

Woughton Community Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2020, 6:00pm held via Zoom Call and Facebook Live.

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Shammi Akter, Elina Apse, Janette Bobey, Margaret Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Luke Louis, Ruth McMillan, John Orr, Terri Page, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Lauren Townsend, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

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

In attendance: Cllr Carol Baume (Woughton & Fishermead Ward-Milton Keynes Council), Tash Darling (Youth Manager & Safeguarding Lead).

FC 136/20 Apologies for Absence:
Received from Cllr Tina El-Shabrawry (unwell).
AGREED

Cllr Phillip Hopcraft – non-attendance – no apologies received.
NOTED

FC 137/20 Declaration of interests:
There were no declarations of interest.
NOTED

FC 138/20 Minutes of previous Full Council meetings:

FC 131/20 To approve the proposed new Committee Structure, and the Terms of Reference:

That the Terms of Reference should state under training “must” For the Operations Committee and the Resources & Finance Committee and “should” for all the other committees.

With that above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020 were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

FC 139/20 Chair's Announcement(s):

The Chair informed the meeting that the new Planning, Licencing and Development Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday 18th May 2020 at 6:00pm via a Zoom call and Facebook Live.

NOTED

FC 140/20 Questions from the public:

There were no questions from the members of the public.

NOTED

FC 141/20 Ward Matters arising:

Cllr Carol Baume informed the meeting that the Leader of the Council Cllr Pete Marland has appointed her on to the Milton Keynes Council Cabinet with the Economic Development Brief.

Cllr John Orr raised the issue of trees again on Tinkers Bridge, with roots causing damage to properties, raising paving stones, and dead branches, Cllr Orr is still waiting for something to be done about this, he had been promised a tree survey and has been waiting for this for over six years, Woughton Community Councils Landscaping team have been very good at cutting back the branches, Milton Keynes Council has in the past taken down the odd tree without consultation and not the trees that residents wanted removing.

The Chair said she will pass all this information on to Woughton Community Councils Landscaping Manager.

Cllr John Orr also raised the matter of a property that appears to be in multiple occupancy on Tinkers Bridge, it seems that rooms are being rented out by Milton Keynes Council, he had not heard of this before and wondered what the policy was, it is alleged that the property is occupied by three different families, Cllr Orr said if the house is or should be licenced.

Cllr Carol Baume asked Cllr John Orr to email her the address of the property and see will look into it and respond to Cllr Orr in due course, and will copy in the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council and the Council Manager.

Cllr John Orr further raised the issue of maintenance of properties on Tinkers Bridge, he said that he has seen at least two properties with holes in them where birds are currently nesting, where the pipes have been removed at some point when work has taken place, residents have consistently asked when their council houses are going to be repainted, Cllr Orr said he has been chasing Milton Keynes Council and has not had a response, and so would like Woughton Community Council to put more pressure on Milton Keynes Council to regularly maintain all Council properties.

The Council Manager said that he would write to Milton Keynes Council and asked for Cllr Orr to email him and Cllr Carol Baume with as much information as possible and will copy in Cllr Martin Gowans the newly appointed Cabinet member for housing.

Cllr Janette Bobey asked the Council Manager if Milton Keynes Council supplies Woughton Community Council with a list of properties in multiple occupation which can be shared if requested, the Council Manager replied that they have not.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Chair to pass on all the information on to Woughton Community Councils Landscaping Manager regarding the condition of the trees on Tinkers Bridge as raised by Cllr John Orr.**
2. **That the Council Manager to write to Milton Keynes Council about the lack of maintenance to council houses on Tinkers Bridge, once all the information has been supplied to him by Cllr John Orr and the Council Manager to copy in Cllr Martin Gowans the newly appointed Cabinet member for housing.**

FC 142/20 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

- a) Woughton Welfare Trust - Cllr Elina Apse - **No report.**
- b) Hedgerows Family Centre - Cllr Maggie Ferguson - **No report.**
- c) MKALC - Cllr Elina Apse, Cllr Sue Smith - **No report.**
- d) Parishes Forum - Cllr Janette Bobey, Cllr Sue Smith - **The last meeting was held on the 12th March 2020 which had presentations on the armed forces covenant, the Council Manager spoke on Woughton Community Council achieving the NALC Star Council award, there will be a wheelie bin trial in selected areas and will be consulting Parish and Town Councils, a workshop took place on the "Together We Can" terms of reference for joint working between Milton Keynes Council and Parish and Town Councils, this will be consulted on and feedback given at a later date.**

NOTED

FC 143/20 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

- a) Accounts Sub Committee - Wednesday 11th March 2020
- b) Operations Committee - Monday 16th March 2020
- c) Policy & Resources Committee - Monday 20th April 2020

RESOLVED

1. **To note the committee minutes.**
2. **To add Cllr Luke Louis as being present at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th April 2020.**

FC 144/20 To agree the committee memberships:

The Operations Committee at its last meeting held on Monday 20th April 2020 proposed to keep the membership of the committees the same as they are at present, as their remits are broadly similar to the previous committee structure.

Members are of course at liberty to come off a committee or change to another committee, but the resignation from a committee or an appointment to another committee, must be notified to the Committee & Member Services Officer beforehand and agreed at a future meeting of the Full Council.

- a) To agree the amended Terms of Reference for the Planning, Licencing & Regeneration Committee.
- b) To agree the membership of the committees.

- c) To hold a special meeting of the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the amended Terms of Reference for the Planning, Licencing & Regeneration committee.
2. To agree the membership of the committees (as circulated) with the addition of the appointment of Cllr Nick Scott onto the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee.
3. That Cllr Donna Fuller is elected Chair and Cllr Janette Bobey is elected Vice- Chair of the Planning, Licencing & Development Committee for the Council Year 2020/2021.

FC 145/20 To note to hold the next Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021:

Regulation 6 (c) removes the requirement for a Parish / Community & Town Council to hold an Annual Meeting in May 2020.

Regulation 4 (2) carries the current appointment of Chairman on until the Annual Meeting in May 2021 although Parish / Community & Town Councils may elect a Chairman at an earlier meeting should they wish to do so.

This also applies to the position of Leader of the Council.

The Operations Committee at its last meeting held on Monday 20th April 2020 agreed to defer the Annual Meeting of Council to May 2021, and that the present post holders of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Leader of the Council remain the same until May 2021 where these positions will be up for appointment.

The same will apply to membership of the outside bodies.

NOTED

FC 146/20 To consider planning application 20/00876/FULR3

Address: Telecommunications Site, Waterside, Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes.

Proposal: Erection of one 5G communication mast 22.4m in height with associated cabinets:

There is currently a planning application to Milton Keynes Council for a large communications tower to be sited on Peartree Bridge. The application is part of a wider scheme to implement 5G, the next generation of wireless communications, across the city this is a 'test area' where Central Milton Keynes will be used as an example.

Members made the following comments:

- That this application should be supported, not near anyone's driveway and sited away from residential properties, has not been proven to be dangerous, could enhance Milton Keynes reputation for firsts especially Woughton ahead of other Parish and Town Councils, and enhance the driverless pods.

- The mast is presumably higher compared to others proposed around Milton Keynes due to the contour of the land, have the applicants considering siting across the road in the wooded area at the hospital side.
- Concerned about the mast being sited near to residential properties and concerns about safety, unfortunately there is no hard evidence either way if 5G masts can cause health problems and damage to wildlife, as a test site who has been approached to volunteer and can residents opt out, not aesthetically pleasing, there has been a lack of consultation with residents.
- Will not affect the moorings or residents the other side of Peartree Bridge as masts normally only cover a 100 metre area.
- That the trees will camouflage most of the mast.
- That a 22 metre mast is the same as a seven storey house, Woughton Community Council should support whatever the residents of Peartree Bridge want subject to them being consulted.

The Chair proposed to put details of this planning application on to the Woughton Community Website and Facebook page, and to consider and agree a submission to send to the Milton Keynes Council Development Control Directorate's Lead Planning Officer at the next meeting of the Planning, Licencing and Development Committee.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Council notes the report.**
2. **To put details of this planning application on to the Woughton Community Council Website and Facebook page.**
3. **To consider and agree a submission to send to the Milton Keynes Council Development Control Directorate's Lead Planning Officer at the next meeting of the Planning, Licencing and Development Committee.**

FC 147/20 to adopt and agree to implement any actions from the Internal Auditors Report:

The Responsible Financial Officer updated the meeting on the recommendations of the internal auditor's report held on Friday 1st May 2020.

The Internal Auditor said that he had found no significant issues have been identified to date.

NOTED

FC 148/20 To agree the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending the 31st March 2020:

The Responsible Financial Officer had circulated to Members the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and supporting documents.

The Responsible Financial Officer also informed the meeting of the areas of overspends and variances above 15%.

Cllr Pam Wilson asked for a budget review and update for the June Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council notes the report.
2. That the Council agrees to sign and ratify the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Financial Year 2019/2020.
3. To review the budget and to update Members at the June Full Council meeting.

FC 149/20 To update the council on activities and planning regarding COVID-19:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the activities and planning undertaken by Woughton Community Council following the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak.

It was reported to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th April 2020, a list of actions which were taken in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting was informed that Woughton Community Council has not been furnished with a list of vulnerable residents due to GDPR regulations.

Cllr Pam Wilson passed on her thanks to all Members of Staff for their hard work in this most difficult of circumstances.

The Chair also thanked all members of staff for continuing the provision of services, the Ward and Unitary Authority Members, and for all the residents of the Woughton Community Council area for self-isolating and social distancing to ensure everyone is kept safe.

RESOLVED

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the council agrees to the ongoing monitoring of the situation with reporting back to the council and committees on a monthly basis.
3. That the council agrees to respond to changes in government policy and local need, reopening / restarting services as and when possible.
4. That the safety of residents, officers and councillors will be the principle determinant in how the council moves forward.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 15th June 2020, 6:00pm venue to be confirmed.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:38PM

Chair _____ Date _____