

Present: Councillors: Amanda Taylor (Chair), Charlie Wood, David Newland and Adam Chapman-Ballard

Officers: Dan Preston (Interim Council Manager) and Ruth Rose (Responsible Finance Officer)

Other: Russell O'Brien and Vincent Leiu (Walton Allotment Association), Helen Parlor (MOTUS)

RC099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Joanne Dooley and Councillor Toby Poyner.

Resolved Unanimously: That the apologies be accepted.

RC100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Adam Chapman-Ballard for Agenda Item 5 (Grant request from Walton Allotment Association) as he is Chairman of the Walton Allotment Association.

RC101 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary Regulatory Committee meeting held on 17 January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings, with a typographical correction for Councillor Poyner's surname.

RC102 RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S (RFO) REPORT

Resolved unanimously: That the RFO's report be accepted.

RC103 GRANT APPLICATION – WALTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered a grant application from Walton Allotment Association of £750 towards a greenhouse, bench, tools and related items at the Holst Crescent allotments site (total cost £1,000). This is the first part of a four-year programme to encourage children's participation and to facilitate use of the plots.

The meeting was attended by Russell O'Brien and Vincent Leiu representing Walton Allotment Association.

Resolved Unanimously:

To award a s.137 grant of £1,000 to Walton Allotment Association for the full amount required for items at the Holst Crescent allotment site.

RC104 GRANT APPLICATION – MÓTUS

The Committee considered a grant application from MÓTUS of £2,500 to support their Family Show, 'Somedays', which is aimed at children and young families, in order to explore, through dance, ideas about resilience and how people make good decisions and meet challenges.

The main costs for the project (total £23,800) are the fees to cover the time of the dancers and directors, expenses such as travel and accommodation and venue costs, and some marketing costs to promote the show. MÓTUS aims to enable local schools to take part without any cost to them. The show will be presented at Wavendon Gate Pavilion for the benefit of a local family audience.

The meeting was attended by Helen Parlor representing MÓTUS.

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend to Full Council that an s.137 grant of £3,000 be awarded to MÓTUS towards their Family Show project for 2023/2024.

RC105 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the following planning applications:

- (a) **Planning Application 23/00100/FUL – Omega House 8 Bradbourne Drive Tilbrook Milton Keynes MK7 8AT** – Refurbishment, extension, and change of use to Manufacturing Facility (Use Class Sui Generis).
- (b) **Planning Application 23/00214/HOU – 10 Venetian Court Wavendon Gate Milton Keynes MK7 7ST** – Roof ridge line lift with loft conversion and rear dormer. Single storey front, rear and side extensions. New window to second storey side elevation. New integral garage/ store. Brick over existing side elevation door.
- (c) **Planning Application 23/00252/FULM – Walton Manor Brickhill Street H9 To H10 Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ** – Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 5 (drainage strategy) seeking to relocate and reduce the size of the proposed swale and an update to the surface water connection to be diverted southeast rather than north (relating to permission ref. 22/01189/FUL Construction of a new internal, private campus road to connect the existing Northern Car Park, replacement secure pedestrian & cycle entrance and storage, additional perimeter fencing and associated works including additional drainage and landscaping).
- (d) **Planning Application 23/00151/LBC – Walton Lodge Cottage Milton Road Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6BA** – Listed Building Consent for new front and back door.

Resolved Unanimously:

That the Council has no objections to submit or comments to make to Milton Keynes Council on planning applications (a)-(d) identified above.

RC106 REVIEW OF PLANNING DECISIONS

As part of the review of planning decisions, the Committee discussed the application by Hutchinson 3G to erect a 5G mast at Britten Grove, which was allowed by Milton Keynes City Council because the refusal of Prior Approval was sent late by MKCC Planning to Hutchinson 3G. The refusal was sent at 57 days instead of within 56 days.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council Manager would write an official complaint to the Head of Planning at Milton Keynes City Council, copying in the Ward Councillors and the Chairman of Walton Community Council about the late notification to Hutchinson 3G leading to the application to erect a 5G mast at Britten Grove being allowed.

RC107 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

The Committee received a list of invoices to be paid, details of payments made, and the bank reconciliations for January 2023.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the invoices be reviewed and authorised and that the payments be authorised and signed by Councillor Amanda Taylor (Chair of the Regulatory Committee) and Councillor Charlie Wood.
2. That the bank reconciliations were reviewed and signed as correct, by Councillor Amanda Taylor (Chair of the Regulatory Committee).

RC108 REGULATORY COMMITTEE BUDGET

Resolved Unanimously:

That the Regulatory Committee budget and forecast for 2022/2023 be accepted.

RC109 COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/2023

Resolved Unanimously:

That the Council budget and forecast for 2022/2023 be accepted.

RC110 DRAFT ASSET REGISTER 2022/2023

The Committee received the draft Asset Register 2022/2023 for review.

Resolved Unanimously:

That the Draft Asset Register, as presented, be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

RC111 DRAFT RISK REGISTER 2022/2023

The Committee received the draft Risk Register 2022/2023 for review.

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend the following changes to the Standing Orders to Full Council, so that the references to annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in the Risk Register can be amended:

- Section 5(j)(vii) of the Standing Orders be changed to “vii. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations in full once every Council term or when there are changes in relevant legislation”.
- Section 18(b) of the Standing Orders be changed to “Financial Regulations shall be reviewed for fitness of purpose once every Council term or when there are changes in legislation”.

RC112 REVIEW OF BANK ACCOUNTS

The Responsible Finance Officer gave a verbal update on the Council’s bank accounts and options for current and reserve accounts.

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend to Full Council that the banking arrangements be kept as at present since there is no financial or useability advantage to switching bank accounts.

RC113 REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS

Resolved Unanimously:

The Committee discussed the change in public procurement legislation briefed in January 2023 relating to thresholds for publishing procurement information on Contracts Finder (Regulation SI 2022/1390).

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend to Full Council that:

- (a) the following procurement thresholds be adopted in the Council’s Financial Regulations:
 - For expenditure between £12,000 and £30,000 including VAT = three written quotes
 - For expenditure above £30,000 including VAT = invitation to tender, advertised across the UK on Find a Tender (FTS), the UK’s new e-notification service, and also on Contracts Finder
- (b) That Sections 3.3 to 3.5 of the Council’s Financial Regulations and Annex A be re-written to reflect these changes, with the addition of the following text

“as per the current government thresholds” in Section 3 of the Financial Regulations.

- (c) That Section 18 of the Standing Orders be re-written to reflect these changes.

RC114 VAT ON SPORTING FEES

The Committee received the report about HMRC’s acceptance that local authority sports services can be treated as non-business and outside the scope of VAT and discussed the effect on fees to hire pitches at Walnut Tree Pavilion and the MUGA at Browns Wood.

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend to Full Council that:

- the Council stop charging VAT on sports hire at the MUGA in Browns Wood and on football and cricket hire at Walnut Tree Sports Ground with immediate effect.
- the Responsible Finance Officer compile and submit a claim to HMRC for a refund of VAT declared on MUGA and Walnut Tree Sports Ground hire from April 2022.
- The Council retain the agreed rates for hire of the MUGA in Browns Wood and on football and cricket hire at Walnut Tree Sports Ground so that the total rates per hour remains the same but now exclusive of VAT.

RC115 BUDGET 2023-2024: COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES AND CHAIRMAN’S ALLOWANCE – RECOMMENDATIONS OF MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL’S INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Committee received the recommendations of Milton Keynes Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel for Councillor and Chairman’s Allowances for 2023/2024 budget.

Resolved Unanimously:

To recommend to Full Council that:

- the allowances for 2023-2024 be increased as recommended by Milton Keynes Council, to £877 Councillor allowance (7.5% of the MKC Basic Allowance for Non-Quality Parish / Town Councils) and £1,753 Chairman allowance (15% of the MKC Basic Allowance for Non-Quality Parish / Town Councils).
- that the Councillor Allowance and Chairman’s Allowance budget lines for 2023/2024 budget be increased by £400 and £78 respectively, with the additional cost vired from the Council’s allocated general reserves for that year.
- that the Council should publish details of allowances on its noticeboards and on the Council’s website.

The Meeting Ended at 9.10 pm

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