

Woughton Community Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020, 6:00pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Elina Apse, Janette Bobey, Donna Fuller, Ruth McMillan, John Orr, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson.

Also present: Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer), Steve McNay (Council Manager), Samone Winsborough (Responsible Financial Officer / Operations Manager), one (1) member of the public.

PR 28/20 Apologies:

Received from Cllrs Luke Louis (College commitment) and Nick Scott (work commitment).

AGREED

PR 29/20 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

PR 30/20 Questions from the public (maximum 10 minutes):

A member of the public said that he knew that there had not been any land drains installed on Coffee Hall, which is contrary to what is in the Milton Keynes Council Flood Report.

The warm air floor system was replaced due to potential flooding.

The Chair said that she will bring up these points at the next PAG meeting.

NOTED

PR 31/20 Chairs announcements:

The Chair informed the meeting that there will be a Woughton Community Council run Conference, to be held on Friday 14th February 2020 between 9:00am – 4:00pm.

NOTED

PR 32/20 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 were **AGREED** and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

PR 33/20 To agree the Accounts Sub Committee recommendations from the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020:

The Accounts Sub Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 was inquorate and therefore could only propose recommendations which can only be ratified by a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the committee agrees to adopt all the recommendations from the minutes of the Accounts Sub Committee held on Wednesday 15th November 2020 due to the meeting being inquorate.
2. To approve the bank reconciliations for the November - December 2019 period.
3. To sign off the VAT Return Quarter three (3).
4. To agree the minutes of the Accounts Sub Committee held on Wednesday 13th November 2019.

PR 34/20 To propose 'half day' closing on Wednesday to enable organisational development, training and staff meetings:

The Council Manager proposed 'half day' closing of the office to the public on a Wednesday to enable organisational development, training and staff meetings to be able to take place.

This will be reviewed in six (6) months' time starting from the 1st March 2020 and running until September 2020.

The meeting requested that the same report is tabled at the next meeting of the Operations Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the committee notes the report.
2. That the committee agrees to close the offices from 1pm on Wednesdays to enable
 - 1st Wednesday – staff meeting
 - 2nd Wednesday – team training
 - 3rd Wednesday – Senior Managers meeting
 - 4th Wednesday – building management, clear ups, etc.
 - 5th Wednesday (where appropriate) – team building activities (4 x annually).
3. That this is trialled for a period of six (6) months to ascertain value and benefits, starting from 1st March and running until September 2020.
4. That an outcomes report is provided to this committee in September 2020 where a decision regarding continuation is decided.
5. That the report is tabled at the next meeting of the Operations Committee.

PR 35/20 To advise on aged debt/Sales Ledger debtors:

The Committee was informed by the Responsible Financial Officer about the aged debt and rectifying the Sales Ledger.

The strong recommendation from the Responsible Financial Officer is to write off £64,218.94p showing on the accounting system as debtors (customers who owe money). After looking over the accounts the Responsible Financial Officer is certain

that the amount has been received which consists of hall hire payments. However, this money has been accounted incorrectly, instead this should have been deducted from the receipts/debtors (accounts of hirers) to show payments have been made.

The meeting felt that it was more appropriate to use the term “accounting error” rather than “debt”.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Committee agrees to delegate the write off all aged debt to the Responsible Financial Officer in order to satisfy the Sales Ledger as a real and true reflection of the Finances.**

PR 36/20 Update on the Eaglestone parking consultation:

The Council Manager empathised that the parking consultation covered the whole of the Woughton Community Council area not just Eaglestone.

Milton Keynes Council will update Woughton Community Council in due course on the Eaglestone Parking Consultation.

Parking continues to be a major issue within the Woughton Community Council area and, despite some work being undertaken (such as the Eaglestone parking consultation), many issues still remain.

Milton Keynes Council has published a ‘consultation’ survey before Christmas which has recently been further ‘pushed’ to encourage feedback.

A total of 106 responses had been submitted so far. The consultation by Woughton Community Council is still ongoing.

The Chair said that she will mention the consultation at the next meeting of the Thames Valley Police Forum.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager continues to push Milton Keynes Council for a public meeting to address parking concerns.**
- 3. That the Council Manager creates a report for Milton Keynes Council detailing the outcome of the consultation and requesting action.**

PR 37/20 To discuss the recently published ‘Flood Report’ by Milton Keynes Council and consider a Woughton Community Council response for their Scrutiny Committee Meeting:

Following the floods that impacted the Woughton Community Council area in May 2018, there has been a report produced by an independent review that details actions taken and proposals for further action. This report is being reviewed by the Milton Keynes Council Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 4th March 2020. Parishes have been contacted and invited to submit questions, comments or queries with regard to the outcomes noted.

The meeting felt that Milton Keynes Council should be checking the drains and not leaving it to residents, especially those properties that are prone to flooding.

The meeting was informed that residents had to fight to get sand but was told that delivery depended on sourcing a more secure area, which had been found, and still there was no supply, residents had to even fill the sandbags up themselves on past occasions.

The meeting felt that the report was too vague and self-congratulatory, there were issues with tree roots and drains collapsing, maintenance should be undertaken on a regular basis, Milton Keynes Council should be more proactive and not wait for incidents to happen.

A Member felt that more equipment should be hired to get rid of the tree roots, and a better response to when similar incidents occur, that contact details should be provided to residents who could be affected, there is no system in place to identify residents who could be potentially flooded.

The meeting was further informed that Milton Keynes Council now have drainage maps and have identified their ownership and that they should be circulated to the Council Manager.

Members felt that the Woughton Community Council area should be provided with more resources as it has the highest flooding incidents, residents also have difficulties getting their properties insured due to having to make so many claims, there will be a Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 4th March 2020 7:30pm at the Civic Offices, anyone wishing to attend should let Milton Keynes Council know due to limited space, this meeting will be discussing the independent consultants report, the deadline to submit questions is Monday 2nd March 2020, the deadline to submit any written evidence is Wednesday 19th February 2020. The Council Manager was asked to circulate the date of the Scrutiny Committee meeting. Members were welcome to add any written evidence and submit questions to the Council Manager.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes this paper and the associated flood reports provided.**
- 2. That the committee agrees a response from the council, as a corporate body, be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3. That the committee delegates preparation of and sending of the response to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**
- 4. That the Council Manager to circulate the date of the Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday 4th March 2020, 7:30pm at the Civic Offices.**

PR 38/20 To consider provision of defibrillators within the Woughton Community Council area:

Members were requested to consider the provision of defibrillators within the Woughton Community Council area.

Members were concerned about costs, maintenance and legal implications, it was suggested that Residents Associations be consulted to see if they would like one to be installed in their area.

Members suggested that an infantry should be undertaken to see what provision there is in the Woughton Community Council area, and that location is important.

The meeting was informed that there is no provision in this year's budget and would need to be considered in a future budget process.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee consider whether provision of defibrillators within the parish is considered a priority.**
- 3. That if agreed as a priority, that the Council Manager is tasked with a fuller report detailing best venues, costs and impact, consulting with relevant health professionals.**

PR 39/20 Regeneration Policy consultation:

The meeting was informed that a new regeneration policy document has been circulated, it was suggested to invite a representative from Milton Keynes Council to a future meeting to make a presentation that a meeting should also be arranged for local residents to attend, and to make a submission, Members felt that the Council housing stock needs to be refurbished, the document should strive to ensure that residents have a better quality of life and be aspirational, that a local lettings policy should be pursued, Milton Keynes Council needs to be held to account.

Members agreed to set up a meeting for the public and another meeting for Councillors, and to invite Resident Associations to attend, questions should be submitted in advance.

RESOLVED

- 1. To invite a representative from Milton Keynes Council to a future meeting to make a presentation.**
- 2. To set up a meeting for the public and another meeting for Councillors.**
- 3. To invite Resident Associations to attend.**
- 4. That questions should be submitted in advance before the start of each meeting.**

Date of next meeting:

Monday 20th April 2020, Woughton Community Council Hub, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:40PM

Chair _____ Date _____