

## Woughton Community Council

### Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 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, Donna Fuller, Penny Glasgow, D'Anne Mordechi, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith, Alan Williamson.

**Also present:**

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

**In attendance:**

One (1) member of the public.

**Also in attendance:**

Cllr Jeanette Bobey (Zoom Video Call)

**SC 15/23 Apologies:**

Cllr Jeanette Bobey (personal)  
Cllr Ruth McMillan (personal)

**AGREED**

**SC 16/23 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**NOTED**

**SC 17/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):**

Landscaping on Beanhill, will there be a plan in place to ensure regular cutting back of the bushes along the walkways?

Beanhill Residents Association undertook a poll of their residents the outcome of which fully supported Woughton Community Council renewing the landscaping contract with Milton Keynes City Council.

It is not clear who owns the alleyways on Beanhill, the locks to the gates have been taken away although residents would prefer if there were locks, the contractors SERCO have cleared out the alleyways of debris but it is not clear if this work will be

ongoing, Ward Councillors will seek clarification, but there have been problems in the past getting keys back from departing residents because they have been lost to be able to give to new residents who moved onto the estate.

It was suggested to look into ownership of the walkways and alleyways and bring back to the next meeting for further discussion at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED**

**To look into ownership of the walkways and alleyways on Beanhill and bring back to the next meeting for further discussion.**

**SC 18/23 Chairs announcements:**

The Festival on Netherfield had to be cancelled due to bad weather. An alternative date will be circulated, but the format and when it will be held needs to be factored in with other events that will take place.

**NOTED**

**SC 19/23 Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and was signed by the Chair.

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

There are no applications for consideration.

**NOTED**

**Reports**

**SC 20/23 Eaglestone Residents Association – Picnic in the Park Event**

**Evaluation Form:**

No concerns, best value, a low cost event £1.79p per person in attendance, the residents association is looking to do the same next year to include fundraising, barbecue, raffle etc, their goal is to hold the same event and make it bigger and better.

It was suggested to put the date of when an event or project is going to be held at the top of the evaluation form so that it is much clearer.

**RESOLVED**

**To put the date of when an event or project is going to be held at the top of the evaluation form so that it is much clearer.**

**SC 21/23 To adopt the Woughton Advice Service Referral Form:**

The form was discussed at the last meeting, helps the advice team with a certain level of information from a Member, should make things a lot smoother, the form is data protected and GDPR compliant.

The committee was happy with the form as presented.

**NOTED**

**SC 22/23: To become a White Ribbon UK Supporter Organisation:**

To become a supporter organisation there is a one off registration fee of £150 and there are seven (7) actions that must be adhered to.

The committee was supportive and felt that it was appropriate to become a supporter organisation.

**RESOLVED**

**That Woughton Community Council proceeds in becoming a White Ribbon UK Supporter Organisation at a cost of £150.00p and commits to adhering to the seven (7) actions as outlined in the White Ribbon campaign's literature.**

**SC 23/23 To provide an update on all aspects of the Youth Service:**

The Youth Service Manager provided a general update on the Youth Service, on the recent 'Deep Dive', Safeguarding and informed the committee of the youth services delivery plans across the Woughton Community Council area for the Summer of 2023.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee is informed that the youth service has been awarded a £7,000 HAF grant for this summer and notes the benefits and challenges of including the Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) managed Department of Education (DofE) Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) funding to enhance the youth service offer.**
- 3. That Committee agrees to the additional £480 income for venues from HAF funding to be utilised to offset the overspend on youth staffing rather than sit in additional income.**
- 4. That members have an opportunity to raise questions and gain greater insight into the proposed offer from the Youth Manager if desired.**

**SC 24/23 Update on the Communities and Environment Fund:**

a. To consider an approach regarding payment of travel, entrance fees and other considerations.

The committee considered an estate based funding formula on population figures and a criteria for funding coach trips.

The committee felt that each application should be looked on its merits.

Cllr Sue Smith moved and Cllr Liz Simpkins seconded "That any coach trip will be funded by half the amount applied for up to £700 maximum per estate, that funding is ring fenced from the Communities & Environment fund budget until September of each financial year, and any surplus from September until the end of the financial year is then transferred to the general fund budget."

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the committee notes the report and recommendations.**
- 2. That the committee supports the criteria that any coach trip will be funded by half the amount applied for up to £700 maximum per estate, that funding is ring fenced from the Communities & Environment fund**

**budget until September of each financial year, and any surplus from September until the end of the financial year is then transferred to the general fund budget.**

- 3. That these decisions are noted and included in any publicity and guidance notes for the grants scheme and become part of the agreed 'scoring' process for ALL applications.**

b. To look into producing an estate based formula taking population figures into consideration.

After some discussion Cllr Sue Smith moved and Cllr April Rennie seconded that there are no changes to the remit of the Communities & Environment fund.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee notes the report, alongside previous and current papers relating to the use of these funds.**
- 2. That the committee expresses the view that they do not support any changes to the remit of the Communities & Environment fund.**

**SC 25/23 To update the committee on the CCTV considerations, as discussed at the last Operations & Resources Committee meeting:**

At the Operations & Resources Committee on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, a presentation was made by Mr Luke Denton from Crimewave LTD, a security and evidence gathering company that works extensively across the city, with Milton Keynes City Council, the Milton Keynes Parks Trust and other statutory agencies, utilising CCTV resources.

The presentation explained the approach they take, the positives and the limitations.

It was suggested to seek the advice of the company, if after deciding to proceed, the priority of any list of flytipping hotspot locations and for how long any camera(s) should stay in place.

It was further suggested if any other partner agencies needed CCTV then Woughton Community Council could charge a fee, although Woughton Community Council has no enforcement powers but Milton Keynes City Council and Thames Valley Police do.

After some discussion the committee recommended to take a proposal to the next meeting of the Full Council for two (2) resources (CCTV Cameras), at a cost of £12,000 per year, a total of £36,000 over three (3) years.

Cllr Sue Smith moved and Cllr Alan Williamson seconded a proposal to review at the end of the three year (3) contract.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That this committee considers the information included in the report and the presentation from Crimewave LTD at the last meeting of the Operations & Resources Committee.**

2. That the committee recommends to the next Full Council meeting two (2) resources (CCTV Cameras), at a cost of £12,000 per year, a total of £36,000 over three (3) years.
3. To review at the end of the three year (3) contract.
4. That the financial impact of any agreement is considered and, that Full Council considers where funding may come from.

**SC 26/23 To update the committee on the Landscape contract discussions:**

The committee was updated on the Landscape contract discussions.

As discussed at the Full Council meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the landscape contract is due for renewal and discussions have been ongoing around the cost / benefit analysis, budgets, and preference of councillors / residents with regard to the delivery of the contract. Some issues were identified during these discussions mainly around the financial implications of the contract identifying tackling the shortfall from the Local Council Tax Support Grant monies given by Milton Keynes City Council, and how this will affect the level of service in the future and if the grant was to cease at present extra money has been provided recognising the challenges of deprivation in the area. Although Milton Keynes City Council has indicated that the grant will be topped up when going over to the new contract, this may be a lower amount going forward, the financial situation as regards the contract with careful budgeting over the longer term may not be as bleak as first thought.

Woughton Community Council can give Milton Keynes City Council six (6) months notice to end the contract and the service would be returned to them.

One other query was around Woughton Community Council officers and what would happen in the event that Woughton Community Council handed back the contract. It has been agreed that TUPE would apply and as such, officers would be transferred over to the new provider, with some protection around salary, conditions, etc.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the committee notes the report.
2. That the final decision is taken at Full Council at the meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**SC 27/23 To inform the committee of the 'MK CAN' project and to see if the council would like to be involved:**

This project is aiming to engage with a range of groups to 'sponsor' a stretch of the line at the Milton Keynes Rose, businesses with a financial contribution, and community groups by providing the cans and volunteers to 'staff' the stretch that they sponsor. The launch event suggested approximately 400 tins and between five (5) – ten (10) volunteers for each stretch.

The project was launched as an opportunity to raise the profile of businesses, get recognised both locally and nationally (the press is already involved) and support the Food Bank by helping to deliver 'half the tinned food needed in a year'.

The event is planned for the Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 this is the day of the Services & Communities Committee meeting, but other than the Netherfield Café, there are no other event commitments that day.

Whilst officers may wish to be involved, the level of commitment will depend on the number of volunteers, councillors and others that are also happy to be part of this. If it is recommended to proceed then the Council Manager will create a rota to ensure suitable cover.

The Council Manager attended the launch event and has undertaken further work to evaluate the project.

The committee proposed setting up collection points at the Hub and at the Tinkers Bridge and Netherfield Cafes.

The Council Manager was asked to enquire where the tins are transported after the event has taken place.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the committee notes the report and, if possible, checks the information at the Food Bank website.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to Woughton Community Council signing up for this project, with the understanding of the commitments this brings.**
- 3. That the committee agrees to the Council Manager working with officers, volunteers, and councillors to get a 'rota' for involvement and to create a 'drop off' point for donations towards any Woughton involvement.**
- 4. To set up collection points at the Hub and at the Tinkers Bridge and Netherfield Cafes.**
- 5. That the Council Manager to enquire where the tins are transported after the event has taken place.**

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 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 8:29 PM**

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