

Woughton Community Council

Services & Communities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023, 6:30pm,
Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee
Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.**

Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Janette Bobey (Vice-Chair), Eamonn Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, D'Anne Mordecai, Deanna Norris, 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)

SC 53/23 Apologies:

Cllr Donna Fuller (personal)
Cllr Ruth McMillan (personal)

AGREED

SC 54/23 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

SC 55/23 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

There were no questions from the public.

NOTED

SC 56/23 Chairs announcements:

The Chair thanked everyone who help to organise and took part in the Childrens Remembrance Parade and the Sunday Remembrance Service.

There will be a White Ribbon Vigil event on Saturday 25th November 2023 at the Remembrance Garden on Coffee Hall.

NOTED

SC 57/23 Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th October 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 58/23 To note the Friends of Coffee Hall Black Country Museum trip evaluation form:

£400 had been granted for the trip, which was very well received with thirty eight (38) residents in attendance.

A question was raised about the use of the Woughton Community Council logo, which it was confirmed was on the publicity flyers.

NOTED

SC 59/23 To update the committee on the Community Food Projects:

The Community Services Manager reported to the meeting the following figures:

Community Fridge

	Coffee Hall	Netherfield	Tinkers Bridge
Total Visitors	1,796	982	1,228
Avg Visitors	163	124	123
Total Weight	7,844kg	N/A*	5,788kg
Avg Weight	4.4kg	N/A*	4.71kg

Note:

- Figures are from the period 01/09/23 to 18/11/23 and now include Coffee Hall, Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge community fridges
- *Weight figures not available, but donations come from the same source as the Coffee Hall community fridge, so assume similar average weight figures per visitor (4.4kg)
- Coffee Hall community fridge visitor numbers for the period 01/09/23 to 18/11/23 are up approx 7% on yearly figures
- Fruit & vegetables make up the largest proportion of donations (approx 47% for the Coffee Hall community fridge)

Community Café

	Coffee Hall	Eaglestone	Netherfield	Tinkers Bridge
Total Visitors	748	50+*	100	27**
Avg Visitors	68	50+*	9	27**

Note:

- Figures are from the period 01/09/23 to 18/11/23
- Coffee Hall community café runs two (2) sessions per week, hence higher recorded visitor numbers compared to others
- *Eaglestone community café visitor numbers are not recorded, but are consistently over 50 per week based on number of full tables

- **Limited data available
- All cafes offering cooked food and hot drinks
- Menus are predominantly based on community fridge donations, with additional ingredients purchased from café donations

Community Larder

Coffee Hall community larder membership has increased from a low of forty (40) in March 2023 and is now up to forty eight (48). This is lower than the peak, but consistent with previous numbers.

Tinkers Bridge community larder currently has 129 members and is limiting new memberships to Tinkers Bridge residents only.

RESOLVED

That the committee notes the report.

SC 60/23 To update the committee on events feedback:

The Santa Sleigh Tour is planned for the following estates and dates:

Wednesday 13th December 2023: Beanhill 5:00pm, Netherfield 6:00pm

Thursday 14th December 2023: Peartree Bridge 5:00pm, Eaglestone 6.30pm

Friday 15th December 2023: Coffee Hall 6:00pm

Two (2) estates have chosen not to have the Santa sleigh tour as they are planning their own events. Leadenhall Residents Association have a Santas Grotto taking place at the Milton Keynes Academy on Friday 15th December 2023 at 4.30pm. The Tinkers Bridge event will consist of just a grotto and no Santa sleigh ride through the estate.

Carol Singing outside the community centre or inside Christ the Vine Church on Coffee Hall on Thursday 21st December 2023. This initiative is a partnership with the Moorlands Family Centre, Christ the Vine Church and Woughton Community Council (SHOUT Choir).

Table Tennis at Eaglestone Activity Centre starts in mid-January 2024. This will run for a six (6) session trial to determine how popular the group is.

Future Plans and Opportunities

Beanhill Community Garden has three (3) community partners who have committed to involvement at the Beanhill Garden:

- Moorlands Primary School have been working with Woughton Community Council for two (2) years and this will continue
- There has also developed a relationship with MacIntyre who have a day centre on Beanhill. They are keen to work on the garden
- The Beanhill Residents Association are going to continue their involvement

Community Cinema

The recent evening screening was not popularly supported, with only ten (10) tickets sold, and three (3) cancellations on the day. It was decided that the numbers were too low to justify holding the event (staff and volunteers would have outweighed the audience). A regular (monthly?) Saturday morning cinema has been suggested, the success of which would depend on getting a good team together who can commit to running the events.

Woughton 50th Anniversary Festival

A date of Saturday 7th September 2024 has been agreed. Plans to bring a wide selection of potential partners and funding streams together to make this event a success. The event will take place on Netherfield and will comprise food, music and entertainment with a local focus, designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of residents moving in to Netherfield.

Possible Art Classes/Cooking Classes at Coffee Hall

Funding for these has been provisionally agreed with Places for People. Project plans to be written and agreed with the Services & Communities committee.

Possible ESOL course at a Woughton Community Council venue

Milton Keynes College are looking for a venue to run English for Speakers of Other Languages. This would be accessible for members of the community and would also include Milton Keynes College students. The proposal would be term-time sessions. Further details to be confirmed.

College in the Community Day - Wednesday 20th March 2024

Milton Keynes College are looking to get involved in Community projects on that day. They would like to partner with Woughton Community Council and maximise opportunities across the parish.

Decorating at Eaglestone Activity Centre to enable wider use and hire of the downstairs facilities.

The Community Development Officer is meeting with the Painting and Decorating/construction tutor from Milton Keynes College in late November 2023 to look at the possibility of a college led repaint / refurbishment of the downstairs squash court.

Cllr Sue Smith suggested holding a Commonwealth Day event on the 11th March 2024. The Chair suggested holding a D Day celebration event on the 6th June 2024, and another event for the Barista Park on Coffee Hall.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to holding a Commonwealth Day event on the 11th March 2024.**
- 3. That the committee agrees to holding a D Day celebration event on the 6th June 2024.**
- 4. That the committee agrees to holding another event for the Barista Park on Coffee Hall.**

SC 61/23 To update the committee on the depot and nearby Community garden on Rochfords on Coffee Hall:

New Depot site.

The new depot site is now (almost) completed. The fencing, storage and electrical work has been completed, but the water and internet remain more of a challenge. All equipment (bar the diesel tank) has been moved over from the Fishermead site, with the hand tools that had been stored in the Coffee Hall 'Hub' building also now moved (freeing up space within the Hub). The equipment stored at the Eaglestone garage (the environment team equipment) is in the process of moving over / being rationalised, meaning that the costs associated with both former sites will cease at the end of this calendar year.

This totals £6,912.80p per year. In addition, the reduction in travel costs plus fuel costs.

Overall reductions of around £30,000 a year in both direct savings and efficiency benefits.

The challenges around delivering the depot are well documented, the fencing almost doubled in cost between planning and delivery, additional costs became apparent around electrical installations and, despite the significant security measures in place, there was still a break in where the fence and gates were damaged and the trailer was stolen (this has now been recovered, but costs remain high, loss of use, damage, recovery costs, repairs to the fencing / gates, increased insurance costs (a £1000 increase) and further security measures (hitch locks, extra gate locks, etc).

Other challenges are around installation of water and internet (if needed).

The water situation is simply that neither the council nor Anglian Water appear to have any records of where the water enters the site. This means that the quotes that were received to install the water involve either road closures and significant pipe work or bringing it up from the neighbouring road. Either option equates to £4,000 plus costs. There have been some early research as to whether to get a 'radar investigation' to find the in pipe, but nothing has been possible yet (the only quote received is for £1000 with no guarantees!).

There is a similar situation with the internet, whilst this is only really needed for any security measures installed, the cost would add a few hundred pounds per year onto the budget. At the moment, there is alternative CCTV on the road which helps, but isn't perfect. A further decision, once all costs are finalised, will be made around this.

Community Garden site

This project, funded by the National Lottery, has been a long time coming! Now that the main build has been completed, activities are starting on the site and this has provided some much needed and really useful opportunities; apple day took place

there and was a really nice space in which to do this. Forest School pilot is happening within that site. Payback now use that as their base at weekends, it is already doing some of the things it was designed for.

The Log Cabin offers a nice, internal space from which to work. The gazebo (fixed, wooden) offers an outdoor space for similar approaches. The polytunnel will allow growing year round, enabling seeds to be planted and grown over the winter. The composting toilet is now also finished and working well (although apparently, there is an internal storage provision that has to be 'changed' every now and then).

The next stage within the overall project is to look at a project worker to take it forward. The grant application and agreement includes a fifteenth (15) hour per week post over the three (3) years of the project the job description for this role is currently in development and will be considered in the New Year. The idea is that the new officer will work alongside the existing Environment Team, community food, partners, groups and individuals to develop a range of activities, growing spaces, education / training sessions and similar to encourage use, increase yields and provide further options for the cafes, fridges and similar across the parish.

Cllr Sue Smith expressed her concern about the proposal for a new project worker for the community garden project, as she thought the money was to support the present environmental officers at Woughton Community Council.

In addition, the site aims to grow, from seed or small plants, alternatives to the current inappropriate planting that is installed across the parish. By operating as a 'nursery' for these plants, replacements can be grown affordably, in line with agreements with landowners and produced in a way that compliments the environmental and biodiversity targets of the council and other agencies.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager liaises with Officers from the National Lottery over the costs for a proposed new Projects Officer.**

SC 62/23 To confirm the Santa Sleigh proposal:

Cllr Penny Glasgow was concerned to hear that the Santa sleigh was not going to go through Leadenhall even though the residents association is planning to have a grotto, the Chair suggested to Cllr Glasgow that she speaks to the Chair of the Leadenhall Residents Association who had turned the offer down, and come back to either the Council Manager or Community Services Manager confirming whether the sleigh is wanted to go through the estate.

The Community Services Manager will circulate maps of the Santa sleigh route so resident associations can upload them onto their Facebook pages as requested by a Member.

A further request was made to ask the Santa sleigh driver to go slower as the elves last year found it difficult to keep up.

RESOLVED

That the Community Services Manager to circulate maps of the Santa sleigh route so resident associations can upload them onto their Facebook pages.

SC 63/23 To inform the committee of the new bus service and post office projects proposal:

New bus service.

This request came following some changes to the bus service that runs through Coffee Hall. This was previously the Number seven (7) which was re-routed to the outside of the estate. Following some campaigning, a new service was provided, the 150. This has recently had a route change, meaning that it no longer travels via Asda, but instead via the Open University. No other routes have been changed, at this time.

As a result of these changes, a request was made to explore the potential for a new service, provided by Woughton Community Council (with possible partners), to develop a new service, covering the estates of the parish and travelling a route that includes a variety of supermarkets to the south of the parish.

After some discussion the committee felt that there should be some further investigation into investing with other partners in the route of the number seven (7) bus service.

New Post Office

Following the news that the contract for the post office that sits within the 'One Stop' shop on Coffee Hall is cited for closure, the Council Manager was asked to explore the possibility of Woughton Community Council 'taking over' the provision of the service.

After some discussion the meeting agreed that it would be too expensive to run, but asked the Council Manager to write to Post Office LTD asking if after the contract ends at the One Stop shop to investigate the possibility of providing a mobile post office on Coffee Hall.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to further investigation into investing with other partners in the route of the number seven (7) bus service.**
- 3. That the committee agrees that it would be too expensive to run a post office counter service, but instructs the Council Manager to write to Post Office LTD asking if after the contract ends at the One Stop shop to investigate the possibility of providing a mobile post office on Coffee Hall.**

SC 64/23 to discuss the budget proposals and service plan ideas / priorities for 2024/2025:

Members were asked if there were any items that they wish to see included in the budget.

The Council Manager was asked to look into repairing of the drains at the Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place.

RESOLVED

That the Council Manager to look into the repair of the drains at the Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 22nd January 2024, 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 8:15PM

Chair _____ Date _____

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