

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2019 at 7.00pm
Room 2, MKSNAP, Bourton Low, Walnut Tree, MK7 7DE**

Present:

Councillors: David Newland (Chair), Amanda Taylor, Adam Chapman-Ballard, Tate Chapman-Ballard and Mario Toto.

Officers: Dan Preston (Assistant Council Manager) and Lesley Sung (Council Manager)

Members of the public: 2

OC118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Joanna Bolton.

OC119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adam Chapman-Ballard declared an interest in item 7, Allotment Administration and Inspections, as the Chair of Duchess Grove Allotment Association and an allotment holder. Councillor Tate Chapman-Ballard declared an interest in item 7, Allotment Administration and Inspections, as the Treasurer of Duchess Grove Allotment Association and an allotment holder.

OC120 MINUTES

Resolved unanimously: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

OC121 ASSISTANT COUNCIL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Council Manager on outstanding matters and actions taken since the last meeting of the Operations Committee.

Resolved unanimously: That the report be accepted.

OC122 GREEN ROOF PROJECT

The Committee received a report on the proposed Green Roof (Buzz Stops) project which involved the installation of living roofs on bus shelters in Milton Keynes. Project Coordinator Alissa Pemberton was present at the meeting to answer questions from the Committee about the project.

The Assistant Council Manager reported that Ward Councillor Vanessa McPake would be willing to pay for a trial installation of a living roof at the bus shelter outside Walton High School. Details of potential funding from Milton Keynes Council would be known when the 2020/2021 budget was finalised. Organisers of the scheme were currently looking at potential business sponsorship. The first installation of a green roof had taken place on a bus shelter owned by Lavendon Parish Council and this was completed during week commencing 3rd February 2020.

Benefits of the scheme included –

- Biodiversity gains
- Slowing down loss of rainwater

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- Mitigation of urban heat islands
- Carbon locking
- Potential for the creation of green jobs
- Low maintenance with only 2 visits per year for weed and feed
- Potential for a 'circular economy' with plants being grown in Milton Keynes for Milton Keynes installations.

So far 1 installation had been made, with 25 more lined up for the near future. There had been no instances of vandalism and installations did not affect the life of the bus shelter. The plants were drought resistant but may need an extra visit in extreme hot and dry spells.

The sedum roofs would attract pollinators and were located at a bee's flight path which meant there would be no issues with bee stings to waiting passengers at the bus stops.

The Councillors questioned if the scheme was value for money, given Milton Keynes Council's plans for wilding of the verges, which will lead to more flowers and biodiversity, especially on the grid roads.

Resolved unanimously:

1. That the Council go ahead with one trail shelter, to be funded by Ward Councillors Ward Based Budget.
2. That the installation of a living roof on a second shelter be investigated, subject to any funding through Milton Keynes Council's 'green fund' (Milton Keynes Council yet to agree the budget).
3. That residents be consulted about installing more green roofs at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

OC123 HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS

The Committee received a report on the joint local neighbourhood policing team / Walton Community Council 'Have Your Say' meeting that took place on 9 January 2020 at the MK Snap Café.

The meeting was attended by Community Wardens Henry Sunderland and George Barker, PCSOs Naomi Wenn from Thames Valley Police, 3 Walnut Tree residents and 2 Caldecotte residents. Issues raised included:

- Weapons sweep training
- Caldecotte parking
- Lichfield Down school parking
- Problems with Squirrels on allotment sites
- Fly tipping and litter issues

The issue of verge damage at Lichfield Down was discussed

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Resolved unanimously: That a quote be obtained from Milton Keynes Council for strengthening the verge or widening the road on Lichfield Down.

OC124 COMMUNITY WARDENS' ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee received the Community Wardens' report on the work they had undertaken since the last meeting of the Operations Committee.

Resolved unanimously: That the Council hires the hot foam weeding machine from Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council for one or two days to clear weed and clean bins and street nameplates in the parish.

OC125 STANDING ITEM - ALLOTMENT ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION

There were currently no vacant allotment plots with 7 people on the waiting list.

The condition of all plots was satisfactory for the time of year.

The main gate post at Duchess Grove had been damaged and the contractor (RTM) had been asked to repair it. They had also been requested to install a new water trough at Duchess Grove allotment site. Most of the improvements decided at the January Operations Committee meeting had been delivered and were going to be delivered to site in the near future. The Community Wardens were seeking quotes for the installation of the compost bay at Duchess Grove. The balance remaining in the allotment s.106 monies was £2971.

Resolved Unanimously: That the allotment report be accepted.

OC126 STANDING ITEM – BROWNS WOOD SPORTS GROUND - MAINTENANCE

The Committee was updated on the maintenance regime carried out by Serco (Contractor). The Committee asked about moving the litter bin at the play area to the four-path junction at the north west corner of the play area, and asked for more publicity of the MUGA for hire.

Resolved unanimously: That the update report be accepted

OC127 STANDING ITEM – PARISH GUARDIANS AND THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The Committee received an update on the activities of the Parish Guardians and The Conservation Volunteers. A clean-up had been held in Old Farm Park on 11 January 2020, collecting 20 bags of rubbish by 9 volunteers. Further clean-ups were planned for 29th February and 2nd May and a meeting was planned for 27th April. There were also plans to work with Community Action to organise a clean up on Walton Grange with only Walton Grange residents.

The Conservation Volunteers had been continuing with their schedule of works.

Resolved unanimously: That the report be accepted.



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OC128 PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The Committee received details of the play area inspections carried out by the Community Wardens in January 2020. The Committee requested that the wardens carry out minor repairs where possible and report other issues to Milton Keynes Council.

Resolved unanimously: That the report be accepted

OC129 OFFICE PHONE CONTRACT

The Committee received details of a potential new supplier for the office phone contract, a company called Onecom. They Committee looked at the offer from Onecom and wanted to be given more information about length of contract and possible extra services included in the contract, such as call queuing, announcements, diverts and hunt groups.

Resolved Unanimously: That more information be obtained, and the item be put on the March Operations Agenda.

OC130 EASTER PLAY SESSIONS

The Committee received a draft schedule for the Easter holiday play sessions.

Resolved unanimously: That the schedule be agreed, and the activities booked.

OC131 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019-2020

The Committee reviewed the 2019-2020 Operations Budget and forecast. The Committee noted underspends on some of the Operations budget lines.

Resolved unanimously: That the 2019-2020 budget be accepted.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm

Accepted as a true and accurate record

SIGNED

DATE