

## Woughton Community Council

### Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6:30pm, Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

**Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Ruth McMillan, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Sue Smith, Alan Williamson.**

**Also present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Tash Darling (Youth Manager & Safeguarding Lead) (Zoom Video Call).  
Cllr Michael Holland (Zoom Video Call) .

**SC 42/23 Apologies:**

Cllr Jeanette Bobey (personal)  
Cllr Penny Glasgow (personal)  
Cllr Liz Simpkins (personal)

**AGREED**

**SC 43/23 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**NOTED**

**SC 44/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):**

There were no questions from the public.

**NOTED**

**SC 45/23 Chairs announcements:**

The Chair thanked all Officers and Councillors for all their help in the flood response.

**NOTED**

**SC 46/23 Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and was signed by the Chair.

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

There were no Communities & Environment Fund Applications for consideration.  
**NOTED**

### **Reports**

#### **SC 47/23 Tinkers Bridge Residents Association – Trips to Bournemouth and Skegness – Evaluation Form:**

There was a good range of ages of residents from the estate, it was so well attended that there was a need for an additional coach.

**NOTED**

#### **SC 48/23 To update the committee on the activities and work of the Environment Team:**

Fly tipping seems to have increased slightly with about fifty (50) reports a week gone through over the last two (2) weeks. Changes to clearance seems to be that some mixed piles are sorted and collected separately according to type of rubbish.

New bins are still causing issues with some people still awaiting delivery of theirs, so still using bags which are getting split. People are getting confused over which bin they should put out each week. Some are still putting waste in bags in recycling bins, and many are overfilling theirs which means they won't be collected.

The team will be making some new notices with carefully worded advice about the correct way to use their bins something it is believed that Milton Keynes City Council are also trying to do.

A new Milton Keynes City Council camera is in place on Beanhill covering a flytipping hotspot and discussion with Crimewave over position of Woughton Community Council cameras is also in progress.

A meeting has been arranged with the Milton Keynes City Council Enforcement team for the usual bi-monthly updates on any reported environmental crime cases in the area.

There was an update on the community garden on Rochfords Coffee Hall:

A Cabin has been built but just needs bit more painting:

- Toilet is up and running.
- Solar lighting to be installed.
- Willow area prepared.
- First stages of polytunnel underway.
- Payback using it regularly now.

A mulberry tree has been planted on Eaglestone.

Both the Eaglestone orchard and the Coffee Hall orchard are thriving.

New trees to be planted in Two Halls Park with Milton Keynes City Council, Milton Keynes College students and Community Trees Milton Keynes in November 2023.

SuD's planters are available for some Coffee Hall residents with a suitable down pipe and container space to alleviate some flooding problem with an article for the Woughton Gazette to follow.

It was also suggested that there is in an article put in the Woughton Gazette encouraging residents to share bins to ensure those who have reached maximum capacity, could perhaps arrange with a neighbour's to use their bin that is not used as much.

There was a further suggestion that an article is put in the Woughton Gazette advising residents on Coffee Hall to sweep leaves and conkers onto the roadway for the Milton Keynes City Council road sweepers to take away.

Councillors were encouraged to email the Environment Team with locations of any flytipping hot spots.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the committee notes the report.**

#### **SC 49/23 To update the committee on the proposed building improvements to the community centres:**

As agreed at last month's meeting, spending to make improvements to community centres needs to be focused on the essential elements, particularly health and safety issues. The only exception is where additional funding has been sought, for example with the CIF, which has agreed to half funding for:

- Provision of new bathrooms at the Tinkers Bridge (£7,222) and Coffee Hall Meeting Places (£6,605), incorporating gender neutral, disabled access and, if possible, 'Changing Places' approaches (although this is felt unlikely, due to size constraints). This will include suitable equipment, access issues addressed and décor.
- Auto openers at the Netherfield Meeting Place and the Council Chambers, plus the toilets, to enable equitable access (£2,400)

The Caretaker Manager and Landscape / Environment Manager visited all community centres to develop a list of things that are wanted. Given the constraints on funding and need to ensure safety, there are two urgent needs: Netherfield Meeting Place ceiling and the Eaglestone Activity Centre kitchen.

The toilets at the Coffee Hall Meeting Place are also a priority, but from visual, rather than Health & Safety reasons. Funding towards these is via the CIF funding.

If there is money left after undertaking these works, further discussions can take place around next steps and priorities.

It should be noted that there will need to be an ongoing budget allocated to the replacement of light fittings throughout buildings managed by Woughton Community Council, following the move to 'ban' fluorescent tubes. It is recommended that

£5,000 per year over the next four (4) years should be allocated, where separate funding is not accessible.

Cllr Sue Smith moved and Cllr D'Anne Mordecai seconded "that repairs to the ceiling at the Netherfield Meeting Place are undertaken, and that further investigations take place with Milton Keynes City Council for the repairs to the basketball court and kitchen at the Eaglestone Activity Centre."

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the committee notes the report and recommendations.**
- 2. That committee agrees to the repairs being undertaken to the Netherfield Meeting Place ceiling.**
- 3. That further investigations take place with Milton Keynes City Council regarding the repairs to the basketball court and kitchen at the Eaglestone Activity Centre.**
- 4. That the CIF money is used to provide the elements noted within the applications for that money, principally the access issues at Chambers door, Netherfield toilets and improvements to toilets at the Tinkers Bridge and Coffee Hall Meeting Places.**

**SC 50/23 To inform the committee of the Community Centre usage and income / expenditure:**

The committee was presented with the figures for the amount of bookings and running costs, as discussed at the last meeting of the Operations & Resources Committee.

Costs are affected due to seasonal changes (heating being on more often). The Council Manager will look into party bundles (a fixed price for a set time – e.g. £50 for 5 hours), and other ways of increasing income, the committee will be kept informed.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council Manager to look into party bundles, and other ways of increasing income, the committee will be kept informed.**

**SC 51/23 To discuss holding an event for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024:**

A letter has been received encouraging Parish & Town Councils to light a beacon in remembrance, a certificate will be provided for those councils that take part in the event.

The committee agreed to set up a working group to organise an event, the beacon can be used from the jubilee and lit in the remembrance garden on Coffee Hall, with refreshments provided. The chair of the committee will chair meetings of the working group, some funding will be provided for this event.

Cllrs Maggie Ferguson, Micheal Ferguson and Alan Williamson expressed an interest to be appointed onto the working group.

The committee agreed that other Councillors should be given the opportunity to be members of the working group and so should be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

1. To hold an event using the beacon from the Jubilee at the Remembrance Garden on Coffee Hall.
2. That some funding will be provided to hold the event.
3. To set up a working group to be chaired by Cllr Nick Scott.
4. That Cllrs Maggie Ferguson, Micheal Ferguson and Alan Williamson are to be appointed onto the working group.
5. That other Councillors should be given the opportunity to be members of the working group and so should be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

**SC 52/23 To consider holding a White Ribbon Event vigil at the Remembrance Garden on Coffee Hall:**

There is already an event planned at Campbell Park, and the committee agreed to hold an event after the one at Campbell Park has been held, for 7:00pm.

It was agreed that Councillors should be trained by MKACT to become Champions as well as members of staff.

The committee further agreed to take this proposal to the next Full Council meeting to ensure all Councillors got an opportunity to be involved.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the committee agreed to hold an event after the one at Campbell Park has been held, for 7:00pm.
2. That Councillors should be trained by MKACT to become Champions as well as members of staff.
3. To take this proposal to the next Full Council meeting to ensure all Councillors got an opportunity to be involved.

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 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 7:37PM**

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