

Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022, 6:00pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub, The Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

In attendance: Cllrs Sue Smith (Chair), Jordan Coventry (Vice-Chair), Elina Apse, Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Phillip Hopcraft, John Orr, Terri Parish, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

Also in attendance:

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)
Steve McNay (Council Manager)

Present: One (1) member of the public.

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.

The Council Manager informed the meeting that there had been six questions submitted in advance, with three (3) of those questions relating to matters on Beanhill.

A question to Beanhill Councillors I would like to know what is going to be done about the dumping of rubbish around the area and in the bushes on Beanhill, and Milton Keynes Council are not collecting when it is being reported.

Cllr Amber McQuillan (Ward Councillor for Woughton & Fishermead Ward) responded online that there are issues between Milton Keynes Council and the Milton Keynes Parks Trust as to the ownership of land, the hotspots appear to be on Milton Keynes Parks Trust land and not Milton Keynes Council's.

The Woughton Community Council Landscaping Team have said that they are dependent on the response from Milton Keynes Council, and they have a target of seven (7) to ten (10) working days for collection, this can take longer if enforcement action is required and is pushing for more CCTV in the area.

The Council Manager asked if any of the Beanhill councillors had any comments to make.

Cllr Brian Hepburn asked residents to continue to report dumping of rubbish to Milton Keynes Council with supporting evidence such as photographs and let the residents association know, who will also be happy to help.

Cllr Alan Williamson highlighted the difficulties of trying to book a slot at the local tip, and asked why the old system could not be brought back, as he believed residents being put off trying to get a slot and are fly tipping instead.

Cllr Phil Hopcraft highlighted an incident on Coffee Hall where rubbish bags next to a dog bin had not been collected after being reported to Milton Keynes Council by the Environment Team at Woughton Community Council.

Cllr Alan Williamson said that there was no way of knowing if fly tipping was taking place by people not living in the Woughton Community Council area.

Cllr Jeanette Bobey said that on Netherfield they are experiencing similar problems, but wondered why mobile CCTV cameras are not being used by Milton Keynes Council more to pick up individuals fly tipping in various hot spots its seems the area is being forgotten.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Woughton Community Council will work with Milton Keynes Council to improve access to the tips.**
- 2. That Woughton Community Council will push for more use of mobile CCTV by Milton Keynes Council.**
- 3. That Woughton Community Council to work with the Milton Keynes Parks Trust to ensure rubbish is removed from their land.**

The second question was is it possible for Councillors to work with Milton Keynes Council to stop cars parking on pathways on Beanhill blocking access to dropped kerbs and stopping mobility scooters and pushchairs to get past the cars, with mobility scooters blocking paths as a result.

Cllr Alan Williamson replied that he had been dealing with this matter, it is not an offence for cars to park on pathways and highlighted similar incidents with vans parked on Beanfare.

Cllr Brian Hepburn said that Milton Keynes Council are working on issuing fines, and vehicles parking on dropped kerbs should be reported to the Police by residents as they should be doing something about that, residents are more than welcome to report as well to himself and Cllrs Alan Williamson and Amber McQuillan, who can send an email to the Police, residents are again asked to provide evidence by taking photos, they will do their best to help in this matter, Milton Keynes Council had undertaken a survey of the dropped kerbs some of which were situated on the corner of various streets.

Cllr Alan Williamson highlighted the potential additional parking pressures in the Woughton area if more matches take place in the Stadium MK with visitors trying to avoid parking charges.

Cllr Jordan Coventry said there is the same issue with parking at the Milton Keynes University Hospital, residents are encouraged to make suggestions appropriate for their communities such as permits, double yellow lines, traffic calming etc so that Woughton Community Council can lobby Milton Keynes Council on residents and resident associations behalf.

Cllr Donna Fuller said that meetings are taking place between Woughton Community Council, Milton Keynes Council and Thames Valley Police on parking issues, some are criminal offences others civil matters, each estate needs a different approach as no one scheme fits all, resolutions need to be cost neutral, Milton Keynes Council seems to be pushing for parking permits but these can be costly, feedback is wanted from residents.

Cllr Brian Hepburn said he attended a meeting where it was suggested that the Stadium MK is approached to extending marshalling from Netherfield to Beanhill when events are on, so this will be pursued and see what response is given.

Cllr Donna Fuller said that an eye needs to be kept on social media as comments have been made suggesting parking on nearby estates to avoid parking charges, a response needs to be given to say that this is unacceptable.

Cllr Jeanette Bobey said when parking issues have arisen where events have taken place at the Stadium MK, Milton Keynes Council has put no parking signs at each entrance on Netherfield along with barriers it has not totally solved the problem but has helped.

As regards the dropped kerbs they are expensive and in some cases cannot legally be done, Milton Keynes Council should be knocking on the doors of those not registered as it could free up additional parking some residents are parking on green open spaces on Netherfield which they should not be doing.

Cllr Alan Williamson said residents on Beanhill are using an app renting their parking spaces which could be increasing parking problems.

Cllr Phil Hopcraft suggested schools could rent out their car parks and charge at the owners own risk when events take place at the Stadium MK.

A question had been submitted asking what can be done to tackle the rat problem on Beanhill, Milton Keynes Council have asked residents not to feed the birds and will they be installing bait throughout the estate, and more encouragement to stop littering.

The Council Manager said that hopefully the introduction of wheelie bins should help, and Woughton Community Council will still continue to help residents in any way they can, Council Tenants can get help with pest control provision and costs.

Cllr Brian Hepburn thanked Cllr Donna Fuller for her help as a Milton Keynes Ward Councillor in helping in dealing with this problem, Cllr Hepburn had been in contact with a pest control company, who had suggested to keep the prices down, that if three (3) to four (4) properties in a row clubbed together then a discount could be

provided and would sort the problem out as rats are very territorial, Cllr Hepburn had approached Milton Keynes Council for funding but is awaiting a response, the Chair asked Cllr Hepburn to let Council know how he gets on with this proposal.

A question was asked if Woughton Community Council has any plans to reduce their carbon footprint and to help residents reduce theirs, and to encourage biodiversity?

The Council Manager responded that a new Environmental Working Group has been set up, which will assess all buildings operated by Woughton Community Council, and all services to see what is or has been done already, all landscaping equipment has now changed from diesel to battery operated, there is more use of electric vehicles, bicycles are also being used by the Environment Team as well, and various other possibilities are being looked into, one recent example is the improved insulation of the roof to the Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place saving on heating costs.

A question was asked that now that accessibility checks have taken place in Woughton Community Council buildings, and improvements have been identified, when will they be implemented, and can discussions take place with Milton Keynes Council for better accessibility in the area moving forwards, such other local centres, disabled parking, better access to shops, more drop kerbs and ramps, for the Woughton Community Council area to be fully inclusive?

The Council Manager said that the area does not score badly for accessibility but the area after 50 years after it has been built is starting to look its age, some of the infrastructure needs revamping or renewing, such as the positioning and depth of drop kerbs, where buildings managed and owned by Woughton Community Council, and items have been identified following the accessibility checks, investment can be justified if there is a ten (10) year plus lease to run, but if it is five (5) years or less then further consideration will have to be made, in the wider area, Woughton Community Council will push for improved infrastructure, and in the case of parking where the majority is owned privately, Woughton Community Council will work with the operators for improved disabled parking, including improved marking of parking bays.

Cllr John Orr suggested hearing loops in buildings and subtitles for all meetings shown on Facebook, the Council Manger said that Facebook did provide subtitles but they were very hit and miss.

Cllr Brian Hepburn highlighted that a meeting had taken place with Milton Keynes Council regarding drop kerbs and improvements to accessing parking spaces, but these works were unlikely to take place until the 2023/2024 financial year.

Cllr Donna Fuller has written to the Cabinet Member responsible for accessibility asking if any funding is available for improvements to the meeting places, and is awaiting a response.

A question was asked out of all Councillors, staff and senior officers at Woughton Community Council how many have received up to date training on disability awareness or certification, and if anyone has not undertaken such training or

certification, would they be willing to do so to obtain certification, and is there a budget for this that can be used to undertake training by a provider online?

The Council Manager replied that as he had only received this question this morning that he could not provide a definitive answer, and can only give partial information as he did not have the time to do any research and check all personnel files, also the Operations Manager was not in today, this is a big area of work to cover, but half of all Councillors have undertaken mental health first aid training, and some attended a recent disability awareness training event last week, which covered mainly neurodiversity, this included all staff and some volunteers, there is a training budget for this financial year and training will be ongoing to try and cover all disabilities as it has been very piecemeal so far, unfortunately it has not been possible at this juncture to be more specific.

Various Councillors thought this was a good idea, especially as it had been a while since they had received disability training.

The final question was is there a budget and or capacity for holding activities and providing services for disabled people and those who are isolated, in the Woughton Community Council area, and can anyone make suggestions on the type of activities and services that could be provided, as more activities and services are needed for the disabled and those who are isolated.

The Council Manager replied that this Council prides itself that all activities and services are inclusive, and would rather seek more advice on how to more inclusive than having separate activities and services, although there have been activities and groups set up that have targeted certain sections of the community, feedback on these matters are always welcome.

There was a question on Facebook that said that there was a path from a property on Chervil in Beanhill that needed to have access to a WAV, the Council Manager said that he would get back to the person who raised this matter to obtain more information.

Cllr Brian Hepburn thought that the question referred to a Wheelchair Access Vehicle which needs about three (3) meters to provide a ramp to a person's property.

The Chair suggested a break, to be followed by the Annual Meeting of Council to commence at 6:40pm which was AGREED.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6:33PM

Chair _____ Date _____