

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council, held at the at the Town Hall, Creed Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th April 2022



Present: Councillors:, Bamisilie Orimongunje, Rollason, Robertson, Saunders, Hussain and Andrea Vincent (Town Clerk), Mandy Shipp (Assistant 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.

TC21/276	<p>Due to some technical difficulties the meeting commenced at 19:35</p> <p>First piece of business to elect Chair: Under LGA 1972 Sch.12 p11 and 27 in the absence of the chair and the vice chair council may appoint another councillor to preside It was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Khan; the vote was unanimous that Cllr Hussain would chair the meeting</p>
TC21/277	<p>At 19.37 Cllr Bamisilie arrived</p> <p>1. Mayor's diary: The following update on the events attended and upcoming events were received and noted</p> <p><u>Events Since Last Meeting</u> High Sheriff Declaration Ceremony – Fri 1st April 2022</p> <p><u>Future Requests</u> Wolverton Dog Show – Sun 1st May 2022 Postponed Litter Poster Competition Winner – St Mary Magdalene School – 5th May</p> <p><u>New Electoral Year Begins</u> Jubilee Thanksgiving – Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire – Sun 29th May 2022 MK Council Jubilee Parade – MK Rose – Thu 2nd June 2022 Various WGTC Jubilee Events 2nd – 5th June 2022</p>
TC21/278	<p>2. Apologies for absence: The following apologies were received:</p> <p>Cllr Moss - Illness Cllr Riaz – Family Wedding Cllr Forbes - Annual holiday</p> <p>No apologies received from the following who were absent:</p> <p>Cllr Faulkes Cllr Khatoon Cllr Aiyeola</p>
TC21/279	<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>
TC21/280	<p>4. Minutes: To approve the minutes It was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Bamisilie subject to the amendment of a couple of typos and unanimously agreed It was RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 as a true and correct record</p>
TC21/281	<p>5. Finance: Finance: (to note)</p> <p>a. March Expenditure over £500 – the expenditure Cllr Saunders clarified payments 3 1500 from rotary club – the clerk confirm they are payments into the council to support the Jubilee</p>

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TC21/282	<p>b. Chair's report from April Finance Meeting – a verbal report from Cllr Hussain was provided, the following was noted A reserves policy to include a general reserve of 6 months of the precept was approved Removed some EMR (Ear Marked Reserves) 137 EMR of £100K in addition to the 6-month general reserve is for any major repairs for the Town Hall.</p>
TC21/283	<p>c. Queens Platinum Jubilee Funding – see town clerks report Applied to Community Foundation for £7500 for funding for the Queens Jubilee delighted to be awarded £7000.</p>
TC21/284	<p>d. Accounting, Allotment and hall booking packages – Consider proposal to migrate to one system (proposal enclosed) Proposed by Cllr Saunders to agree to proposal seconded by Cllr Hussain unanimous</p>
TC21/285	<p>6. Governance (to note): Committee and Working Groups updates: To receive and note reports from councillors and officer staff on internal and external meetings attended</p>
TC21/286	<p>a. Town Council Forward Plan: the following update was received and noted the first 2 pop up events went well notwithstanding that the letters had not gone out to residents because of a hiccup with Royal Mail. We can confirm that they were posted out on 20th April, it was also noted that 40 responses had been received to date.</p>
TC21/287	<p>b. Agora Working Group update: It was noted that the WC proposal is far from complete with no confirmation of costs being provided, which have been requested and also confirmation that it may be a suitable building for a green roof. It was RESOLVED to bring back to a future meeting</p>
TC21/288	<p>c. MK Canalside Forum: The minutes from the meeting held in March were received and noted</p>
TC21/288	<p>7. Governance: To note Governance (Decision to be made): Annual Town Meeting: Council to approve which groups/individuals wish to invite. To be as engaging as possible as previous Annual town meetings generally have had few attendees, it was suggested to invite the following speakers, subject to their availability: It was proposed by Cllr Hussain and seconded Cllr Rollason It was RESOLVED to invite all on the suggested list as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still Green (co living at Agora site) - Sheila Thornton • Making Wolverton Dementia Friendly - Annlousie Taylor • Future Wolverton – Update on what they are doing? TBC • MKC – Wheelie bin rollout Penny Fletcher • Milton Keynes Hospital Friends / MK Hospital Trust Trustees • WGTC Traffic and Working group – suggested by Cllr Robertson as an alternative <p>Each group should provide a presentation for 3-4 minutes and would then be given a table to sit at after for which those that are interested can go to for further information Cheese and wine to be available during this time</p>
TC21/289	<p>8. Grants (Decision to be made) Save the Swifts: To consider the grant request for funding Swifts and Martins notices requested It was Proposed by Cllr Hussain and seconded Cllr Saunders to approve the requested grant for £400, this would be subject to clerks' recommendations that an appropriate site be</p>

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	<p>found, as there was a concern about placards being placed on railings of the memorial site which was a place of respect. Suggestions to be considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Town Council noticeboard • The side of Foundation House or Dominoes (both require owner's permission Cllr Naseem to pursue)
TC21/290	<p>9. Town Hall updates (to note) a) a. Roof: Due to the continued leak from the roof, the roofing company had been requested to reattend and look at the issue, further to this a quote was provided to undertake further works and resolve the lead flashing issue. On further inspection the Caretakers have discovered that the water comes from the water tank in the loft space and the ball cock is not working. They have replaced the ball cock with a new one. It was also spotted by the Caretakers that the overflow pipe drains into the building This is has now also been addressed by the caretakers. We hope to engage a surveyor to check out the safety of the roof space and the mezzanine flooring. There is a dearth of available surveyors who do work on commercial properties.</p>
TC21/291	<p>b) Lighting: It was noted that comprehensive quotes were still being sought for LED replacement lights across town hall The lighting quotes are high – however the long-term savings on electricity usage make the change over viable. It RESOLVED that any further update to be shared in due course</p>
TC21/292	<p>10. Planning: a. Site B Stratford Road, Wolverton Mill Council It was RESOLVED that the officer comments would be sent to the councillors for any further additional comments and suggestions, these were then to be forwarded to MKC/developer for their consideration</p>
TC21/293	<p>b. Field Lane: Receive the latest update (see town clerks report) Field Lane: The contact at the Parks Trust has now left and the new person does not start until 5th May. The contact at Bellway is currently on annual leave. The application is yet to be submitted and it is unclear at present if any of our comments have been taken on board. The Clerk will pursue this.</p>
TC21/294	<p>11. Community (to note) Community Events and Projects update: To receive an update from CEPO on community events and projects Joe's comprehensive report was received and noted</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twinning Update Following on from last month's CEPO's report, the number of interested parties has risen from 18 to 27 (and increase of 9 within the last three weeks). All costings have been completed and sent out to those who have registered. The first draft of the itinerary has also been completed. The CEPO will continue to market this event as it would be great to fill the last 11 seats. • Scarecrow Festival As requested by Council the CEPO is working with Cllr Saunders to ensure a great uptake on this year's Scarecrow Festival. The CEPO has reached out to Wyvern School and Bushfield's to see if they would be interested in participating in a workshop. Wyvern school have already confirmed and the CEPO is waiting to hear back from Bushfield. The CEPO has also reached out to Greenleys Junior School to see if they would like to contribute. They appear to be very interested and will confirm at the Easter half-term. Our proposal would be their contribution / display could be displayed at the Orchard. This would be great way to involve the wider community. Cllr Saunders to prepare the costings for this project and report back. </div>

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- **Winter Fayre Proposal for December 2022**

Following the success of the 2021 Winter Fayre the CEPO is proposing WGTC apply for a grant from MKC to host a 2022 Winter Fayre. The CEPO is also proposing that should Council agree with the above proposal this year's Winter Fayre becomes a two-day event instead of one. Proposed date Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December 2022.

Last year's event did bring the community together and it is felt another event would do the same and benefit local businesses.

Cost for the ten huts and security over the weekend would be £4267 approx. This does not include entertainment.

The CEPO did look at consigning our Winter Fayre with the Lantern Festival (December 3rd) however after to talks with the Lantern Festival Committee it was deemed not possible due to space required for both parties.

- **Supporting / Involving Young People:**

Community Youth Council

The CEPO continues his engagement with local school to encourage 11 – 18 years to join. The CEPO will continue to promote this initiative.

Youth Club Proposal

The CEPO has identified there are very limited places for young people to go. The CEPO has been working with the Black Sheep Collective to see if we could find a safe environment that could be used as a youth club. The Black Sheep Collective are willing for Bar Bar's to be used as a youth Club. See attached proposal.

The CEPO would ask that Council consider this proposal as a pilot scheme to re-introduce youth clubs back into the parish. If approved the CEPO will look for other locations within the parish. If successful.

Greenleys Junior School

Following a successful meeting with Greenleys both the School and CEPO have agreed to work closer together. The CEPO suggested the Council would welcome any opportunity to come into the school as well as inviting pupils into the Town Hall.

The school is very keen to support the local community so together with the CEPO they discussed various possibilities such as the MKC Carbo-Zero policy, Nature projects and supporting older people within the community. Greenleys Junior School will come back to the CEPO after the Easter half term with proposals.

- **Bandstand Update**

The work carried out to extend the base of the bandstand is now complete. The CEPO is working with the original artist of the bandstand to manufacture a waterproof canopy for the bandstand which will be installed by June of this year.

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Update**

Celebratory Party at MK Museum: The CEPO has successfully been awarded £7,000 from the England Arts Council. This money is allocated to the celebratory party which will take place at the MK Museum on Saturday 4th June 2022. Preparations are well underway.

Wolverton Tea Party for our older generations - we are heavily promoting this event and we already have 13 people to sign up. The CEPO is working with The Old Bath House and MK Age UK to further promote.

Stacey Bushes Special Needs Party – Preparations are underway to make this a successful event

Hodge Lea Tea Party – The Wolverton and Stony Rotary Club have agreed to fund the Frederick Smith Court retirement home jubilee party so the CEPO will arrange for payment to be given to them shortly to manage.

Greenleys – The CEPO is still awaiting to hear back from De Paul if they are able to host a party for young people and families. MKC have agreed to allow Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council access to their building within Greenleys to host a party.

The Big Lunch - A total of 11 application forms were either sent out or downloaded from our website. A total of 7 fully completed applications were received with approval by two councillors

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	<p>on each application. Each successful application has received the attached confirmation letter. We have asked all 7 applicants to send in their photographs after their street parties so they can be included within our Newsletter / social media platforms. We were expecting around 10 fully completed applications but 7 is still good. A grand total of £700.00 will be paid out upon receipt of each applicant's bank account details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Panels for the Town Hall Roof Before we can resubmit our grant request to MKC we need to include a correct set of drawings. Our supplier currently has a 3-week lead- time for developing designs. Once received the CEPO will re-submit our application to MKC for approval. • Electric Vehicle Point at the Town Hall. The CEPO is still working with BP Pulse to see they can install a electric vehicle point in the town hall carpark. The CEPO is also in talks with MKC to see if they can assist. CEPO to give update at next full council meeting. <p>Business Association Update No further for this meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGTC First Pop Up Meet and Greet Your Councillor Saturday 16th April Cllr Moss together with the CEPO hosted the first of four pop up days. Our event was located at the Wolverton Community Farmers Market at our Town Hall carpark. Our mobile pop-up sessions are the ideal platform to give our local community the opportunity to come and meet their local councillor and have a chat about what matters to them. We received a steady number of visitors throughout the day. Our special thanks to Cllr Moss for supporting this session.
<p>TC21/295</p> <p>TC21/296</p>	<p>12. Community (decision to be made) a. Youth Provision: Council to consider funding a start-up slot at Bar Bar specifically tailored to young people (proposal enclosed) Youth Club Proposal - The CEPO has identified there are very limited places for young people to go. The CEPO has been working with the Black Sheep Collective to see if WGTC could find a safe environment that could be used as a youth club. The Black Sheep Collective are willing for Bar Bar's to be used as a youth Club.</p> <p>Proposal for Council to consider the above as a pilot scheme to re-introduce youth clubs back into the parish. If approved the CEPO will look for other locations within the parish. If successful.</p> <p>Following on from our brief discussions Bar Bar's have submitted their proposal to host a "Youth Club" at their Café from the CEPO's own perspective as we do not have anywhere our young people to go and be feel safe and is strongly in favour of this proposal. The CEPO would like to run this as a pilot scheme to see if we can get the uptake on this and if so, run this project across the parish in due course.</p> <p>Costings: A 6-month pilot scheme at £50 hire and £50 staff costs per week £2600 for 6 months inclusive of refreshments</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Bamisilie and seconded Cllr Orimogunje, the vote was unanimous It was RESOLVED for this proposal project to be taken from the New Projects funding and subject to review after three months,</p> <p>b. Community Partnership working: Consider the clerks proposal The following was received from the PCC's office.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>It's always encouraging to hear from people and groups and community representatives who are enthusiastic about working together to make places safer.</p> </div>

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TC21/297

You reference in your note two possibly separate programme and so I will refer to them both.

The Home Office has launched annual **Safer Streets project** grant rounds and the Police & Crime Commissioner is permitted to submit three bids for funding. Those bids must be very local (circa a few thousand homes) rather than district, town or parish wide. Milton Keynes Community Safety Team have indicated interest in one of the bids being for an area within that council. I think they are keen to focus on the central MK area because the Home Office eligibility criteria is for some volume of crime in a concentrated area. Thus, I don't think that this particular funding opportunity will directly benefit the Wolverton area.

The other fund you mention is the PCC's own **Community Fund**. This is money that the PCC and the Chief Constable grant to community groups and charities from the proceeds of crime, where seized property cannot be returned to the owner. This fund is £100k and is open twice a year. The most recent round finished last month and you can see the results of this here: Thames Valley organisations supporting police priorities awarded over £100,000 · Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner (thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

That fund will run again in around Sept and so it may be something you want to bookmark and apply for at that time. The grants are usually around £5,000 each but you will see from the awards this round that it can range from £183 to £10k.

Matthew has stated that Neighborhood Crime (which includes ASB) is something he is keen to see dealt with and so we would welcome hearing the ideas you have around dealing with it locally. I don't want to assume so would point you to the Safer MK partnership where parish and town councils are represented and are able to have a voice. The PCC also grants funding to each local council (so MK Council in this case) to help deliver against his plan and their local priorities.

The proposal is that the council agree that we investigate if we have the volume of crime to be considered for Safer Streets Project and that the council agree to pursue the Community Fund funding to support the community

It was **proposed** by Cllr Khan and **seconded** Cllr Rollason, the vote was unanimous
It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to pursue further funding for this

c. Street Names: Council to agree to suggested street names for Agora redevelopment for provision to MKC to consider

A vote was taken on the street names received and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the following by local residents to MKC for their consideration with a request that only one street name should include the agora within it.

Street Name	Number of votes taken from 7
Albert French Way	6
Agora Crescent	0
Jubilee Street/Road/Lane (depending on size of road)	7
Agora Avenue	1
Agora Place	0
Use the old names of the 'little streets'	0
Gammage Avenue	0
Jerrys Way	0
Agora Way	5
New Agora Street	1
Wolverton Works Way	0
Wolverton Avenue Shopping Centre	0
Albert French Road	0
Wulfhere Place	4
Science Street	5

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	Scientific Street	0
	<i>The meeting was suspended in order to break for fasting 20.25</i>	
TC21/298 TC21/299 TC21/300 TC21/301	<p><i>The meeting resumed at 20.35</i></p> <p>13. Services: (to note)</p> <p>a. Dog Bins: The update on the last quarter stats was received and noted</p> <p>b. Enforcement Officer: It was RESOLVED to defer this update to the next meeting</p> <p>c. Allotments: The update was received an noted from Hodge Furze allotments management committee</p> <p>d. HLMP: receive an update (see town clerks report)</p>	
TC21/302 TC21/303	<p>14. Services: (decision to be made)</p> <p>a. Allotment keys – Approve the increase in the key deposit (proposal enclosed) It was proposed Cllr Khan and seconded Cllr Hussain, unanimous vote It was RESOLVED to increase the current key deposit from £12 in order to cover the costs of caretaking time to get replacements and petrol costs to cover the journeys to and from collection point with immediate effect all new tenants are charged a deposit of £20</p> <p>b. Christmas Lights – The following report was received</p> <p>The Christmas lights that we have in stock are mainly obsolete and are currently due for replacement. They are old stock and have been stretched beyond their three-year life. (They have been stored at the water tower and have been in use before the assistant clerk started in 2015)</p> <p>Current The current asset register for the lights that we have in storage that are end of life is £34,789. Lamps and Tubes have repaired them where possible, but it is unlikely they will serve a further year Officers have sought quotations for 2022/23 to build upon the current infrastructure but will be limited with the budget. It was agreed as part of the budget for 2022/23 that the general reserves would be used for this year's 2022/23 display however there is nothing at present earmarked for their replacements.</p> <p>We have no current contract in place with a lights contractor and should WGTC wish to enter a three-year term for pricing, we would need to tender for this service as it exceeds the £25k threshold We have also received a request from MKC to complete and return the application to attach the motifs to the columns and this is due to be handed in before July</p> <p>Proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To set aside yearly a EMR of £5000 for purchase of lights for replacement on 5-year basis 2. Get a contractor for a fixed 3-year term – this would require WGTC to go through the tender process - **we likely have not got time to undertake this in 2022 but could do this for 2023** 3. Look at undertaking a year's contract for 2022/23 and delegate this decision to the Clerk or Assistant <p>A discussion took place. Cllr Robertson noted the current asset value of the current lights It was proposed Cllr Hussain and seconded Cllr Robertson to look at quotations and to opt for option 2 of the proposal and bring back to the meeting</p> <p>c. Old Bath House (OBH) Christmas lights: Council to agree on replacement lights The records show that in the past the Town Council agreed to purchase lights for the OBH. They would like them to be updated. If you agree to the purchase the lights would belong to</p>	

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TC21/304	the Council as the present ones do and the council would remain responsible for their up keep. Cllr Saunders made the suggestion to offer to pay half electric bill rather than change the lights, a discussion then took place and it was RESOLVED to suggest speaking to Tesco's to get them to contribute towards this and agreed that we need to defer this item and bring back to another council meting d. Play Provision: Consider using budget for new projects for summer play
TC21/305	It was proposed Cllr Hussain and seconded by Cllr Khan to go ahead with this

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 20.53

The next scheduled meeting is due to be held 17th May 2022 at Hodge Lea Meeting Place.

Signed as a true and accurate record.

Adria Moss

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Chair