

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF
WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on 6 April 2022 at 7pm in
The Atrium, MK Snap Building, Bourton Low, Walnut Tree,
MK7 7DE**

Present:

Councillors: Adam Chapman-Ballard (Chairman), Jaime Tamagnini (Vice-Chairman), Joanne Dooley, Brendan Metcalfe, David Newland, Amanda Taylor and Charlie Wood.

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

Members of the Public: 2

FC188 WELCOME AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were two members of the public present at the meeting and their comments are attached as an addendum to the minutes.

FC189 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tate Chapman-Ballard and Rukhsana Malik.

Resolved Unanimously: That the apologies be accepted.

FC190 MINUTES

The Council Manager reported that an incorrect version of the had been sent out to Councillors and uploaded onto the Council's website.

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Full Council held on 2 March 2022, be re-issued for agreement and signing at the next Full Council meeting.

FC191 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

FC192` COUNCIL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Council received the Council Manager's report on actions taken since the last meeting. She reported that the Public Art Working Group wished to interview 2 of the artists that submitted works for the public art to be located at Browns Wood Sports Ground. The Public Art Working Group's recommendation will be considered by the Community Engagement Committee in May 2022.

The Council Manager reported that a meeting had been arranged with Milton Keynes Council's s.106 Officer to discuss planning gain available for both Hindhead Knoll now that the transfer of land to Walton Community Council was about to commence and for Walnut Tree Sports Ground and Pavilion.

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The Council Manager also reported that the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on 12 May 2022 had now been passed to the Community Engagement Committee for consideration.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Council Manager's report be noted.
2. That the Community Engagement Committee be asked to consider inviting to the Annual Parish Meeting:
 - Adele Wearing and Councillor Jennifer Marklew to discuss Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), highways and parking matters
 - A representative from the Walnut Tree Health Centre
 - Iain Stewart MP

FC193 SCHEME OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY – DECISIONS

The Council reviewed a decision taken under the adopted scheme of delegated authority, during March 2022.

Resolved Unanimously: That the decision taken under the Scheme of Delegated Authority, be accepted.

FC194 VAT – OPTION TO TAX

The Council received a report from the Parkinson Partnership LLP on VAT advice and the Council's option to tax.

The report had only been completed on the day of the meeting and Councillors felt that there was very little time to consider such a complex issue.

The Responsible Finance Officer had joined the meeting remotely and gave and provided a summary of the report. She reported that the VAT-exempt activities at Browns Wood Sports Ground and Walnut Tree Sports Ground and Pavilion are likely to regularly be above £37,500 annually, which means that the Council would not be able to reclaim any of the VAT on those activities and would be required to register for VAT. She then set out the options the Council had to avoid incurring irrecoverable VAT:

- Register for VAT and opt to tax the Walnut Tree facility. VAT would then be charged on all income (room hire and pitches) except VAT-exempt activities such as Browns Wood football pitch block bookings.
- Register for VAT and not have block bookings at Walnut Tree Sports Ground. In this case, only the room hire at Walnut Tree Pavilion and block bookings at Browns Wood Sports Ground would be VAT-exempt.
- Use a seven-year average calculation for costs relating to VAT-exempt income as this may allow the Council to recover VAT on refurbishment costs but places a risk to the Council as VAT may then be irrecoverable on running costs.

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- Remain unregistered for VAT, accepting VAT will be irrecoverable.

Based on the report received from the Parkinson Partnership LLP, the Responsible Finance Officer reported that she would recommend that the Council registers for VAT and opt to tax Walnut Tree Pavilion and Sports Ground. This would enable the Council to recover VAT on all refurbishment and running costs at the Pavilion whilst the Council would spend less on VAT-exempt activities (Browns Wood Sports Ground).

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That, due to that late receipt of the Parkinson report, the Council defers the decision in respect of registering for VAT until the next Full Council meeting in May 2022.
2. That the Council thanks the Responsible Finance Officer for her summary of the report and for explaining such a complex matter in understandable terms.

FC195 WARD COUNCILLOR – WARD BASED BUDGET

The Council was advised that in 2019/2020, Ward Councillor Vanessa McPake had given Walton Community Council £850 from her Ward Based Budget for the greening of a bus stop close the Walton High School. Milton Keynes Council had now confirmed that the bus stops in the Walton area were unsuitable for greening and that any new bus stop installed could not be greened by the parish council due to issues of public liability for equipment based on Milton Keynes Council Highways land.

The Committee was requested to consider an alternative use for the £850 on the proviso that Councillor McPake was agreeable to the spend and that it met the Ward Based Budget spend criteria.

Resolved Unanimously: That suggestions for the use of the £850 awarded to the Council be sent to the Council Manager and that these suggestions be discussed with Ward Councillor Vanessa McPake and considered at a future meeting.

FC196 FINANCE – AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Resolved Unanimously: That payments presented to the Council be authorised by Councillor Adam Chapman-Ballard (Chairman of the Council) and Councillor Amanda Taylor (Chair of Regulatory Committee).

FC197 COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/2022

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

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Resolved Unanimously: That the variations to the Council budget be accepted and that the budget 2021/2022 be accepted.

FC198 DANESBOROUGH & WALTON COMMUNITY FORUM

The Council Manager reported that the Danesborough & Walton Community Forum would be resuming its meetings in May 2022.

Resolved Unanimously: That Councillors Brendan Metcalfe and David Newland be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Danesborough & Walton Community Forum.

FC199 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications:

- (a) **Planning Application 22/00569/FUL - 107 Walton End Wavendon Gate Milton Keynes MK7 7AX** - Erection of link extension and new door to garage.
- (b) **Planning Application 22/00524/OUTEIS - Land Forming Part South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Extension South of Milton Keynes, North of Bow Brickhill, North of Bow Brickhill Road And Woburn Sands Road, Milton Keynes** - Outline application (matters of principle access to be considered with matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved) for mixed-use urban extension comprising residential development, secondary and primary schools, local centre (including retail, commercial and community uses), landscaped green infrastructure and public open space, access roads and associated highways improvements, surface water drainage and associated infrastructure works.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council has no comments to make to Milton Keynes Council on the above planning applications.

FC200 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 – STREET TRADING CONSENT

The Council considered the following street trading applications:

(a) Street Trading Consent

Name: Bianco's Bistro

Location: Sherbourne Drive, Tilbrook

Application Type: Renewal

Details: Hot takeaway food

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday – 08:00 to 14:00

Deadline for Comment: 14 April 2022

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(b) Boroughwide Street Trading Consent

Name: Cafe2U/Wheelie Good Coffee

Application Type: Renewal

Details: 1 coffee van (Reg: YB70 RRU). A bin shall be provided for customer use whenever trading takes place.

Hours of Operation: Monday to Saturday – 07:00 to 15:00 (Existing hours are Monday to Saturday 08:00 to 15:00)

Deadline for Comment: 12 April 2022

(c) Boroughwide Street Trading Consent

Name: Pecorella Whip

Application Type: Renewal

Details: 1 ice cream van (Reg: FJ64 CCK)

Hours of Operation: Monday to Sunday – 15:00 to 21:00

Deadline for Comment: 12 April 2022

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council has no comments to make to Milton Keynes Council on the above street trading applications.

FC201 REPORTS FROM CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Chair of the Operations Committee reported on decisions made at the last meeting:

- The planting of two black poplar trees at Hindhead Knoll in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Reduction of a hedge on the boundary of the Bergamot Gardens site.
- Installation of ascot railings to prevent unauthorised access at Walnut Tree Sports Ground as an alternative to wooden bollards.
- Implications of VAT if the Council took the option to tax.
- Walnut Tree Pavilion project plan and timescales.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, Councillor Jaime Tamagnini reported that there had been a delay in organising the streetfood and farmers' market.

The Chair of the Regulatory Committee reported on decisions made at the last meeting:

- A grant was awarded to the Old Farm Park Guides for a visit to London and equipment for summer camp.
- Update on insurance claims.

Resolved Unanimously: That the reports be noted.

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FC202 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Charlie Wood reported that he had attended the inaugural meeting of the SE:MK Stakeholders Group.
- Councillor Amanda Taylor reported that she had attended a meeting of MKALC which had given a presentation on e-scooters.
- Councillor Amanda Taylor had attended a meeting of the Parishes Forum which had discussed litter enforcement, MK Pride and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- Councillor Jaime Tamagnini reported that in his capacity as Vice-Chair he had attended a ceremony to plant two black poplar trees at Hindhead Knoll in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Councillor Jaime Tamagnini reported that he had attended a public consultation at Milton Keynes Council about the private hire industry and its transition to using all-electric vehicles.
- Councillor Joanne Dooley advised that she was aware of a new app that could clock speeding and which would be automatically uploaded to local police. She also reported that equipment could be attached to lampposts that would record registration plates from cars that were deliberately backfiring.
- Councillor Charlie Wood reported that a resident had been in touch with him about a potential HiMO in Shuttleworth Grove.

Resolved Unanimously: That the reports be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date

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ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF 6 APRIL 2022

PUBLIC FORUM

Ward Councillor Vanessa McPake was present at the meeting and raised the following issues:

- Checks were being made every Thursday at Caldecotte Brook
- No. 11 bus was to end in April. This was a financially viable route and the route had been offered to other contractors.

Ward Councillor David Hopkins was present at the meeting and raised the following issues:

- No. 11 bus had been offered to Britano Bus operator. They were based in Northampton and had managed some North Milton Keynes bus routes in the past.
- He had attended the first meeting of the SE:MK Stakeholders Group
- EWR had met with the Minister responsible for trains about the viability of the Bedford to Cambridge route. A decision will be made at the end of May.
- The route Bedford – MK – Oxford estimated completion was end of 2025.
- Nothing more known about the crossing point at Woburn Sands.
- Milton Keynes Council had appointed an officer to deal with Ukraine related issues.
- A planning application relating to SE:MK was due to be considered in Autumn/Winter time which was out of step with the SPD.