in sheds as well, and there is planned to have a workshop, in the depot. Need to have further conversations with the Coffee Hall Residents Association as regards a proposal to install sleepers and a ceremonial stone at the memorial garden. Depot to have a living roof to soften the appearance and is environmentally friendly. An eight foot fence will be installed to protect the site the type of fencing seen around schools and family centres, CCTV will be provided, accessed by an app for monitoring purposes, and warning signs as Members wanted to discourage climbing the nearby trees to try and gain access.

NOTED

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 19th April 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 7:10 PM

Chair _____ Date _____