

Woughton Community Council

Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023, 6:30pm,
Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee
Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Jeanette Bobey (Vice-Chair), Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, D'Anne Mordechi, April Rennie, Ruth McMillan, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith.

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:

Two (2) members of the public.

SC 28/23 Apologies:

Cllr Donna Fuller (personal)
Cllr Alan Williamson (personal)

AGREED

SC 29/23 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Jeanette Bobey – Agenda item SC 33/23 - personal interest - as a member of the Netherfield Residents Association.

Cllr Michael Ferguson - Agenda item SC 33/23 - personal interest - as a member of the Netherfield Residents Association.

NOTED

SC 30/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

A Beanhill resident submitted the following written question:

“I would like to ask that Woughton Community Council discuss with Milton Keynes City Council regarding a few areas on Beanhill that need to be cleared and some possibly put back to grass.

These areas should be looked at as a priority due to road safety such as the area of trees / shrubbery surrounding the illuminated mini roundabout sign on Wastel /

Maslin Drive junction, not only is it not really visible which is dangerous but should be by law.

Then the areas at each corner of the through road Tandra / Neapland adjacent to the school, these areas have double yellow lines, to not only stop the way people are parking but to ensure the road junction is kept clear, along with that it was discussed with Milton Keynes City Council and mentioned to the Woughton Community Council Landscape Manager regarding the trees / shrubbery blocking the view for pedestrians and vehicles contravening the rules around road splays and visibility, I feel that these areas should be cleared and put back to grass around any trees that are established.

The area at bottom of the through road at the junction with Medale Road has always had issues regarding line of sight and drivers speed on entering the junction which many drivers cross the central line and it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs, this area was effected recently with bad winds which started the concerns with some trees, and led to them being taken down as they posed ongoing risks. When doing that in particular to that junction it was also where Milton Keynes City Council removed another three (3) trees due to damage not just as a result of that day's high winds. This area has for some time been a high risk area, not only is the road signage obstructed but also the streetlamps which Milton Keynes City Council took the decision to take other trees down to help and in the few months after, this meant increased visibility on approaching the corner which like the top of the street has pedestrian crossing dropped kerbs for scooters etc, right on the corner so again a risk of an accident but when the area was cleared it looked a lot better, but since then the vegetation has been left to grow again and will just end up as the same before with the added risk due to the ground being softer and more likely to cause tree falling with previous trees being taken down, this area again should be cleared around the established tree left and put back to grass to allow better visibility and easier crossing vision for scooters etc. I feel these areas must be done before they get worse and end up costing a huge amount more to rectify, as well as becoming a higher risk to not only drivers and pedestrians, but the proximity to homes where damage maybe caused. I believe it would save both Woughton Community Council and Milton Keynes City Council a lot of money looking ahead.

Doing the areas around Beanhill along roads and especially the junction would not only help with safety and visibility but would lessen the issues of rubbish and drug dealing etc, and for I believe would make Beanhill a more aesthetically looking and pleasing estate.

Please look into these and do your best to bring more areas back to grass and make our estate look better.

The Council Manager said that he would forward on the written question to the Woughton Community Council Landscape Manager and the Milton Keynes City Council Landscape Manager to respond and will feedback at the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Council Manager to forward on the written question to the Woughton Community Council Landscape Manager and the Milton Keynes City Council

Landscape Manager to respond and will feedback at the next committee meeting.

SC 31/23 Chairs announcements:

The committee was informed that there is now an agreed timeline and full plan for the Barista Park, Coffee Hall project that the Youth team has been developing with Motus Dance company.

A report has been submitted for the next Full Council meeting with a list of dates for open days and events.

NOTED

SC 32/23 Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and was signed by the Chair.

Communities and Environment Fund Application(s)

SC 33/23 Netherfield Residents Association:

Trip to South End Halloween & Fireworks event, £400 requested towards coach hire.

RESOLVED

To award £400 towards coach hire.

SC 34/23 Youth Mindset:

To support and training for young people 11 – 25 years old. Amount requested for £3,000.

RESOLVED

- 1. To award £1,000 towards supporting and training for young people aged 11 – 25 years old.**
- 2. That Youth Mindset are encouraged to make further applications in the future that will be considered by the committee.**
- 3. That Woughton Community Council will provide additional support and looks forward to a future working relationship with Youth Mindset.**

Reports

SC 35/23 Netherfield Residents Association – Great Yarmouth Trip Evaluation Form:

The event was well received and residents wanted to see more events like this in the future.

NOTED

SC 36/23 Netherfield Residents Association – Skegness Trip Evaluation Form:

The event was well received, there was an issue with similar named coach hire companies parked up and organisers of the trip had to ensure that residents were seated in the right coaches.

There was some issues with the coach.

NOTED

SC 37/23 To update the committee on Community Centre provision, as part of the regular service update regime:

As part of the calendar of updates, this agenda item is in lieu of a landscape team update, as the service has been discussed frequently over recent times and, with the new contract only just started, an update once everything is embedded in would be more sensible.

The Council Manager informed the meeting regarding the financial impact of running the community centres, most have broken even budget wise but there is still a deficit mainly due to a lack of hire income, high utility bills and expensive repairs, there still needs to be a lot of improvements made to the community centres.

The committee suggested promoting the community centres in the Woughton Gazette, notice boards, resident association publications and to invest in 'banners' to hang outside the centres, encouraging rentals.

The committee agreed that the Council Manager is delegated a spend of up to £500 on publicity to promote the use of the community centres.

It was further agreed that the Council Manager compiles a priority list with costs which come out of the allocated budget, for the improvements required to the community centres, which will be emailed to members of the committee for comments.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report and asks any questions that there may be.**
- 2. That the committee suggests promoting the community centres in the Woughton Gazette, notice boards, resident association publications and to invest in 'banners' to hang outside the centres, encouraging rentals.**
- 3. That the committee agrees that the Council Manager is delegated a spend of up to £500 on publicity to promote the use of the community centres.**
- 4. That the committee further agrees that the Council Manager compiles a priority list with costs which come out of the allocated budget, for the improvements required to the community centres, which will be emailed to members of the committee for comments.**

SC 38/23 To propose changes to the van provision within the council:

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the current white Nissan van is increasingly unsuitable, it only has two (2) seats, is too small for the Council's use and has some issues with reliability. As a result, some early investigations have been undertaken to look at alternatives.

A larger van (Transit, Vivaro, Traffic) with three (3) front seats is ideal, this will enable Play Rangers to operate from one (1) vehicle (currently needing an additional vehicle for the third officer), provide sufficient size to transport the increasingly large collections / deliveries, support the new Library of Things where larger 'borrowed items' are needed and provide an excellent option for events, where everything can be transported in one (1) vehicle.

A decent sized van is around £9,000. This is about the 'trade in' value for the current Nissan van. As a result, the recommendation is that there would be a 'swap' – cost neutral in terms of the values of the respective vans.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee delegates changing the current van to the Council Manager on the understanding that any change is 'cost neutral'.**

SC 39/23 To propose the return of the Woughton Festival for 2024 and to provide an update on existing and newly proposed events and activities:

The planned 2023 Netherfield Festival and Beach Party were severely impacted due to poor weather and were ultimately cancelled due to weather warnings received by the Met Office two (2) days before the event was due to take place.

It is planned to re-run the Netherfield Festival in 2024 with a proposed date of Saturday 7th September 2024, with a 50th birthday theme to celebrate the first families moving onto the estate. Talks are progressing with various local organisations to make this work with various activities suggested.

The Community Cinema is an ongoing collaboration between Leadenhall Residents Association, Milton Keynes Academy and Woughton Community Council. It is planned to show ET and Dunkirk at the Milton Keynes Academy.

The Remembrance Parade will follow the usual format. A resident has suggested that a further event could be included a 1940's themed lunch. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Art classes – A discussion has been had about re-starting regular paid art classes in the daytime at Coffee Hall Community Centre. The plan would be for the group to create and exhibit art in the community centre.

Table Tennis for Adults at the Eaglestone Activity Centre - A table tennis club trial will take place on Mondays, upstairs at the Eaglestone Activity Centre (main hall). Start date to be confirmed, it has been agreed to offer the new group a period of time rent-free, in order to help build up the capacity, before charging for hall hire at the residents rate. A second table tennis table has been sourced for their use.

Boxing – Milton Keynes Academy Amateur Boxing Club (MKAABC)

The boxing club currently rents the downstairs squash court at Eaglestone Activity Centre to hold junior and senior sessions every Monday and Friday between 6.30pm - 7.30pm (juniors) and 7.30pm - 9.00pm (seniors).

The club benefits from some storage and the installation of a boxing ring in one of the squash courts. The club has grown considerably and regularly attracts 50+ attendees each night. The club is registered with England Boxing.

It is proposed to investigate how the Community Council might continue to support the club as they grow; most notably by making efforts to improve the second squash court. This would involve repainting and exploring options for suitable mats for the

second squash court floor. Doing so would improve the likelihood of renting the space to other, similar groups.

Cookery/Healthy Eating – Create regular healthy eating videos using Community Fridge/Larder Food, which could then be published on the website and social media pages. The Committee suggested an air fryer cookery course.

Open mics/Karaoke/Music sessions – Looking to run regular sessions which could rotate between community centres. Some preliminary discussions around this have taken place but signs of initial interest need to be fostered.

Space Education For All – Bottle rocket competition in Woughton
Proposed Woughton wide competition between schools to plan, build and launch “water bottle” rockets. There is also a national competition that could be linked to. The project can promote the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) agenda. There are at least two large open spaces in Woughton which could be used. Ideally, the event would look like a big gathering of Schools and families in Woughton, supported by the Youth and Community teams and would lead to closer working with schools, children and families.

Disco Bingo - Consideration could be given to running more Disco Bingo sessions. Each event costs £200 plus refreshments and prizes.

MK Can Event – Woughton Community Council has agreed to be involved with the Foodbank initiative; more cans are needed to be donated and volunteers to staff the line are also needed.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

SC 40/23 To consider a proposal for Black History Month:

The Youth Manager was approached by the Milton Keynes City Council Engagement Officer Zulfiqar Awan, with an opportunity to pull, what is currently a central Library project (with limited reach), out into residential communities of Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes City Council have funded an organisation called Arts for Education, through The Prosperity Fund, to deliver a piece of work that will celebrate and raise awareness of Black history during October of this year. The project is going ahead as is, but there is an opportunity to extend the exhibition into some communities in Milton Keynes. Fullers Slade and the estates within Woughton Community Council have been approached. Fullers Slade are creating a family activity day in a park.

The Woughton Community Council Youth Manager has suggested that it would benefit the community more and better meet the initial project brief to simply facilitate the exhibition being seen by more people. Young People were the original target audience, but the materials and history are of interest to all ages.

Milton Keynes City Council and Arts for England have already agreed to the Youth Manager’s request to supply a duplicate set of the boards to create a second exhibition. They have also agreed to supply craft materials as required and how to instructions for activities they have created.

The committee agreed to publicising and holding an event, with food provided at a low cost.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee is informed of the proposed project and have an opportunity to ask questions.**
- 3. That committee approve the proposal.**
- 4. That the committee agrees to holding an event with food provided at a low cost.**

SC 41/23 To confirm the ownership of the walkways and alleyways on Beanhill and to discuss further on how to progress the outstanding maintenance issues:

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the alleyways on Beanhill are owned by Milton Keynes City Council and is managed by the Housing Department, the maintenance is not included in the devolved landscaping contract with Woughton Community Council, there are issues with Milton Keynes City Council selling land to home owners to extend their gardens instead of having alleyways.

It was confirmed that the alleyways are not fire exits as the gates to them are kept locked, the Council Manager is still investigating with Milton Keynes City Council with regards to maintenance of the footpaths and alleyways.

The Chair suggested that this information is relayed to residents in a future edition of the Woughton Gazette, and to inform them that Woughton Community Council has signed a new landscaping contract with Milton Keynes City Council, and that the article should explain what the landscaping team are responsible for and what works they are not allowed to undertake, along with a contact number / email address so that residents can report issues.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the information as regards ownership of the alleyways on Beanhill is relayed to residents via an article in the Woughton Gazette.**
- 2. That in the same article residents are informed that Woughton Community Council has signed a new landscaping contract with Milton Keynes City Council and explain what the landscaping team are responsible for and what works they are not allowed to undertake.**
- 3. To also include in the same article a contact number / email address so that residents can report landscaping issues.**

Date of next meeting:

Monday 16th October 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 8:00PM

Chair _____ Date _____