

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF
WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on 5 January 2022 at 7pm in
The Atrium, MK Snap Building, Bourton Low, Walnut Tree,
MK7 7DE**

Present:

Councillors: Adam Chapman-Ballard (Chairman); Councillors Aamir Bhatti, Tate Chapman-Ballard, Rukhsana Malik, Brendan Metcalfe, David Newland, and Amanda Taylor.

Officers: Lesley Sung (Council Manager), Ruth Rose (Responsible Finance Officer) and Lesley Davies (Operations Officer)

Members of the Public: 1

FC135 WELCOME AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was no public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

FC136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Jaime Tamagnini.
Resolved Unanimously: That the apology be accepted.

FC137 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Full Council held on 1 December 2021, be approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

FC138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

FC139 COUNCIL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

FC140 SCHEME OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY – DECISIONS

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

FC141 OPEN SPACE AND PLAY AREA AT HINDHEAD KNOLL – TRANSFER OF LAND – TRANSFER OF LAND FROM MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL TO WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council considered the acquisition of open space and children's play area at Hindhead Knoll (excluding the redway that runs through the site) from Milton Keynes Council.

Over the years, Walton Community Council has invested resources into making the area a focal point for its community through the delivery of many events at the site. The Community Council has installed safety crossings, picnic tables a Christmas tree, uplighters, event shelter and improved the landscaping along the west side of the Knoll. WCC currently pays top up fees to Serco for

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additional works at the Knoll (approximately £2,500 per year) and it maintains the plants in the raised bed near the Christmas Tree.

In March 2021, Walton Community Council submitted to Milton Keynes Council an Expression of Interest (EOI) and following a delay, discussions relating to the transfer has recommenced.

Milton Keynes Council will be deciding on the possibility of transferring the land to Walton Community Council by delegated decision on 8 February 2022. In the meantime, Walton Community Council would need to submit a business case for the acquisition of the land whilst commencing early discussion in respect of transfer terms and available s.106 monies.

s.106 monies were available for open space/parks associated with the development of the Jupiter House (McCarthy & Stone) (Planning Application 18/01280/FUL (Land adjacent to 146 Lichfield Down)). There is the potential to apply for the majority, if not all the funds for improvements and maintenance of Hindhead Knoll and this would form part of the business case. The 'Local and District Park' contribution relating to this site is £88,136.88, index linked towards the provision and maintenance of park and recreational facilities within the vicinity of the development. The monies would need to be spent within 7 years and once s.106 monies were exhausted, Walton Community Council would be responsible for the cost of maintaining the open space and play area in perpetuity.

The Council Manager reported that estimates for the annual maintenance of the area was not available for the meeting but should be available soon.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Council's commitment to the acquisition of open space and children's play area at Hindhead Knoll be re-confirmed.
2. That subject to the receipt of reasonable estimates for the cost of maintenance of the site, Milton Keynes Council be informed of our intention to acquire the land and request that this be considered at the delegated decision meeting on 8 February 2022.
3. That the Council continues negotiations in respect of availability of s.106 developer contributions to be put towards the maintenance and improvement of the site over the next 7 years.
4. That, subject to the above, the Council instructs Geoffrey Lever Solicitors to act on the Council's behalf in respect of transfer negotiations.

FC142 FINANCE – AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Resolved Unanimously: That payments presented to the Council be authorised by the Chair of the Regulatory Committee, Councillor Amanda Taylor, and Councillor Brendan Metcalfe.

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FC143 COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/2022

The Council received the Council Budget 2021/2022 and the Responsible Finance Officer's report on the main variations and forecasts.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report of the Responsible Finance Officer on the main variation of the Council Budget for 2021/2022 be accepted.

FC144 SETTING THE COUNCIL'S PRECEPT FOR 2022/2023

At its meeting on 1 December 2021, the Council agreed its 2022/2023 Council Budget. This included setting its de-minimis reserve at £165,000 (6 months operational costs) and a General Reserve of £100,000. The Council also agreed to use £112,000 of its Working Capital to support the budget to keep the precept at near 2021/2022 levels.

The Council acknowledged that the Council Tax Base had increased from 4,157.53 (Average Band D households) to 4,276.17 resulting in a decrease to the Average Band D household precept of £3.77 (3.83%).

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Walton Community Council precept be set at £404,641 for 2022/2023, a decrease of £4,664 on the 2021/2022 level.
2. That, due to the increase in the Council Tax Base and the slight decrease in the precept, the Council agrees that the Average Band D Household precept will decrease from £98.40 in 2021/2022 to £94.63 in 2022/2023 (decrease of 3.83%)

FC145 PLANNING APPLICATION

The Council was invited to comment on the following **Planning Applications:**

- (a) **Planning Application 21/03565/FUL – 1 to 8, 16 to 26, 28, 30, 35, 37 to 44, 45, 47, 49, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 91, 93, 95, 97, 115, 117, 119, 121, 131, 133, 135, 137, 149, 151, 153 and 155 Pomander Crescent, Walnut Tree, MK7 7NJ** – Replacement of external windows and doors to 64 flats.
- (b) **Planning Application 21/03654/FUL – 21 Boyce Crescent, Old Farm Park, MK7 8PG** – Installation of two air conditioning units externally on the south side of the house (part retrospective)
- (c) **Planning Application 21/03785/FUL – 16 Holst Crescent, Old Farm Park, MK7 8QW** – Erection of single-storey rear extension, new ground floor window to side elevation and relocation of garage door.
- (d) **Planning Application 21/01636/REM – Land at Brickhill Street, South Caldecotte, MK17 9FE** - Approval of reserved matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline permission ref. 19/01818/OUT to provide 10 flexible employment units across use classes

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B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage/distribution) with ancillary offices, plus enabling works to prepare the site for development including earthworks/regrading and provision of infrastructure (Phase 1 land); and approval of reserved matters (landscaping, in part only) comprising earthworks/regarding (Phase 2 land)

Regarding the above application, Walton Community Council had objected to the original planning application on the following grounds:

- MKC has determined that no development takes place on this site until the location of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway is known.
- The north-east corner of the site should indicate the position of a bridge which should go over the railway.
- The planned development would increase congestion at Tilbrook Roundabout and would lead to a significant increase in traffic on Brickhill Street as people will opt to use this route to access the M1 as it is the most direct route to the motorway from the A5.
- Before any full planning application was submitted, Walton Community Council would ask for a full, detailed traffic impact survey to be carried out.”

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Council strongly objects to planning application 21/01636/REM on the grounds that the Council’s previous comments in respect of this site had not been taken into consideration and that the same objection again, be submitted to Milton Keynes Council, and that in addition, further grounds for objection be made:
 - The DAS states that the V10 will be upgraded to grid road status, yet the plans do not reflect this.
 - The residential area of Caldecotte risks becoming a residential island in amongst the industrial areas (Tilbrook, site to the South, Fenny Lock Industrial).
 - The railway access for the V10 is not yet finalised and this requires planning out before planning permission is granted for this site, otherwise potentially the only access is from the South V10 heading to the A5D South roundabout, increasing traffic flow either through SE:MK, Bow Brickhill or along the H10 and down the V10.
 - The planning application makes assumptions:
 - (i) that the M1 becomes a smart motorway (national policy seems to be turning against these statuses.
 - (ii) that there will be a multitude of bus services operating nearby, when Milton Keynes Council has decreased services through its implementation of Demand Responsive Transport (leading to car travel being the primary, or, the only mode of commuting transport)

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- The V10 is Milton Keynes Council's preferred primary access route for Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) and the addition of a minor roundabout will cause problems and the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will not be adequate.
 - Large / heavy goods traffic will be permitted to turn left out of the site which would create pinch points at peak traffic times.
 - HGVs travelling on the V10 past Caldecotte (on the assumption that EWR agrees an under/over pass for the railway line) would lead traffic along the V10, north of the H10, which according to Milton Keynes Council studies on the feasibility of the MRT routing, would remain single carriageway, 40mph with an at grade pedestrian crossing which would create a dangerous point for crossing pedestrians.
 - HGV's travelling to the M1 would be V10 North, H10 East, V11 North, past a major school and busy local centre at Walnut Tree, then east onto the H9 (single carriageway) to the BP roundabout for the A421 and in the longer term, HGV's would head North on V10, East on H10 and stay on the H10 through Wavendon Village, SE:MK area and onto the M1. HGVs should be prohibited from making a left turn so M1 access was forced onto the A5 either northbound to J15 or southbound to the new J11a.
 - Traffic using the new roundabout has the potential to create tailbacks at peak periods onto the A5D south roundabout, blocking the A5D flow north and south at a critical junction. This area already becomes extremely congested at peak hours with commuters heading towards the A5.
 - The site proposals do not mitigate transport impacts in the wider area and the site remains contrary to Plan:MK policies INF1 and CT1.
 - A single access road (and allowing traffic to exit Northwards on to the V10 towards the H10) for the whole 57 Hectares of the site is inadequate. The mitigations offered on the Tilbrook and Walton Park roundabouts do nothing to create a long-term fix, nor does it meet SD14 C3 policy.
 - There are no plans to preserve the views of the Greensands Ridge from the A5 and Eaton Leys area, which goes against Plan:MK policy SD14 C6
 - Only minimum parking standards are being adhered to and enhanced parking - especially for EVs (1 space and one charging point per one hundred car spaces!) should be implemented. Caldecotte North business park already suffers from extreme parking problems that have taken years to work through and there is no point building those issues in to a new site that is adjacent to that area.
2. That the Council has no comment or objection to make on the remaining planning applications.

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FC146 DRAFT STANDING ORDERS 2021/2022

The Council reviewed its Standing Orders, based around the new Model Standing Orders 2019.

Resolved Unanimously: That the proposed draft Standing Orders 2021/2022, as amended, be adopted.

FC147 BOROUGHWIDE STREET TRADING CONSENT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

The Council was invited to comment on the renewal of a Street Trading Licence for Howe & Co. Fish & Chips. The licence application was for thirteen vans to trade boroughwide. The proposed times of operation was Monday to Sunday 12:00 to 14:30 and 16:00 to 21:00. The provision of a waste bin that was available to customers was a condition of the application.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council has no comment to make in respect of the renewal of a street trading licence for Howe & Co Fish & Chips.

FC133 REPORTS FROM CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Chair of the Operations Committee, Councillor David Newland, reported on decisions made at the last Operations Committee:

- The Committee had the opportunity to meet with new Community Warden, Tom Scott, who was enthusiastic and fit in well with the team.
- Marker polls and bee pollinators would soon be installed by Duchess Grove Allotment Association at the Duchess Grove Allotment site. This could be extended to other sites.
- Tree works at Browns Wood Sports Ground were now complete.
- Wooden bollards will be installed at Walnut Tree Pavilion and Sports Ground.
- The Committee agreed the purchase of a car park barrier for Walnut Tree Pavilion car park.
- The Browns Wood Maintenance Contract was varied to include maintenance of Walnut Tree Sports Ground, until the expiry of the contract in June 2022.
- Live-streamed meetings would be available to view on YouTube until the signing of the minutes of that same meeting.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted.

FC134 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Amanda Taylor had attended the Parishes Forum and reported that representatives from Thames Valley Police (TVP) had been in attendance. TVP had reported that the three main priorities for the police were domestic abuse, violent crime, and burglary. TVP had stated that they would be stepping up section 60 which would allow more powers regarding stop and search.



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Councillor Taylor also reported that thirty-two parishes had expressed an interest in taking ownership of their landscaping contracts. She also added that Milton Keynes Council would not charge parishes for any street closure if they were to arrange a street party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Councillor Aamir Bhatti reported that he had received complaints about the parking around Boxberry Gardens, a residential cul-de-sac that had been raising funds for the Winter Night Shelter with their outdoor Christmas decoration/lights display.

The Council Manager, in response, advised that the Council had, through use of its social media attempted to encourage car users to park in alternative areas to relieve the car parking pressure in surrounding areas.

Councillor Rukhsana Malik reported on the number of dogs in the area that were no on leads. The Council Manager reported that the parish council had no enforcement powers to challenge dog walkers to use leads. An article could be placed in the Council's newsletter requested residents to use a lead.

Resolved Unanimously: That the reports be noted.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date