

Woughton Community Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021, 6:30pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub, Council Chambers, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes.

Present: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Elina Apse, Maggie Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Phillip Hopcraft, Amber McQuillan, Ruth McMillan, John Orr, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Yvonne Tomlinson, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

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

FC 99/21 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Janette Bobey (unwell)
Cllr Luke Louis (personal commitment)
Cllr Terri Parish (work commitment)

AGREED

Cllr Lauren Townsend was not in attendance or gave her apologies.

NOTED

FC 100/21 Declaration of interests:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 101/21 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 11th October 2021.

Were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

FC 102/21 Chair's Announcement(s):

The Chair informed the meeting that there will be a flood prevention training event on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 6:00pm.

The School Memorial Service Parade outside the Christ the Vine Church on Coffee has had to be cancelled due to advice from Milton Keynes Council, hopefully the

event will be able to be held next year, the Sunday Service at the same venue will still be going ahead starting at 10:30am.

There will be finance training held by B&MKALC on Wednesday 24th November 2021.

The Scribe software package is now up and running and community halls can be booked through the online system.

NOTED

FC 103/21 Questions from the public:

There were no questions from the public.

NOTED

FC 104/21 Ward Matters arising:

Cllr Janette Bobey has requested an update by Milton Keynes Council on the rat elimination programme, the meeting asked that this matter goes onto the next agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Nick Scott requested that all the underpass lights are in working order so that the Blue Light sponsored walk can go ahead, the meeting asked that this matter goes onto the next agenda for further discussion.

RESOLVED

- 1. To put on the next agenda on an update by Milton Keynes Council on the rat elimination programme.**
- 2. To put on the next agenda a request that all the underpass lights are in working order so that the Blue Light sponsored walk can go ahead.**

FC 105/21 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:

Cllr Donna Fuller – dealing with a lot of casework at present regarding housing repairs and rats inside properties not all are Milton Keynes Council tenants, issues regarding the Demand Response Transport service is ongoing, attends the Community Café so that residents can approach her about any matter, holds a surgery every Thursday, attended most Halloween events and looking forward to attending the Christmas events, residents are encouraged to contact her on any issues.

NOTED

FC 106/21 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:

- Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Elina Apse - Nothing to report.**
- MKALC - **Cllr John Orr, Cllr Sue Smith, Cllr Pam Wilson - No meeting has taken place, but the Executive Committee will be meeting to agree a date which has been provisionally suggested of Wednesday 1st December 2021.**
- Parishes Forum - **Cllr Sue Smith, Cllr Alan Williamson – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th December 2021.**

NOTED

FC 107/21 To note the minutes from the following Committees:

- a) Resources & Finance - Tuesday 5th October 2021.
- b) Planning, Licencing & Development - Tuesday 19th October 2021.

NOTED

FC 108/21 Council Manager's report:

The Council Manager updated the Meeting on activities and delegated decisions made since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the council considers the creation of a group to look at how Woughton Community Council can improve its 'green' approaches (biodiversity, ecology, carbon footprint, etc.), with a view to having clear policies and processes, alongside a declaration of Climate Emergency, if this is felt appropriate.
3. That any Member that wishes to be appointed onto the group should contact the Council Manager.

FC 109/21 To agree the amended Full Council Calendar of Meeting dates:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the committee meeting schedules.

The Council Manager proposed the following meeting dates:

Full Council – Monday evenings at 6.30pm (this is already agreed and ratified).

Dates are: November 8th, December 6th, January 10th, February 7th, March 7th, April 11th.

Operations – To be confirmed in the meeting.

Dates are likely to be: Mondays on January 3rd, February 28th*

Resources and Finance – Monday evenings at 6.30pm.

Dates are: November 29th*, January 31st*, April 4th.

Planning, Licensing and Development – Monday evenings at 6.30pm.

Dates are: November 15th, December 13th, January 17th, February 14th, March 14th and April 18th.

Please note that this committee will only meet if there is business to transact.

Services Committee – will remain on Wednesday evenings but will move to 6.30pm

Dates are: November 17th, December 15th, January 19th, February 16th, March 16th, April 20th.

Please note that this committee will only meet if there is business to transact.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the Council is updated on the decision made by the Operations Committee on Tuesday 2nd November 2021.
3. That the Operations Committee decision forms part of the calendar as noted in the report.

4. That council agrees to the new meeting calendar.

FC 110/21 To discuss the version three (3) draft 2022/2023 budget:

The Responsible Financial Officer updated the meeting on version three (3) of the draft budget for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council notes the report.
2. That a further report is provided to Council in January 2021, providing details of the consultation and any potential updates.
3. That Council prepares to ratify the final budget in January 2021, based upon feedback and updated projections.

FC 111/21 To inform the committee of a proposal for the 2022/2023 budget consultation:

The Responsible Financial Officer updated the meeting on the budget consultation for the 2022/2023 budget.

It was suggested that the following addition is included in the survey:

‘We know that it has been a difficult year for many, with the impacts of covid-19, Brexit, job changes and increased costs. Given this, we are suggesting a small below inflation increase in your Council Tax, of 10p a week. This covers the increased costs to us (gas, electric, etc.) but keeps any rise to the absolute minimum. A small proportion of this goes to Woughton Community Council.

Is this: too little, about right, too much.’

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council notes the report.
2. That the Council agrees to the proposed budget consultation for 2022/2023 to be published on Tuesday 10th November 2021.
3. That the Council agrees for feedback to be given to the Resources and Finance Committee meeting in December.
4. That the Council agrees to the Responsible Financial Officer/Council Manager reviewing all feedback to ensure the 2022/2023 budget best reflects the majority response.
5. To include the following addition in the survey: ***‘We know that it has been a difficult year for many, with the impacts of covid-19, Brexit, job changes and increased costs. Given this, we are suggesting a small below inflation increase in your Council Tax, of 10p a week. This covers the increased costs to us (gas, electric, etc.) but keeps any rise to the absolute minimum. A small proportion of this goes to Woughton Community Council. Is this: too little, about right, too much.’***

FC 112/21 To update the committee on Councillor Allowances:

The Responsible Financial Officer updated the committee on Councillor Allowances for consideration over the coming budget setting period.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee notes the report.

2. That the Committee agrees to a 2% rise in Councillor Allowances for Financial Year 2022/2023 (unless any review published by Milton Keynes Council contradicts this).
3. That the Committee agrees that allowances are considered on an annual basis as part of the budget setting procedure and as per linked to any relevant legislation and/or local policy.

FC 113/21 To update the Council on the 2022/2023 Service Plan:

The Council Manager updated the meeting on the 2022/2023 Service Plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council notes the report.
2. That any further items for consideration for the 2022/2023 Service Plan are submitted to the Council Manager or appropriate committee prior to the end of the calendar year.
3. That a 'first look' at the Service Plan proper comes to Full Council in December 2021, which should include the vast majority of ideas, with the exception of those from the public consultation.
4. That a final proposal for the Service Plan will go to Full Council, alongside the budget, in January 2022, to include those items highlighted through the public consultation.
5. That anything that is not on the service plan and is proposed after ratification will be considered based upon a formal proposal and budget, linking to the 'emerging priorities' budget line.

FC 114/21 To propose agreeing to an 'Expression of Interest' for the landscaping contact for 2023 onwards:

The Council Manager proposed to the meeting to agree to an 'Expression of Interest' for the landscaping contact for 2023 onwards.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the council agrees to submit the Expression of Interest.
3. That discussions and considerations around taking on the contract continue as more information is gained and contract development evolves.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 6th December 2021 6:30pm, at the Coffee Hall Community Centre, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:35PM

Chair _____ Date _____