

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021, 5:30pm 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, Jordan Coventry, Maggie Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Phillip Hopcraft, Luke Louis, John Orr, Terri Parish, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

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

In attendance: Amber McQuillan, Yvonne Tomlinson.

An opportunity for members of the public to ask any questions and to raise any issues relating to the business undertaken by Woughton Community Council.

Followed by the Annual Meeting of Council which will commence at 6:00PM.

What are you doing as a Council to ensure that take aways are storing waste food appropriately to reduce the impact of rats, where residents living near to take aways have to pay to deal with rat issues, that are alleged to be caused by poor waste management of food by local take aways?

The Chair responded that although this is not Woughton Community Council's responsibility, incidents of rats can be reported to Milton Keynes Council's environmental Health Directorate, as each take away is licensed and so Milton Keynes Council has the power, this matter will be forwarded onto Milton Keynes Council's Environmental health Directorate, it would be helpful if residents could also send in their concerns/ incidents as well.

The Council Manager said that it is useful to speak to the owners of take aways when incidents occur as they are just as eager as residents to live in a clean and healthy environment, and work with Woughton Community Council, for example on Peartree Bridge where there were complaints about litter in the car park, the take away owner addressed the problem with extra bins and litter collections, not perfect but residents should not drop litter and if necessary take their rubbish home with them.

Cllr Alan Williamson and Cllr Phil Hopcraft brought up fly tipping and the dropping of litter adjacent to the Men in Sheds site on Netherfield and the lack of response by Milton Keynes Council.

The Chair said that she will send Cllr Hopcraft a contact at Milton Keynes Council.

Would Woughton Community Council be willing to provide additional litter bins and collections, as there has been incidents where bins have been overflowing with rubbish especially during weekends in various parts of the Woughton Community Council area?

The Council Manager says this is a responsibility of Milton Keynes Council as it is not a legal requirement for Woughton Community Council but there are powers where this could be investigated.

The Chair suggested that the location, financial implications and provision of litter bins could be considered at a meeting of the Services & Communities Committee?

Cllr Donna Fuller asked the Council Manager to look into the SERCO contract to see which areas of land that they are responsible for in respect of litter clearance.

Cllr Jordan Coventry said that Milton Keynes Council should be reminded about some of the litter bins located in areas that are not easily accessible and could be missed out for emptying.

Cllr Liz Simpkins suggested that there is a Keep Britain Tidy event, which could be linked up with Residents Associations.

The Chair suggested that the Community Services Manager could possibly arrange this?

Could they be better provision of CCTV to find and fine people fly tipping and dropping litter?

The Council Manager said that this is being investigated.

Can we please have a new sign to the entrance to Beanhill from the Saxon Street V7 as the previous sign has been knocked down?

The Chair replied that this is the responsibility of Milton Keynes council and the sign had been knocked down due to a car hitting it.

There is a massive Costa Coffee cup on Coffee Hall and why has this not been converted into a bin which could encourage residents to use?

The Council Manager felt this was a good idea and will investigate whether it would be possible.

What plans are there to provide community events when all Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted?

The Chair said that Residents Associations are starting to plan events, but will not know until after the 21st June when the Government lift all the restrictions, Woughton Community Council are planning a memorial walk and to restart Community Café sessions when it is safe to do so.

The Council Manager said that Play Ranger sessions are taking place mainly as they take place outdoors, Woughton Community Council is eager to hear what events residents want as well, and what support is needed to help in getting out and about, it is hoped to also have the trailer going around each estate, and when safe to do so hold the annual festival.

Can the kangaroo skip runs that took place a few years ago be revived?

The Council Manager said that due to the rule changes by Milton Keynes Council this is no longer possible due to the volume and disposal of rubbish, and the cost of bulky waste collection.

Cllr Jordan Coventry said that there needs to be dialogue with Milton Keynes Council to encourage them to reimpose this service.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson brought up fly tipping on Broadlands Netherfield.

The Chair said that this will be reported to Milton Keynes Council.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6:00PM

Chair _____ Date _____