

Woughton Community Council

SERVICES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

21st July 2025

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Nick Scott (Chair), Ruth McMillan (Vice-Chair), Maggie Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Penny Glasgow, Luke Louis, Charlie Marsh, D'Anne Mordecai, April Rennie, Liz Simpkins, Sue Smith, Lorna Webb and Alan Williamson.

Also in attendance: Steve McNay (Council Manager), and Tash Darling (Youth and Communities Manager)

SC 21/25 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Deanna Norris, Donna Fuller, and Eamonn Bobey.
RESOLVED – noted.

SC 22/25 Declarations of Interest:

Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, members must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting, and any additional interests not previously declared.

No declarations were made

RESOLVED – noted.

SC 23/25 Questions from the public (maximum 15 minutes):

No questions were received.

RESOLVED – noted.

SC 24/25 Chairs announcements:

The Chair noted that there are two events coming up – Peartree Bridge Picnic on 30th July and Wheelie Big Picnic on 20th August.

RESOLVED – noted.

SC 25/25 Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 16th June 2025.

The minutes were considered as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Scott. Seconded by Cllr Smith.

RESOLVED – by way of unanimous vote.

SC 26/25 To consider the following grant applications to the Communities and Environment Fund:

To assess the applications from local resident associations, against the criteria included within the Communities and Environment Fund application rules and decide on whether to award funding.

a) Pheonix Performing Arts



An application for funding towards the cost of radio microphones, to support the performances of the charity. The committee discussed the application and considered two (2) options: the awarding of the full amount requests (£1200) or a reduced amount of funding towards this (£900).

Proposal:

That the committee awards the amount of £900 toward this application

Proposed by: Cllr McMillan. Seconded by: Cllr Marsh

There was a counter proposal:

Proposal:

That the committee awards the amount of £1200 toward this application

Proposed by: Cllr Scott. Seconded by: Cllr Mordecai

These votes were tied, with six (6) votes for each, with one abstention on both.

RESOLVED by way of majority vote, with a casting vote from the chair to award £1200.

SC 27/25 To consider the approach to be taken with the Community Food provision.

To consider any changes that may be wanted / needed with regard to the community food provision, with a view to appointing a new coordinator, considering the changes to community fridge, changing numbers and any other issues.

The Council Manager spoke to the paper, giving an overview of the various food offers that the council provides. This included Netherfield (NF), Eaglestone (ES) and Coffee Hall (CH), whilst also acknowledging the work that is undertaken on other estates. There was significant discussion, including a long exploration around donations and levels being received, with a suggestion that the café volunteers could remind everyone before serving that the café relies on donations.

The new Moorlands café on a Thursday lunchtime was also considered, especially with regard to the lower numbers attending CH on that day.

There was also discussion around the need to do a full evaluation of the food provision across the parish, including both WCC and other organisations, to ensure that there isn't duplication, that it works collaboratively and that it meets the needs of residents.

There was also discussion around the employment of a new Food Coordinator and it was agreed that this should happen, on the same basis as previously, but with the understanding that they would be undertaking the full and complete review as part of this role. It was also stated that the Coordinator should be empowered to undertake the role independently, with oversight via line management / committee.

Proposal:

That the Netherfield Café reduces to 12 – 2 each week, with one café per estate provided and that the Coordinator is recruited.

Proposed by: Cllr Rennie. Seconded by: Cllr Michael Ferguson

RESOLVED by way of majority vote (one abstention).

SC 28/25 To consider payments to local Resident Associations (RA's) and agree an approach for 2025/26

To discuss payment of the 'running costs' payment to RA's, in line with previously agreed processes, specifically the need to be accredited by MKCC.

The Council Manager spoke to the paper, explaining that this was brought to the attention of the committee, as they have previously agreed that 'running cost'



payments should only be paid to RA's that have been accredited by MKCC. At the time of writing, based on information from MKCC, it appeared that there was only one (1) RA that met that criteria, that being Tinkers Bridge. The association of Leadenhall (LH) was unable to be accredited by MKCC, due to the lack of MKCC tenants within that estate. Netherfield RA has also been accredited since the information was received. It was suggested that LH could have their payment agreed, as they are unable to be accredited by the Cllr for the estate was against this proposal, suggesting that they have sufficient money and don't deliver any activities. One suggestion was that LHRA could attend a meeting to make the case for them receiving the payment. There was also a suggestion that, given the challenges that the committee felt the LHRA faces in terms of numbers, that they could 'join up' with CHRA.

There was also a suggestion that there could be an expectation from WCC to RA's that they need to meet to receive funding. This has previously been discussed but the committee suggested revisiting this.

Proposal:

That the committee doesn't hold up payment for those accredited, but that monies for LHRA are 'held' and they request monies toward running costs as and when they need it.

Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Scott.

RESOLVED by way of majority vote (one abstention)

(Paper attached).

SC 29/25 To inform the committee of the Blue Light Hub Walk in Sessions for Armed Forces

The Council Manager shared details of the sessions for 2025, taking place at the Blue Light Hub on West Ashland. This is for serving, veterans and reservists only.

RESOLVED noted.

SC 30/25 To consider the proposal to reinstate carnival for 2027, to coincide with the 60th birthday of Milton Keynes

Cllr Williamson proposed the reinstatement of a carnival for 2027, explaining the ideas that he has had. Some videos from the Hunstanton Carnival were shared, to give a flavour of what was being considered.

The idea is a smaller event than previously, with limited road closures needed, and having different starting points each time. Carnival Kings / Queens, etc. Get schools, businesses involved. Different starting points were discussed, following the issues with Festival and the limited spaces available for this type of event.

Proposal:

To create a working group to investigate the potential for a carnival in 2027, seeing if there is sufficient support locally, alongside costs and other issues.

Proposed by: Cllr Smith. Seconded by: Cllr Scott.

RESOLVED by way of majority vote (2 abstentions).

SC 31/25 To receive an update regarding Remembrance and consideration of opening the Café on the morning of Tuesday 11th November.

To consider actions to this point regarding the Children's Parade from Cllr Scott, alongside consideration of how WCC would like to approach the opening of the café on the morning of Remembrance. Cllr Scott proposed that given the need for the



community centre for young people to access refreshments, that it would be best to close the café on that day.

Proposal:

Café is closed on Tuesday 11th November.

Proposed by: Cllr Scott. Seconded by: Cllr Marsh

RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote

SC 32/25 To update the committee on activities taking place over the summer holiday period

The Youth and Community Manager provided an update on activities within the youth, community and events teams over the summer period

RESOLVED - noted

SC 33/25 To confirm agreement for branding for resources (cards and gazebos).

There was discussion around options for business cards and gazebos, with agreement reached on the preferred options for councillors and officers. This included provision of double sided cards, with 'notes' on the rear for councillors and 'maps' on the rear for places like Community Garden and No 99.

The committee also confirmed their preferred options for gazebos – blue / green with a purple band with the web address on and a variety of sizes / sides.

The business cards and gazebos will now be ordered, with the branding agreed.

RESOLVED - noted

SC 34/25 To update the committee on Festival preparations

The Council Manager gave an update on preparations to this point. Suggestions were made that certain things are included: tug of war was very popular last year, that councillors will staff a stand on a rota basis and that there will be a 'fill in our consultation' to receive a voucher for free food for completed forms (this will be vouchers for the family and may help ensure that people don't abuse the free food option). The councillors would like their 'stall' to be near the food stands.

It was also agreed that the transfer of the unspent money from the RA payments budget would be transferred to support the festival and ensure all is free

Proposal:

That the committee agrees to transfer unspent monies from the RA running cost budget to the events budget

Proposed by: Cllr McMillan. Seconded by: Cllr Marsh

RESOLVED by way of unanimous vote

Date of next meeting:

Monday 15th September 2025 @ 6.00pm

Woughton Community Council Hub, The Local Centre, Council Chambers, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

The Chair closed the meeting at: 19.51

Signed:

