

## Full Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 6:30pm 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, Jeanette Bobey, Maggie Ferguson, Donna Fuller, Brian Hepburn, Ruth McMillian, John Orr, Terri Parish, Nick Scott, Liz Simpkins, Alan Williamson, Pam Wilson.

**Also present:**

Brian Barton (Committee & Member Services Officer)  
Louise O'Dell (Senior Teacher, Leadership Team The Redway School)  
Hollie Russell (Business Manager The Redway School)  
June Harrison (Chair of the Friends of Moorlands)  
Louise Nash (Secretary of the Friends of Moorlands)

**In attendance:**

Steve McNay (Council Manager)

**FC 43/22 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Phil Hopcraft (work)

**AGREED**

**FC 44/22 A representative from the Milton Keynes University Hospital and the Redway School to attend regarding parking issues in the area and to discuss any possible solution(s):**

Louise O'Dell Senior Teacher from the Leadership Team at The Redway School and Hollie Russell who is the Business Manager at The Redway School introduced themselves.

Cllr Elina Apse said that there are problems with parking at the Hide and Farmborough on Netherfield, along with the overflow parking from the Milton Keynes University Hospital, there are difficulties accessing the school when pupils are being collected, with buses blocking the entrance, although it is the only entrance, has the school considered staggering drop off and collection times, or another entrance to the school, Cllr Apse was concerned about residents taking matters into their own hands due to the frustration of not being able to access or leave their properties, and about access by emergency vehicles, and has consideration been made about expanding the present car park onto nearby land.

Louise responded that the school is aware and is concerned about traffic and parking issues, Milton Keynes Council has come out and done a survey, to see if a one way system could be put in place but the cost is too high, there are 200 staff

with 62 parking spaces, 130 staff drive to the school and 17 staff do a car share, it has been suggested to have permit parking near to the coop store at the local centre, staff have been told not to park particularly on Farmborough, but do use the bays at the top of the street, but cannot say about other streets, Louise is out every morning with a radio directing traffic as best she can, and asked residents and parents to complain to Milton Keynes Council but the school is constrained due to finances.

Cllr Jeanette Bobey said that this has been a long running problem, and has spoken to the Headteacher, the problem is getting worse, now the school has taken on the old housing office is the extra parking and land on that site not helping, or being utilised to full affect?

Louise replied that the number of pupils has gone up over double, including staff, Louise has been on site with Milton Keynes Council and suggested using the land to increase parking the response is that there is not enough money to do the work. The school would like a new access and extra parking spaces using the land but they do not have the finances to do this themselves.

Cllr Terri Parish suggested sending a letter to all residents on the streets leading to the school asking if they were not using their driveway during the day then perhaps a member of staff could make use of it instead.

Louise said that she could arrange this.

The Chair suggested an article could also go in the Woughton Gazette.

The Council Manager said that it was already planned to have an article on parking to go in the Gazette but will add about the parking at Redway School. There is an additional problem of contractor parking reported by residents on The Hide and Farmborough due to ongoing work at the Milton Keynes University Hospital, and it was noticeable by their absence for whatever reason not to have a representative attend this meeting, and was one of the reasons why this matter was put on the agenda, and thanked Louise and Hollie for their attendance.

Cllr Brian Hepburn said would it be possible to use matting material that allows grass to grow through and is used by companies at events that could go on land next to the car park?

Louise replied that due to the cost it was not permissible to provide extra parking bays for residents to park, but Milton Keynes Council did suggest sending a letter to all residents they could simply park on the grass.

The Chair asked if she had a contact of the person who suggested this? Louise replied she could find out and get back to the Chair with an email address.

The Chair also asked Louise if she would be prepared to attend a meeting on parking issues to be held soon, to which she replied that she would be happy to do so. The Council Manager said that he will send her an invitation.

The Chair thanked Louise and Hollie and really appreciated them taking the time out to attend the meeting.

**NOTED**

**FC 45/22 Declaration of interests:**

There were no declaration of interests.

**NOTED**

**FC 46/22 Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting(s):**

The minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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

**FC 47/22 Chair's Announcement(s)**

The Chair everyone for all their hard work in running events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where were very successful and well attended.

The Chair reminded everyone to take care in the heatwave that has been forecast and those who have pets and children to make sure they are protected from the heat as well. It was suggested that an article is placed in the Woughton Gazette, on tips on how to ensure pets are kept safe in warm weather.

The next meeting of the Operations & Resources Committee will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 6:30pm at the Woughton Community Council Hub in the Council Chamber.

**NOTED**

**FC 48/22 Questions from the public:**

A member of the Beanhill Residents Association asked if they could borrow the street sign cleaning kit supplied by SERCO.

The Council Manager responded that the materials were minimal but none the less the residents association was welcome to borrow the kit.

**NOTED**

**FC 49/22 Ward Matters arising:**

Cllr Alan Williamson raised the difficulties of residents trying to arrange appointments to attend the local waste recycling centre and wants something to be done about this.

Cllr Alan Williamson also raised the difficulty of residents accessing the Rapid Demand Service, and have missed appointments due to not getting through to make a booking or not had a vehicle turn up when it has been booked.

Cllr Donna Fuller suggested providing technical facilities such as in the Netherfield Library or the in the Hub that residents could use to try and make bookings online and by phone.

Cllr Brian Hepburn raised that he will be undertaking a survey of residents to suggest moving the Tin Man near to the Moorlands Nursery at the Beanhill Local Centre, using public realm monies, the school and community garden group are happy to be involved, sponsorship has been sought for repairs to take place, but it was felt not to spend any money at the moment where it is situated due to vandalism, and to wait until if and when it is relocated.

The Chair suggested putting this on the next agenda to seek the meeting's support.

The Council Manager said that if Cllr Hepburn can supply an article this week then it can go in the next edition of the Gazette.

Cllr Jordan Coventry said that there will be an agenda item at the July Operations & Resources Committee meeting, with a report from the Community Services Manager suggesting ways in which the old tablets used by Councillors, can be put to good use for local residents, Cllr Williamson was welcome to attend and make suggestions.

Cllr Brian Hepburn also suggested some joint working in helping residents with runs to the waste recycling centre.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson said residents had transport difficulties getting to the waste recycling centre.

Cllr Liz Simpkins gave an example of a representative from the Eaglestone Guardians who uses a van to do runs to the waste recycling centre and takes away items that have been fly tipped.

The Chair said these issues could be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To put on the next agenda to seek the meeting's support on the possible relocation of the Tin Man on Beanhill.**
- 2. To discuss all matters relating to the removal of waste and accessing the waste recycling centre at a future meeting.**

#### **FC 50/22 Milton Keynes Council Ward Councillors report:**

Cllr Donna Fuller informed the meeting that there is a lot of casework from residents due to the cost of living crises, Cllr Fuller said that a leaflet is being produced signposting residents to appropriate agencies that could help, along with money saving suggestions/ideas.

There are issues with rat sightings on Coffee Hall, and general parking problems, welfare concerns raised by residents.

Cllr Fuller attends the Community Café sessions and is available for any local residents who wish to raise any matters.

Members are encouraged to pass on any residents concerns to Cllr Fuller.

Cllr Brian Hepburn said that he has already produced a guide that has been put on social media advising residents on what help is available and the agencies contact

details that they can approach for further advice and assistance, the Council Manager said that he has a copy and will circulate to Members.

Cllr Maggie Ferguson suggested that an article is produced in the next edition of the Woughton Gazette asking residents to not leave out any food or water so as not to encourage rats to keep going into their gardens.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Council Manager to circulate the agency and advice guide for residents written by Cllr Brian Hepburn to all members.**
- 2. That an article is produced in the next edition of the Woughton Gazette asking residents to not leave out any food or water so as not to encourage rats to keep going into their gardens.**

**FC 51/22 Feedback from meetings with Outside Bodies:**

- Woughton Welfare Trust - **Cllr Elina Apse - no report.**
- MKALC – **Cllr Liz Simpkins, Cllr Sue Smith, Cllr Pam Wilson - no report.**
- Parishes Forum - **Cllr Liz Simpkins, Cllr Sue Smith – no report.**

Members were reminded about producing written reports.

**NOTED**

**FC 52/22 To note the minutes from the following Committees:**

- Operations & Resources – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Services & Communities - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**NOTED**

**FC 53/22 Council Manager's report:**

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

**Forums, meetings, and events attended:**

- A 'partners event' at Hedgerows Family Centre.
- A Flood Prevention meeting in the Council Chambers.
- A parking update meeting.
- The MK Arts group held an event on the ABC park in Netherfield.
- Attended an online session covering the changes being made to s106 funding.
- The first 'Open Air, Open Mic' event took place.
- The first Strategic Plan group meeting also took place.
- The Jubilee Events all took place too.

**Delegated decisions taken:**

Only one decision taken, which was to buy a Walnut Tree to be planted as part of the Jubilee Celebrations on Coffee Hall. This was part of the refurbishment plan that Milton Keynes Council agreed, but they were unable to source one in time. The total cost was £270.00p and has been delivered, which the cost will be passed. The tree has been planted.

**Any other news:**

The Council Manager shall be on annual leave as from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and will be returning on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

There are challenges keeping the office open to the public due to staff on sick leave.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the report.**

**FC 54/22 update on the Lead Member roles:**

Council was asked to agree the Lead Member roles for the Council Year 2022/2023 as discussed at the previous Full Council meeting.

The following requested to be Lead Members for the roles as listed:

Homelessness	Cllr Maggie Ferguson
Transport	Cllr Brian Hepburn
Housing	Cllr Janette Bobey

Cllr Janette Bobey requested that her lead role title was changed from "Housing" to "Social Housing".

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the council discusses any further submissions for Lead Member roles at this meeting and that these are added to the list.
2. That the council agrees to the Lead Members on said list, to include those noted above noting the change from "Housing" to "Social Housing" and any further submissions that have been made since this report was written.
3. If there are any conflicts (i.e. any roles with more than one member wanting this), that discussion is held to agree suitability with, if unable to agree, a specific vote to take place.
4. That once agreed, the council ratifies these roles and members and that these will be held until May 2023, where following the election, roles will be reviewed.

**FC 55/22 To propose the reminder of and signing of the Code of Conduct:**

Members had already been given a copy of the code of conduct.

The Council Manager will print off for the next meeting the slips which Members can sign that they agree to abide by the code of conduct.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council Manager to print off for the next meeting the slips which Members can sign that they agree to abide by the code of conduct.**

**FC 56/22 To discuss ideas for the Community Infrastructure Fund:**

Members were requested to consider possible ideas to make applications to the Milton Keynes Council Community Infrastructure Fund for 2023/2024.

Ideas that have already been suggested by council include:

- Solar panels on buildings owned or leased to Woughton Community Council.
- Parking management.

Other suggestions made by officers and residents include:

- Improving buildings owned or leased to Woughton Community Council by ensuring that they are more environmentally friendly by installing solar panels, upgrading windows and doors at the Youth Centre at 95, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, better accessibility at the Netherfield Meeting Place and in the Council Chambers, remote access lighting and heating.
- Improvements to toilets and bathrooms (both upgrades to equipment and access) at the Hub and the Meeting Places.
- Secure bike storage and facilities to promote sustainable travel.

Cllr Pam Wilson suggested addition private meeting space when talking with clients of the wellbeing service.

The Chair further suggested that a discussion needs to take place with Milton Keynes Council about buildings leased by them to Woughton Community Council before substantial investment is made to refurbish them.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council considers any ideas for submission to the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) for the next council year (i.e. 2023/2024).
2. That once discussed, the Council Manager develops a costed plan for each idea and clarify the proposals.
3. That once discussed, ideas are consulted upon with residents to ensure that they are supportive of the proposals.
4. That once the information in recommendations 3 and 4 as above is in place, a further report comes to Council for a final decision.

**FC 57/22 To note the cancellation of the Services & Communities Committee meeting due to be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022:**

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the Services & Communities committee meeting, to be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, in consultation with the Chair, has now been cancelled.

**NOTED**

**FC 58/22 Update on the Strategy Working Group:**

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the group met for the first time on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Cllr Ruth McMillan was recently appointed, meaning that the group now has full membership.

The initial meeting included looking at previous plans and starting to consider some overarching principles that would contribute to the plan. These included:

- Life skills.
- Community engagement.
- Building a 'property fund'.

Other key points included:

- Building on the volunteering roles.
- Creating aspiration.
- Highlighting success and positivity.

The next stages will include reviewing a vision and mission and values statement, setting some key aims, developing plans to achieve those aims and providing an overview of the areas that matter to the council. It may be that lead members will assist on this, especially where there is cross over between these roles and the key areas for the plan.

The group agreed to meet again after a month on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6.30pm.

**RESOLVED**

**That Council notes the report.**

**FC 59/22 Update on the Jubilee celebrations:**

The Council Manager informed the meeting that the Jubilee weekend took place between Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, with a range of activities and events taking place across the Woughton Community Council area.

Despite some challenging weather on Saturday morning, the events appear to have gone off without a hitch testament to the hard work and organisation of the volunteers who created them.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 saw Jonathans Court start proceedings with an afternoon event and garden party. This was followed later with the Woughton Beacon lighting.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 saw the Eaglestone Kite Festival, which Woughton Community Council had supported the event. With an estimated 350 attendees (and 100 kites being snapped up in less than an hour). Also on that day was the Coffee Hall Residents Association event, with a programme of live music, face painting and food stalls. Attendance was significant.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 saw the Netherfield Residents Association event at noon, on the Alphabet Park, with a rodeo bull, inflatable house and a range of stalls offering fun for all the family. The Residents Association planted seventy (70) sunflowers and then also a tree which was planted as part of this event. There was around 150 attendees and nearly £200 raised at the raffle.

Tinkers Bridge Residents Association had space inside the meeting place (with a buffet) and outside (with a BBQ too), art, crafts, and a beautifully decorated hall, as well as stalls outside, a raffle and other activities. The weather was very much against this event, but nevertheless, there were over 90 attendees.

Beanhill Residents Association took over the Moorlands Centre with food, flags and festivities including stalls, tombola and another beautifully decorated hall – with somewhere between 175 to 200 attendees.

Then there were the smaller events the households and streets that got together to celebrate, and a chance to meet up and enjoy a celebration for the first time in a while.

A huge thank you is due to all the volunteers who enabled these events to happen.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That council notes the report.**
- 2. That council offers a formal declaration of thanks to all involved in organising the events across the Woughton Community Council area.**

**FC 60/22 To further propose the hosting of a knife amnesty bin, with alterations to the original proposal:**

The Council Manager informed the meeting that in April, a report was presented to council suggesting that a knife amnesty bin be installed on Coffee Hall, as requested by Thames Valley Police. At that time, it was suggested that the bin should be installed inside a building, with the reception area in the Hub having been identified as a suitable location.

Council expressed concerns about the safety of the bin placement, with members of the public coming into the offices, with blades, at the same time as officers are at work. The request was that an invite was extended to a representative of Thames Valley Police to discuss alternative options.

Prior to this invite being issued, a further email was received stating that the bin can be installed outside, reducing the risk to staff.

Cllr Jordan Coventry requested regular updates on the amount of use and if successful the bins could be rolled out to other areas.

Cllr Elina Apse requested that a risk assessment takes place on any site chosen, and was concerned how secure a bin would be.

Members wondered if Thames Valley Police would be responsible for the risk assessment as it was their bin, or whoever owned the land where the bin might be placed.

The Council Manager said that a Thames Valley Police representative will be attending the next Council Meeting, and will put the concerns, comments and questions raised, to the representative, who can then answer them at the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That council considers the new proposal, outlined in the report.**
- 2. That if council feel that this addressed the concerns that prevented the bin being placed on Coffee Hall previously, that the council agrees to the installation of a knife bin.**
- 3. That if agreed, the Council Manager, Lead Member (if applicable) and Thames Valley Police agree on a suitable place for the bin to be installed.**

**FC 61/22 Friends of Moorlands:**

A Communities & Environment Fund application has been received for £1,340.00p towards the cost of four (4) coaches for a trip to Great Yarmouth.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To award £1,340.00p towards the cost of four (4) coaches for a trip to Great Yarmouth.**
- 2. That the Friends of Moorlands are requested to advertise the trip to Great Yarmouth, with posters, in the Residents Association Facebook page, and to provide information that can go in the next edition of the Woughton Gazette.**

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 6:30pm, at the Woughton Community Council Hub, The Council Chamber, 60, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG.

**THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:38PM**

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_