

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF
WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on 6 FEBRUARY 2019
Room 4, MK SNAP, Bourton Low, Walnut Tree, MK7 7DE
at 7:00pm**

Present:

Councillors: Terry Reynolds (Chairman), Mario Toto (Vice-Chairman), Joanna Bolton, Dawn Filby, Brendan Metcalfe, David Newland, Simon Lorrimer-Roberts, Ian McColl and Amanda Taylor.

Officer: Lesley Sung (Council Manager)

Members of the Public: 4

FC155 WELCOME AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the public requested to speak and a summary is set out as an addendum to the minutes.

FC156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Phil Chambers.

FC157 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of Full Council held on 2 January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

FC158 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

FC159 URGENT ITEM – S.137 GRANT MK CITY ORCHESTRA

The Chair requested that an item be accepted for consideration as an urgent item that had not been published on the agenda. This related to a s.137 grant that the Regulatory Committee had recommended should be awarded to MK City Orchestra for an amount of £4,800. Matter relating the grant meant that the matter could not wait until the Full Council meeting in March.

Resolved Unanimously: That an additional item relating to a s.137 grant to MK City Orchestra be added to the agenda (Minute FC160 refers).

FC160 S.137 GRANT – MK CITY ORCHESTRA

The Council received a recommendation from the Regulatory Committee to award a grant of £4,800 to MK City Orchestra for the launch of a community concert to be arranged in partnership with Walton Community Council and MK Snap.

Resolved Unanimously: That MK City Orchestra be awarded a s.137 grant of £4,800 for the launch of a community concert at The Venue to be arranged in partnership with Walton Community Council and MK Snap.

FC161 COUNCIL MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council Manager's report be accepted.

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FC162 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications:

- (a) **Planning Application 19/00054/FUL** – 35 Pettingrew Close Walnut Tree Milton Keynes MK7 7LL – Single storey side and rear extensions.
- (b) **Planning Application 19/00110/FUL** – 14 Limbaud Close Walton Park Milton Keynes MK7 7HP – First floor side extension
- (c) **Planning Application 19/00122/FUL** – **35 Norden Mead Walton Milton Keynes MK7 7FE** – Two storey side/rear extension
- (d) **Planning Application 19/00172/FUL** – Telecommunication Mast Fastbolt Distributors UK Ltd Sherbourne Drive Tilbrook Milton Keynes – Replacement of existing 20m high mast and five equipment cabinets with proposed 30m high mast supporting twelve antennas and two 600mm diameter dishes; and eleven equipment cabinets within extended compound; plus ancillary works
- (e) **Planning Application 19/00218/OUT** – **Land To West of Walton Manor Brickhill Street H9 To H10 Milton Keynes** – Outline application (all matters reserved other than access) for the development of a new roundabout and up to 174 residential dwellings and ancillary features including outdoor community event space and a unit for flexible retail use.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That, in respect of planning application 19/00054/FUL (35 Pettingrew Close), the Walton Community Council objects to the application on the following grounds:
 - (a) The proposed extension is considered overdevelopment of the plot and removes the side access to the rear of the property.
 - (b) The proposed extension would build over some of the existing car parking area.
 - (c) The plans do not specify the use of the new rooms in the proposed extension and it is possible that the use of those rooms could lead to a need for more car parking space at the property.
 - (d) That the residents' objections to the application be supported.
2. That, in respect of planning application (14 Limbaud Close), Walton Community Council objects to the application on the grounds that the works to the property would overpower the development, due to its location on the corner of the Close and that there was insufficient parking for the number of bedrooms proposed at the property.
3. That in respect of planning application 19/00218/OUT (Land to West of Walton Manor), Walton Community Council considers the application is in line with its neighbourhood plan and has no objections or comments to make.
4. That objections made to planning applications be submitted to Milton Keynes Council within the statutory consultation deadline.

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5. That in respect of the remaining planning applications considered, that there are no objections or comments to make.

FC163 COUNCILLOR ITEM – MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BRENDAN METCALFE: COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Councillor Metcalf put forward the following motion:

“Upon a full examination of the council record and following discussions with parties involved, I have concern that the **procedures** followed by the HR Committee may be seen as at best irregular or could be interpreted as illegal. These procedures were in their November Meeting and actions subsequent to that meeting, and the consequent Chairman’s motion to the Full Council in December. In light of our obligations to full transparency and best practice in public office I propose the following motion.

The motion is that the resolution made at the Full Council meeting of 5th December with regard to Council staff structure, ref FC140 be amended as follows:

1. That the organisational structure of the Council **may** need to be changed and that the structure proposed by the Chairman be treated as a working draft by the HR Committee who will:
 - document the background and justify the reasoning behind the need for change.
 - document and justify the reasoning behind the perceived urgency and timescale for the change.
 - document and justify the job description for each role in the proposed new draft staff structure and provide an analysis of the impact of the proposed draft structure on the council’s existing staff structure.
 - document and justify the proposed draft structure and the projected costs as benchmarked against other parish and town councils in our region.

Once this report has been completed by the HR Committee, it will be presented, along with their recommendations to Full Council for their review and approval as a proposition within 60 days. If approved a timeframe for implementation will be proposed by the HR Committee and approved by Full Council.

2. Subsequent to the resolution in December, the HR committee have contracted to engage the services of Crispin Rhodes HR Consultancy Service in a manner which is in breach of Walton community Council’s Financial Regulations. To regularise this matter, the HR Committee will immediately put on hold further expense with this consultant until it has

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completed an Invitation to Quote procedure as outlined in those regulations for expenditure between £3,000 - £25,000. It will also provide Full Council with a report of expenditure with Crispin Rhodes to date. The budget item, that £30,000 be allocated in the 2018/2019 budget to enable the planning of this proposed structure will remain.”

The Chair of the HR Committee reported that an extraordinary meeting of the HR Committee had been convened to retrospectively agree the appointment of HR Specialist Crispin Rhodes. He added that the HR Committee had appointed Crispin Rhodes based on reputation and the work they had carried out with other parish councils.

The Council Manager stated that in respect of the appointment of Crispin Rhodes, an unlawful action had been carried out but that the convening of the extraordinary meeting of the HR Committee on 30 January 2019, to retrospectively agree the appointment of Crispin Rhodes had been a reasonable step to take to rectify the actions taken and that members of the public knowing all the facts were likely to consider this action justifiable.

Councillor Metcalfe withdrew part 2 of his motion.

In response to a query about the motion being in contravention of Clause 10 of the Council’s Standing Order, the Council Manager advised that this did not apply as the motion put was about process and the legality of actions taken.

The Council Manager further advised that if the Council felt that, having heard the motion, it had not been as open and as transparent as it could have been then the Council may want to consider bringing back to Full Council, the proposed draft structure for further deliberation.

Resolved:

1. That part 2 of Councillor Metcalfe’s motion be withdrawn.
2. Councillor Brendan Metcalfe put motion 1 of his motion to the Council which was seconded by Councillor Ian McCall and which was lost.

(Recorded Vote:

For (4): Councillors Dawn Filby, Ian McColl, Brendan Metcalfe and Simon Lorrimer-Roberts

Against (5): Councillors Joanna Bolton, David Newland, Terry Reynolds, Amanda Taylor and Mario Toto.

Abstentions (0)

Resolved Unanimously:

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- 1 That a £3,000 threshold be imposed on the spend allocated for the HR Specialist and that any costs over this amount would require approval by Full Council.
2. That all Councillors be informed of future HR Committee meetings.

FC164 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Resolved Unanimously: That the invoices to be paid be authorised and the payments list signed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Terry Reynolds and the Chair of the Regulatory Committee, Councillor Amanda Taylor.

FC165 COUNCIL BUDGET 2018/2019

The Council reviewed the 2018/2019 budget.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be accepted.

**FC166 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 –
BOROUGHWIDE STREET TRADING CONSENT**

The Council considered an application from E Hall for street trading consent for 1 ice cream van to trade Boroughwide from Monday to Sunday 15:30 to 18:30. Boroughwide consents allowed for no more than 20 minutes trading in any 100 metre part of any one consent street on any one day.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council has no objection or comments to make in respect of the street trading application.

FC167 STANDING ITEM - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Chair of the Events Working Group reported that the following community events for 2019/2020 had been considered by the Group:

- Over 55's coach trip to Kew Gardens – 12 June 2019
- Family coach trip to Great Yarmouth – date to be advised
- Summer Fayre – 22 June 2019. 1pm until 5pm.
- Events in the Park (Hindhead Knoll): MK Brass on 14 July 2019, Open Air Cinema on 10 August 2019 and Woburn Sands Quintet on 8 September 2019.

The Chair of the Events Working Group reminded Council that a parish guardians clean-up event was taking place on Saturday outside Tesco on Old Farm Park from 10am until noon.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report of the Chair of the Events Working Group be accepted.

FC168 STANDING ITEM – REPORTS FROM CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

The Chair of the Operations Committee reported on the main issues considered by the Operations Committee at its last meeting:

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- The re-sizing of the football pitches at Browns Wood Sports Ground was agreed to ensure that there was enough space between the new pump track and the football pitches.
- Consideration was given to the cost of hire for facilities by the Scouts at the proposed pavilion at Browns Wood Sports Ground.
- Dog bins – some bins were to be upgraded (bigger) and relocated to areas of need.
- Walk to School Graphics – the project was ongoing and match funding was being considered by Milton Keynes Council from its ‘Safer Journeys to School’ budget.
- Community Transport – a leaflet informing residents of the Walton Community Council subsidy was currently in production.

The Chair of the Regulatory Committee reported on the main issues considered by the Regulatory Committee at its last meeting:

- Planning applications
- S.137 grant applications from MK City Orchestra and Duchess Grove Allotment Association.

The Chair of the Projects Committee reported on the main issues considered by the Projects Committee at its last meeting:

- The pavilion and wider leisure offer at Browns Wood was progressing.
- The provision of the pump track at Browns Wood Sports Ground was now underway.
- Snagging issues had created a small delay to the provision of the play area and outdoor gym at Browns Wood Sports Ground.
- Securing of s.106 monies and the need for the Council to get involved in allocations at an early stage.
- Devolved Services – this was ongoing and a digital mapping exercise was currently be arranged.

Resolved Unanimously: That the comments be accepted.

FC169 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR

Councillors reported the following:

- Councillor Terry Reynolds had attended a SEMK workshop and he had also attended a meeting at Milton Keynes Council along with the Council Manager to discuss longer term options in respect of car parking at Caldicotte.
- Councillor Amanda Taylor reported on the A421 closure in May 2019.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Councillor reports be accepted.



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The meeting ended at 9.05pm

Accepted as a true and accurate record

Chairman

Date

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES – 6 FEBRUARY 2018

Public Participation

Ward Councillor Vanessa McPake

- Internal Drainage Board – there will be some re-alignment of Caldecotte Brook and some work on the verges. Dredging will commence next year.
- Walton Manor planning application – still in discussion about the provision of healthcare facility.

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- Contribution will be made from the Ward Based Budget to support the upgrade, relocation and provision of new dog bins by Walton Community Council.
- Bus shelters – she continues to monitor lights not working in bus shelters.
- Walnut Tree Pavilion – fencing around the pavilion now complete.

Ward Councillor David Hopkins:

- MK Plan due to be adopted soon.
- East/West Rail Bedford to Bletchley line – enquiry progressing
- South Caldecotte Framework/Caldecotte C site to be consider by MKC Cabinet on 12 March 2019.
- Bus Services – a review of subsidies will be taking place but will continue throughout the summer.
- Recycling sacks – issues continue
- MK Gallery – looking for volunteers
- Caldecotte car parking – discussions between MKC, WCC, local landowners and Caldecotte business park continue.

Ward Councillor Alice Jenkins:

- Police monitoring Wavendon Gate pavilion after reports of drug taking and drug paraphernalia in the area.
- Litter Bins – installation of litter bins should be considered at Browns Wood Sports Ground
- Recycling Sacks – pilot launched – Walton Community Council could consider being part of the pilot as a collection point for clear sacks.

Ward Councillor Alice Jenkins:

- The Milton Keynes Council Budget was currently under discussion
- The ordering of recycling sacks remains an issue.

Member of the Public:

- The Browns Wood page on the Walton Community Council website had not been updated since 24 August.
- The agenda and minutes of the last HR Committee was not on the website.
- The Council budget for 2019/2020 indicated that for every £1 spent on a project, the Council would be spending £1 for managing the services. The increased staffing cost was not considered value for money.