

Woughton Community Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020, 6:00pm via Zoom Call and Facebook Live.

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Janette Bobey, Tina El-Shabrawry, Margaret Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Phillip Hopcraft (until 7:02pm), Ruth McMillan, John Orr (until 6:51pm), Terri Page, Nick Scott, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

Also present: Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer), Steve McNay (Council Manager), Lorna Williams (Caretaker Manager).

In attendance:

Professor Joe Harrison (Chief Executive Officer – Milton Keynes University Hospital).

FC 178/20 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Elina Apse (work commitment).
Cllr Luke Louis (college commitment).
Cllr Liz Simpkins (holiday)

AGREED

Cllr Carole Baume (Woughton & Fishermead Ward – Milton Keynes Council).
Cllr Hannah O'Neill (Woughton & Fishermead Ward – Milton Keynes Council)

NOTED

Cllr Lauren Townsend not in attendance - no apologies given.

NOTED

FC 179/20 Declaration of interests:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 180/20 Minutes of previous Full Council meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th July 2020 were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

FC 181/20 Chair's Announcement(s):

The Chair informed the meeting that the Community Café will be held between 1:00pm - 3:00pm on Wednesday 16th September 2020 opposite the Woughton Community Council Hub.

The Planning, Licencing & Development Committee will be held on Monday 21st September 2020 via Zoom Video Call and Facebook Live.

NOTED

FC 182/20 Questions from the public:

There were no questions from the members of the public.

NOTED

FC 183/20 Presentation by Professor Joe Harrison Chief Executive Officer at the Milton Keynes University Hospital, on the future development plans:

Professor Joe Harrison introduced himself and gave some background on his career.

Professor Harrison spoke on the plans for the Milton Keynes University Hospital for the next five (5) years and said that Milton Keynes Council had been very supportive.

Cancer Centre - has recently opened part paid for by Milton Keynes Council with various facilities.

Radiotherapy building - £12 million to be built in circa three years 2023 to open, open space at the moment.

Women's and Children's Hospital - proposed £7 Million building various services due to open in 2024, will be six (6) times the footprint of the Academic Centre and four (4) storeys high.

Pathway Unit – the Ambulance service will be moving into the blue light hub on Ashlands to make way for the building, along with the demolition of the Maple Unit, which will free up Wards One (1) and Two (2) to be able to refurbish them to make them fit for the future.

Administration Block – to be built to bring back the Finance, Human Resources and I.T teams that are currently in a rented unit in Central Milton Keynes by 2024.

Multi storey car park three (3) - going through the planning process, at present the site at the rear of the hospital is just a tarmac area, this will be for staff only to free up parking spaces for visitors and patients in the present multi storey car park

Community Hospital – to refurbish the administration area into a ward facility and reconfiguration of patient services in ward 14.

Surgical Ward block – to replace the portacabin building completion for 2024.

All works should cope with population growth for the next ten (10) years. Business case will go to the trust in October 2020 and the Treasury in December 2020.

Professor Harrison said that he will give a written response to a resident submitted to Woughton Community Council about parking.

There then followed questions.

The Chair thanked Professor Harrison for his presentation.

The Committee & Member Services Officer was asked to collate all questions from Members and send them on to Professor Harrison for a written response.

RESOLVED

That the Committee & Member Services Officer to collate all questions from Members and send them on to Professor Harrison for a written response.

FC 184/20 Ward Matters arising:

Cllr John Orr asked for an update on council house maintenance.

Cllr Jordan Coventry asked if Milton Keynes Council could be approached to find out when the double yellow lines are going to be installed on Eaglestone.

NOTED

FC 185/20 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

- a) Woughton Welfare Trust – Cllr Elina Apse - No report.
- b) Hedgerows Family Centre – Cllr Maggie Ferguson – No meeting has taken place, and that committee is to be disbanded, instead there will be just one trustee board for all Sure Start's in Milton Keynes with Councillor representation.
- c) MKALC - Cllr Sue Smith – The next meeting will be held via a Zoom video call on Wednesday 30th September 2020, the Planning White Paper and the Milton Keynes Council Tenancy Agreement is on the agenda.
- d) Parishes Forum - Cllr Janette Bobey, Cllr Sue Smith – A meeting will be held on Thursday 17th September 2020 via a Zoom video call.

NOTED

FC 186/20 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

- a) Resources & Finance Committee – 06.07.20
- b) Planning, Licencing & Development Committee – 20.07.20
- c) Services & Communities Committee – 27.07.20

NOTED

FC 187/20 Quarterly update report on the 2020/2021 Service Plan:

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the 2020/2021 Service Plan has twenty-one (21) items on it. Some are unaffected, some will need adjusting and some will not be met this year. Briefly, this breaks down as:

1 – Woughton on the Road. The trailer is up and running and the wrapping should happen, if somewhat later than anticipated. City Fibre have agreed to support the wrapping of the trailer and designs are being finalised currently. The trailer has provided an excellent resource over the summer and this can be extended to include a variety of other provisions (pop up Community Fridge, pop up café, etc.)

2 – Community Allotments. Transfer is progressing. Planning being considered. Big Lottery have halted all non Covid-19 funding for six (6) months, so progress will be slowed by this. However, alternatives will be investigated, and work can start once land transfer is agreed and planning permission given.

3 – Community Engagement – limited to online currently and the big events where feedback was going to be encouraged are not taking place. Some positives over the summer, but not as much as had been hoped. Continued work on this over the coming months.

4 – Play Park Assessment. This will take place as planned.

5 – Community Led Housing. Paper provided to this meeting – recommendation that this is 'on hold'.

6 – Increase the equipment library. Due to Milton Keynes Council refusing permission for additional storage, the 'hold' on the community growing space and the need to reduce spending, we will replace broken but not increase the number of items this year. Some additional items in place (pressure washer, carpet cleaner) and webpage / online form being created.

7 – Woughton Business Forum. Paper went to the Operations Committee in September and a working group is to be set up to progress this.

8 – Resident Skills Development. No face-to-face training at the current time, but potential for some 'online' options. To be discussed at the Resident Association Forum.

9 – Long Term Planning. Will continue as planned but will also include an element of 'recovery' planning, post pandemic. First draft in place and being worked on with senior officers.

10 – Waste, recycling and the environment. Difficult currently and impact on summer plans likely. Building understanding, volunteer teams and similar restricted by situation, but work is continuing, nevertheless. Significant work to do to promote Woughton cleanliness.

11 – Training and Development (Internal). Halted by current restrictions but plans for later in the year and in 2021 ongoing. A paper went to the Operations Committee in September and Members are encourage to identify any training needs, a Mental Health Aid course was discussed and any Members that are interested are to let the Committee & member Services Officer know.

12 – Community Development. Continuing, but in a different way. Some good work started (e.g. Beanhill Community Garden, online Resident Association Forum) but restrictions limited significantly.

13 – Events. Trailer and Play Rangers have happened. Pop up café has been successful. Limits to what is possible, but consideration for different types of event continuing.

14 – Partnerships, collaborations and clustering. Work ongoing and hopefully will see some impact this financial year.

15- Accreditation. Will take place as planned.

16 – Improvements to website / communications. Will take place as planned.

17 – Youth Council. Unlikely in 2020, but potential for early 2021 for new council year / new school year (either May or September). *Saving made through placing ‘on hold’ but may be needed in early 2021.*

18 – CCTV. Decision to make on spend, given impact of Covid-19 on budgets. Unable to meet with Thames Valley Police / Milton Keynes Council to discuss potential, so likely to need to wait until early 2021 for full evaluation

19 – MK Storehouse. Decision made and reduced funding awarded.

20 – Policy and Procedure. Will continue as planned.

21 – IT systems and processes. Will continue, but with some items less likely to happen due to costs (e.g. new database). Potential for work to be undertaken to integrate new finance system with data management and existing systems.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Council notes the report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager continues to work with officers to achieve the plan, with variations based on this paper.**
- 3. That further updates are provided, with links to 2021/2022 plan and budget, in December and March.**

FC 188/20 To update the meeting on the costs of the provision and maintenance of existing CCTV provision in the Woughton Community Council area, and the costs for the upgrading of the CCTV systems in the Woughton Community Council area:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the CCTV proposals, costs and developments.

A meeting has not been possible with Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Council to progress this matter.

It is hoped that there will be full costs and proposals at the November Full council meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council notes the report.**
- 2. That Council allows time for discussions to take place, post lockdown, with essential partners, to fully understand demands, placement, costs and benefits.**
- 3. That this item falls within discussions regarding the Service Plan for 2021/2022, on the understanding that in the event that proposals are sufficient prior to this, delivery of CCTV provision can commence earlier.**
- 4. That a further report comes to Council with all relevant details in November 2020.**

Cllr John Orr left the meeting.

FC 189/20 To consider all aspects regarding a Community Lead Housing Plan:

The meeting discussed options regarding community led housing and Woughton Community Council housing development.

The Council Manager said the costs are prohibitive such as architect fees, it could be possible that there could be some partnership working to reduce costs.

There needs to be more work on this before any proposals can be progressed.

RESOLVED

1. That the committee notes the report.
2. That the committee understands the limitations on the council at the current time, both in terms of finances and expertise, and considers whether this should be a priority when setting budgets and agreeing expenditure. It is likely that this will need a considerable amount and whilst building costs can be considered within any borrowing / income generation, the preparatory work will not and as such, will be expenditure that will come via other routes.

That the following items only be considered if the committee is in agreement that funding and focus on this is a priority for the council.

3. That funding via grants is explored to see whether there is any way that early exploratory work can be funded via means other than existing income streams.
4. That this issue is included within discussions around estate renewal, with particular reference to the four estates previously highlighted as 'regeneration' estates.
5. That potential pockets of land are identified and highlighted to Milton Keynes Council for community led housing initiatives.
6. That any initiatives include work with partners to:
 - a. Provide work experience and jobs for residents and students within the parish.
 - b. That people are enabled to take part in any construction of homes which they can then live in (where practicable and possible).
 - c. That any housing development is considered within a local lettings policy.

Cllr Phil Hopcraft left the meeting.

FC 190/20 To discuss the 'Together We Can' document – a partnership agreement between the principle authority (Milton Keynes Council) and Parish, Town and Community Councils within Milton Keynes, and to decide on any feedback:

The meeting discussed the 'Together We Can' document a partnership agreement between the principle authority (Milton Keynes Council) and Parish, Town and Community Councils within Milton Keynes.

The Council Manager proposed the following wording as the submission to Milton Keynes Council on the 'Together We Can' document consultation:

‘Woughton Community Council welcomes the idea of ‘Together We Can’ and a true partnership between the principle authority and the Parish, Town and Community councils of Milton Keynes. However, Woughton Community Council have some concerns with the current wording and reality that sits behind this document.

There are clear expectations placed upon the parishes but what appears to be more aspirations for Milton Keynes Council, we have heard that Milton Keynes Council cannot or will not ensure that Milton Keynes Council officers work within this framework (e.g. the phrase ‘if required’ in terms of Milton Keynes Council officers having an understanding of the local council sector there is a clear need for officers to understand the sector, whichever directorate they work within).

The value of local councils is clear, both in terms of the millions of pounds worth of income and the tens of millions of pounds worth of value and savings this makes to our colleagues in the principle authority, health services, education and criminal justice. Whilst there is huge variance between local councils, Woughton Community Council, alongside many others, supplements the statutory provision and, working across Milton Keynes, these partnerships should be valued, applauded and expanded to provide the best opportunities, the best outcomes, the best support and the best place that Milton Keynes can be.

The ‘Together we Can’ document is a good place to start and has good aspirations. However, without clear commitment from all partners, especially the principle authority, the impact and aspiration will not be fully met.

We welcome the chance to continue to develop this protocol, build upon the excellent relationships we have with our partners across Milton Keynes and encourage all involved to strengthen this document to reflect its importance. ‘

Members wanted to add to the submission about Woughton Community Council being a NALC Star Council Award winner.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council notes the report and attached ‘Together We Can’ document.**
- 2. That Council agrees to the wording as proposed by the Council Manager as the submission to Milton Keynes Council to the ‘Together We Can’ document.**
- 3. That when finalised, Council is consulted on whether to ‘sign up’ to the agreement.**

FC 191/20 To agree amendments to the Standing Orders:

The Committee & Member Services Officer informed the meeting that Government has recently introduced a new Regulation 5 Section 6 into the, The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) which the new act came into force on Saturday 4th April 2020.

This new regulation states that Councils must show how the following items will be addressed:

- How voting by Councillors will take place at online meetings.
- How members of the public can access meeting documents.
- How members of the public and press can access online meetings.

The Committee & Member Services Officer proposed to amend the Standing Orders by adding the following additions:

- “Voting will be carried out either by a show of hands or by using the poll facility on the online meeting system, whichever is more convenient, this will be made clear before a vote is about to take place by either the Parish Manager, Committee & Member Services Officer, the Parish Manager or Lead Officer, once the voting has been concluded the result of the vote will be announced”
- “Members of the public can access any documents for each meeting on the website, any other unrelated documents can be emailed to members of the public by request subject to the Freedom of Information regulations that have been adopted by Woughton Community Council”
- “Members of the Public and the Press can view the meeting proceedings via the Woughton Community Council Facebook or YouTube page, If a Member of the public wishes to ask question(s) on any item(s) on the agenda, then they should contact either the Parish Manager or Committee & Member Services Officer to access the meeting via the online meeting system with at least 24 hours’ notice before the start of the meeting.”

RESOLVED

1. **To note the report.**
2. **To add in the Standing Orders that “Voting will be carried out either by a show of hands or by using the poll facility on the online meeting system, whichever is more convenient, this will be made clear before a vote is about to take place by either the Parish Manager, Committee & Member Services Officer, the Parish Manager or Lead Officer, once the voting has been concluded the result of the vote will be announced.”**
3. **To add in the Standing Orders that “Members of the public can access any documents for each meeting on the website, any other unrelated documents can be emailed to members of the public by request subject to the Freedom of Information regulations that have been adopted by Woughton Community Council.”**
4. **To add in the Standing Orders that “Members of the Public and the Press can view the meeting proceedings via the Woughton Community Council Facebook or YouTube page, If a Member of the public wishes to ask question(s) on any item(s) on the agenda, then they should contact either the Parish Manager or Committee & Member Services Officer to access the meeting via the online meeting system with at least 24 hours’ notice before the start of the meeting.”**

Date of next meeting:

Monday 12th October 2020, 6:00pm, via Zoom video call and Facebook Live.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:25PM

Chair _____ Date _____

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