

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council, held in Hodge Lea Meeting Place, Hodge Lea, Hodge Lea Lane MK12 6JS at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th January 2022



Present: Councillors: Moss (Chair), Robertson, Saunders, Orimongunje, Aiyeola, Rollason, Riaz and Bamisilie.
Andrea Vincent (Town Clerk) and three members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that the housekeeping rules were observed. Councillors were reminded to bring their Council laptops to meetings to use to access and view paperwork especially as having and using mobile phones during meetings is not allowed.

TC21/243	<p>1. Mayor's diary: an update on the events attended and upcoming events was received and noted</p> <p>Cllr Saunders questioned the Dog Show, as the council hasn't received a grant application. It was pointed out that this was not an agenda item and the application for grants is the responsibility of the organisers. This item is merely indicating that the organisers have asked the Mayor to attend and he has accepted.</p>
TC21/244	<p>2. Apologies for absence: The following apologies were received</p> <p>Cllr Hussain - MKC commitments</p> <p>No apologies received from the following who were absent</p> <p>Cllr Faulkes Cllr Khatoon Cllr Forbes Cllr Khan</p> <p>At this point the Mayor informed the Council of Mr Webb's resignation as councillor. He thanked him for his commitment and major commitment to WGTC, those present concurred thanking Mr Webb and wishing him well.</p>
TC21/245	<p>3. To receive Councillor declarations of interest on any matter on the agenda: <i>Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, members must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting</i></p> <p>None declared</p>
TC21/246	<p>4. Minutes: To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Moss and seconded by Cllr Riaz Show of hands unanimously agreed</p> <p>RESOLVED to agree the minutes as a true and correct record</p>
TC21/247	<p>With the agreement of Council and for the benefit of the members of the public, the following item was brought forward</p> <p>7 d Traffic and Working Group Cllr Moss read out the actions from this groups meeting and noted the representations from the group that they would welcome further support from WGTC. It was noted that the current representative on the group Cllr Khan had not attended meetings, Cllr Robertson agreed to be a second member representing WGTC on the working group. SID's were to be discussed outside the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders alerted the group to the discussions taking place about possible charging for parking in the St George's Road Car Park. She urged the group to investigate and discuss this matter along with those already on their agenda.</p>
TC21/248	<p>5. Finance:</p> <p>a. February Expenditure over £500 The finance officer was thanked for the report and the report noted</p>

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TC21/249	<p>b. Enforcement Officer: To note the agreement to renew the contract as provision for this is in the 22/23 budget noted</p>
TC21/250	<p>6. War in Ukraine: NALC has joined the LGA in supporting CEMR’s call on local and regional governments throughout Europe to endorse the following statement, which any councillor can sign. Full statement: <i>“European local and regional governments strongly support their peers in Ukraine We, local and regional leaders across Europe, strongly condemn the multiple attacks and violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We express our full support and solidarity to the Ukrainian people and our peers in local and regional government. We will not accept that our European values and integrity be attacked again by the Russian Federation after the violation of Georgian territories by Russia in 2008. We are firmly opposed to the dismemberment of a free and democratic state in Europe. The escalation of violence, repeated bombings and attacks on Ukrainian cities and territories are a serious threat to the preservation of peace and democracy across Europe. We call on the Federation of Russia to cease its attack, to leave the national territory of Ukraine, to respect all international treaties and fundamental principles of international law and to recognise the full sovereignty of Ukraine over all its territories, including Donbas and Crimea. Firmly convinced of local democracy and city diplomacy, based on the values of peace that unite our municipalities across Europe since 1951, we stand by the Ukrainian municipalities, cities, hromadas, districts, raions and their representative associations. They are in the front line to protect the population and provide basic services to offer them good quality living conditions and daily survival. The destruction of infrastructure by the belligerents jeopardises the efficient and safe maintenance of basic public services provided by Ukrainian local and regional governments to their citizens. As European local and regional governments, representing 60 national associations across 40 European countries, including Ukraine, we will continue to work to support them in their efforts. Not only are we ready to support our peers in the country with the materials and expertise they may need in the days and weeks to come. Municipalities and regions will probably have to face soon the human consequences of such a tragedy for Europe, probably resulting in a flow of humanitarian refugees. Coordination with our national governments will be essential. As the European section of UCLG, let us hope that city diplomacy will soon unite us all again!”</i> Proposed: Cllr Moss Seconded: Cllr Robertson, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: To register Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council support for this statement on the NALC website.</p>
<p>TC21/251 TC21/252 TC21/253 TC21/254 TC21/255</p>	<p>7. Governance: To note Committee and Working Groups updates: To receive and note reports from councillors and officer staff on internal and external meetings attended a. Town Council Forward Plan: The OU Academic meeting update included with Town Clerks report was received and noted b. Councillor Training Plan: Per minute ref TC21/31 all councillor training agreed and proposed to be undertaken councillors noted that the training matrix as provided by the chair. c. Agora working group update: The minutes from the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were received and noted d. Traffic and working group update: The latest update from the working group was received and noted as above agree e. MKALC report: The report from Cllr Moss was received and noted</p>
TC21/256	<p>8. Governance (Decision to be made): a. Town Council forward Plan:</p>

<p>TC21/257</p>	<p>i. Delivery of questionnaire: To agree the use of a fulfilment company to deliver the questionnaire Proposed: Cllr Moss seconded: Cllr Riaz, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: To engage the fulfilment company First Mail to mail out the questionnaire to parishioners.</p> <p>ii. Town Council Forward Plan: To agree pop-up updates across the parish and the councillors who wish to undertake to attend. Councillors discussed how this would work and the clerk confirmed that they would be issued with identity lanyards, a Town Council Banner and refreshments. It was noted one ward, has one councillor and fellow councillors will assist that lone councillor with the pop up in Stacey Bushes. The anonymity of responses was confirmed – but respondents will be able to highlight areas of good work or concern if they wish. Proposed: Cllr Bamisilie seconded: Cllr Moss, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: For all councillors to attend at least one pop up in their area and agreed dates with colleagues letting the office know.</p>
<p>TC21/258</p>	<p>b. Cyber Security Awareness Course: Councillors to agree to attend the online course on April 12th at 10am as set out in the clerks report It was discussed that this was of great importance as cyber security risks are currently high. Proposed: Cllr Moss seconded: Cllr Riaz, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: For all councillors to attend the April 12th course or provide the office of similar training undertaken at their work. If neither are possible, they undertake to inform the office who will then source a similar course for a convenient date.</p>
<p>TC21/259</p>	<p>c. Civility Statement: To adopt the following statement to be included in the code of practice as part of the policy review for the Annual Town Council Meeting in May 2022 <i>“We treat everyone with courtesy and respect and ask for the same in return. We ask that you treat your councillors and council staff courteously without violence, abuse, or harassment. Councillors and council staff have the right to carry out their civic duties and work without fear of being attacked or abused. Any behaviour whether that be verbal, physical or in writing, which causes either councillors or council staff to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or threatened, is totally unacceptable. The zero-tolerance policy includes abuse, aggression or threats made in person, over the telephone or in written communication, including on social media. The council considers threatening behaviour to be: Attempted or actual aggressive, or physical actions made towards any councillor or member of staff. The use of aggressive, or abusive language, (including raising of the voice, swearing, shouting or in writing) which threatens or intimidates councillors or council staff. This policy applies throughout all council meetings, but it also applies to any councillor or council staff away from council meetings”</i> Councillors had read the statement and agreed it for inclusion. Proposed: Cllr Saunders seconded: Cllr Moss, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: For the statement to be added to the code of practice policy</p>
<p>TC21/260</p>	<p>9. Grants: It was noted that there were no grant applications received for March 2022.</p>
	<p>10. Town Hall updates (to note)</p>

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TC21/261	<p>a. Roof: It was noted as set out in the clerks' report that the leak persists and there will be a short term “fix” as the whole roof is being costed for replacement which will include solar panels. Negotiations taking place with providers and MKC re carbon offset fund</p> <p>b. Lighting: The quotes being sought for LED replacement lights across town hall were received and noted officers were working with MKC re carbon offset fund</p> <p>c. Electric Vehicle Point: It was noted as set out in the clerks' report that investigations were ongoing</p> <p>d. Tenants: It was noted as set out in the clerks' report the issue of defecation in the shared areas</p>
TC21/262	
TC21/263	
TC21/264	
TC21/265	<p>11 Community (to note)</p> <p>a. Community Events and Projects update: The update from the CEPO on community events and projects was received and noted the CEPO was thanked for his report</p> <p>b. MKC proposed on street chargers – Councillor Moss updated the Council on the proposed on road installations explaining that although in some places six will be installed (on economic grounds) the enforcement will not be across all six initially based on the understanding that the volume of electric vehicles would increase over time. So, the enforcement would also increase incrementally.</p> <p>c. Christmas Lights: Update on walk about and proposed suggestions was provided, it was noted that it is still not possible to put lights on the lamp posts along Church Street, Wolverton</p> <p>d. International Women’s Day: The short video on behalf of WGTC was noted. A link to this will be sent out to Councillors.</p>
TC21/266	
TC21/267	
TC21/268	
TC21/269	<p>12 Community (decision to be made)</p> <p>a. Winter Fayre: To consider holding a Winter Fayre Event 2022 Proposed: Cllr Moss Seconded: Cllr Robertson, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: For the office to pursue the event and bring back to full council.</p> <p>b. Scarecrow Festival: To consider the Scarecrow Festival request for funding for 2022 Proposed: Cllr Moss seconded: Cllr Bamisilie, unanimously agreed by show of hands. RESOLVED: For Cllr Saunders to work with Joe Quinn (CEPO) to bring back costed proposals to Full Council to support the Scarecrow Festival committee.</p>
TC21/270	
TC21/271	<p>13 Services: (to note)</p> <p>a. Dog Bins: The report on how many 60ltr bins are in place was received and noted</p> <p>b. Dog Bins: To receive a report on the last quarter stats, it was RESOLVED that these statistics are to be received at the next meeting of the council</p> <p>c. Enforcement Officer: The latest update on issues within the parish were received and noted - thanks were expressed for the thorough report and the number of prosecutions that have been pursued as a result</p> <p>d. CCTV: An update on observations within the parish was received and noted</p>
TC21/272	
TC21/273	
TC21/274	
TC21/275	<p>14 Consultations:</p> <p>a. Together We Can: it was RESOLVED that councillors would undertake a desktop review and any comments from Councillors to be provided to the office by 25th March 2022</p>

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 20.40
 The next scheduled meeting is due to be held 26th April 2022 at Hodge Lea Meeting Place.

Signed as a true and accurate record.

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 Chair