

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 26th March 2024

Councillors Present: Bennett (left at 20.42), Bamisilie (19.41), Hussain (19.35), Khumbula, Lewis (chair), Robertson, Saunders (vice-chair), Riaz (19:47)

Also present: Andrea Vincent (Town Clerk) and Mandy Shipp (Assistant Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30:

1. TC23/283a Public Question time:

The following points were raised by a member of the public regards to Old Wolverton and the issues that they faced:

- Traffic too fast and no safer place to cross the road
- Pavement too narrow
- Island to cross the road are not long enough to accommodate scouters or large prams.
- Boy racers use the Wolverton Road as a racecourse
- Old Wolverton Road needs 20mph, zebra crossing and speed camera
- Crossing of busy roads because of high kerbs

It was **RESOLVED** to **note** that WGTC is not responsible for highways, but this in MKCC's domain and that WGTC would pass this on to Cllr Middleton for him to discuss with Highways.

2. TC23/283 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Quereshi – Family

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

*It was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies which meet legislation*

Cllr Kanwar – Work

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

Cllr Riz – Car issues (arrived later)

It was **proposed** by Cllr Moss and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

*It was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies which meet legislation*

Cllr Hussain – Work (arrived later)

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

The following Cllrs were absent no apologies received:

Cllr Orimogunje

- ### 2. TC23/284 Declarations of Interest:
- To receive Councillor declarations of interest on any matter on the agenda: 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.

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Cllr Saunders **noted** her interest in the grant application from KCC as a regular attendee at the lunch time provision.

3. TC23/285 Approval of the Minutes:

It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Lewis

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. One abstention (Cllr not present at previous meeting) Vote carried

It was **noted** that the minutes from the last meeting were not in the folder, hard copies were provided, and the minutes were later found moved to another folder.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from 28th February 2024 as true and correct record.

4. TC23/286 Governance

- a. **Cyber Essentials and DMARC:** To consider proposals to upgrade officer and Cllr IT security from (minute ref TC23/275)

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Lewis

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to upgrade to Cyber Essentials with our current provider

- b. **Councillor IT Equipment:** To consider proposals for replacement of obsolete electronic devices for Cllrs from quotes sought

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bamisilie

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. 1 abstention. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to agree with the officer recommendation as follows:

using quote QH-03535:

This is for 16 x iPads and setup for councils, licenses (as included in QH-03346)

•Apple 10.2-inch iPad Wi-Fi, 9th generation, tablet 64 GB, 10.2" IPS (2160 x 1620) x 16 = £5,200

•Apple Smart Keyboard and folio case x 16 = £2,384 (optional)

•Set up and config: £1,650

•With licences: Microsoft 365 Business Basics (access to office 365 and cloud environment) x 16

Microsoft Intune Plan 1 Device – mobile device management which allows the device to speak to the cloud x 16

Total: £341 (the difference between what we have paid and the new Cyber Essentials contract)

- c. **MKCC Shared Prosperity Fund:** to consider proposals for applying for funding for adult continuing education or ideas on use within the parish

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Hussain

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to bid for funding towards Stacey Bushes internal re-works and to set up a cybercafé there using the space following internal works.

- d. **Annual Town Meeting:** To approve ideas and location for the meeting

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Hussain

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the annual town meeting at Stacey Bushes meeting place on 14th May 2024 and to invite the following as guest speakers

- Andy Forbes Community forum
- Fran - Hospital Governor
- Odette Mould Harry Rainbow
- Simon from the Christian Foundation
- Imam from the Wolverton Mosque

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5. TC23/287 Governance (To note):

- a. **Employee and Cllr Assistance Programme:** Cllrs noted that the current HR provision did not include EAP for officers. If Cllrs and officers wished to, they could take up the offer at a cost of £8.10 per person and this should be offered to all new and existing staff and councillors (*minute ref TC23/275*) from the meeting held on 28th February
- b. **Council Three-Year Plan:** The update on the council's three-year plan and progress was **received** and **noted**, once a new council was in place the plan would be revisited
- c. **Civility and Respect Pledge:** There were no further updates from councillors of any further training attended as part of the agreed pledge.
- d. **Committee, Working Groups and Outside Bodies updates:**
 - i. **ASB Working Group:** to receive an update on the groups progress from Cllr Bamisilie following Cllr Campbell stepping down. It was noted that Cllr Bamisilie would pursue this and to get more Cllrs on board following the elections
 - ii. **Traffic and Working Group:** The update was received, and the following comments were made by Cllr Saunders:
 - The double yellows should be shortened to increase parking and painted narrow primrose yellow within the conservation area.
 - Bushfield School congestion – this should be relieved by the rear/new car park
 - The Town Square difficult to drive around reduce spaces – The shops need the parking as it is crucial for the business
 - Removal of planting beds in Oxford Street and Bedford Street removal would create more parking congestion and slows cars down
 - Increased signage on Stratford rd.- regarded as too cluttered and therefore more dangerous.
 - iii. **East West Rail:** An update from Cllr Moss was **received** and it was **noted** that there was a £180m grant for the link, which is still, Bedford to Bletchley

6. TC23/288 Finance (Decision)

- a. **Councillor IT Equipment:** Quotation sought see item 4b. (see report and quote enclosed)
Although answered as above item 4b it was **RESOLVED** to request pricing on MS Pro-Surface too.
- b. **Grant Applications:**
 - i. Consider the grant application from Kings Community Centre for £1,000
It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Robertson
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to award them with the full grant as requested.
 - ii. Consider the grant application from St Georges Church for £600
It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Lewis
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to award them with the full grant as requested
Grants allocated using S. 137.

7. TC23/289 /278 Finance: (to note)

- a. **January Council Expenditure:** The report on expenditure over £500 for January 2024 was **received** and **noted**
- b. **Budget Precept Reduction 2024/25:** To note that the agreed increase for 2024/25 Budget has **reduced** by 4% due to receipt of Milton Keynes Council Support Grant. WGTC received £22,635.33 and as a result, the proposed £0.87pence per week increase has reduced to £0.67 pence per week per household

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- c. **Scale of Charges 2024/25:** Councillors **noted** the changes following the Finance Meeting to the scale of charges on rentals for the town hall tenants
- d. **Municipal Planting Column Baskets:** It was **noted** that the replacement planters as agreed (*minute ref TC23/277c*) have been ordered. MKCC have been contacted directly asking for permission to install.
- e. **Logitech Replacement Camera:** It was **noted** that a new 'Owl' camera has been ordered and received replacing the damaged Logitech camera for town council meetings

8. TC23/290 /279 Council Assets:

- a. **Millmead Hall, Wolverton: (Decision to be made)** Deferred item (*minute ref TC23/279c*). To receive and consider the business plan in undertaking this asset
A verbal update was provided by the town clerk with a recommendation to take on the asset, which included a plan for the sea cadets to run the hall on the town council behalf in the future by way of a lease agreement.
It was **proposed** by Cllr Bamisilie and **seconded** by Cllr Khumbula
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** for WGTC to take on the asset of Millmead Hall
- b. **Town Hall:**
 - i. **Cleaning:** An update on the current cleaning contract at the town hall was **received** and **noted**, Cllrs to confirm if they wish to continue under the current contract or to use another provider
It was **proposed** by Cllr Moss and **seconded** by Cllr Saunders
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the cleaning contract to the town council officers for their decision.
 - ii. **Rear Library Meeting Room:** Cllrs **noted** that MKCC have proposed to use the rear of the library for various activities including children's centre, this will mean the current tenant will no longer have a space available for their current teaching.
The Town clerk has explained her concerns raised with parking and the toilet facilities with MKCC Council would be kept informed of any updates.
 - iii. **Tenants Agreements:** It was **noted** WGTC have sought advice from the solicitor on ensuring our legal position on the current agreement following concerns with issues on electric and ensuring that the agreements covered these
- c. **Water Tower:** Councillors to confirm if they wish to pursue taking on the asset
It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Moss
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to undertake the freehold of the Water Tower
- d. **HLMP:** Consider the proposal received for a pre-school to be held at HLMP on Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri to allow the lunch club to continue
It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bamisile
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal from Blossom Tree Nursery as the income would be of benefit to the HLMP and for the children locally to have a place at the nursery.
- e. **Stacey Bushes Meeting Place:** To note the latest update on proposed internal changes to the building

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Further information to be provided in due course as no specifications are being revised because no original plans or drawings have been received from the County Archives.

9. TC23/291 Community (Decision to be made)

- a. **Fireworks:** To note that following council's decision to pursue the event for 2024, the current contractor has advised that they are unable to commit to us with a show after all. As a result, officers have sought quotations from alternative suppliers for this, it is proposed to use EMR where required to make up any shortfalls.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Saunders and **seconded** by Cllr Khumbula

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to opt for Company B and use quote 2

Company A	Company B	Company C
Declined to display for 2024	Quote 1 £10,000 – see video	**Updated 25.03.24 £10,000
	Quote 2 £8333.33 - see video	
	The sound system and generator are also included with the costs if the fireworks for both simulations	Does not include the sound system or PA which would need to be externally sourced

- b. **Christmas Lights 2024:** To approve contractor for 2024 the display from the following quotations

It was **proposed** by Cllr Saunders and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Company A who had previously supplied the town with their lighting display which the councillors were more than happy with.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the decision on the tree and whether to opt for an artificial tree at a later meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to raise further lighting in Stacey Bushes

Description	Company A	*Company B	Company C
1 year hire	£16,404 ex VAT Rental includes infrastructure health check and in season maintenance support and removal	£12,656 ex VAT Rental includes installation and removal, no checks to infrastructure, charges would be in addition	£19,828 Inclusive of installation, connection to existing 16amp commando sockets, removal and storage

- c. **S106 Funding for Emergency Services Equipment:** It was **noted** that WGTC were successful in securing additional emergency equipment for various locations across the parish, which include bleed kits, throw lines and defibrillators
- d. **Easter Activity Sessions:** To confirm if council wish to pursue the Easter sessions to be run by Bar Bar collective
It was **RESOLVED** to look at play sessions for the May half term (as too close to the Easter holiday to arrange).
- e. **Greenleys Mosaic:** To receive a proposal on brightening up the underpass by the local shops using local artists and S106 funding
It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Hussain
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to look into the installation of the mosaic using S06 funding

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- f. **Summer Play:** To confirm if councillors wish to invest in summer play sessions held by MKPA or another provider
It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bamisilie
A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried
It was **RESOLVED** to run 1 session per week in each part of the parish during the summer with MKPA using the youth budget and to discuss with them what they could offer with the funds that WGTC has available.

10. TC23/292 Community (To note)

- a. **Mayor:** The forthcoming and past events attended by the mayor was **received** and **noted**
b. **Tree Nursery:** An update on the status of the Coronation Meadow was received from the clerk and we await clearance of the ground as the next step
c. **Community Events and Projects update:** The following report was **received** and **noted** from the CEPO on forthcoming events and services in the parish

CEPO Report to Full Council 26th March 2024

Youth Provision

- *The Lounge in Wolverton and senior boxing have resumed since the last council meeting. Bar Bar to confirm start date for Hodge Lea Lounge (expected around the end of April – beginning of May)*
- *Dance sessions started on 7th March at SBMP*
- *MK Play Association have been asked to continue monthly craft sessions from April 2024, which will be taken out of the Youth budget. The cost is £127 per session.*

Youth Council

- *The Youth Council have selected an artist who will complete the art box project and the Radcliffe School have agreed for the artist to visit during their year 10 lessons, to run a workshop as part of this.*
- *The Youth Council approved to use £500 of their budget to create a film promoting youth provision within the parish. The film maker will be meeting with the youth council to progress this and I will provide further details in due course*

Warm Hubs

- *Stacey Bushes warm hub is growing in popularity. The Rowans Family Centre have said they might be able to offer support with families attending this session, after the Easter holidays. CEPO to follow up.*
- *Hodge Lea lunch club – CEPO has been gaining contacts with who can potentially offer seated exercises or something similar, as this is something that the attendees wanted. A trial took place at the lunch club 21/3. Feedback to follow.*

Community Events

- *Wyvern School and Greenleys Junior School have agreed to participate in a civic service around the May half term. St George The Martyr Church is also on board to host this. CEPO to follow up.*
- *An artist, Wyvern and Bushfield schools are on board to take part in the Scarecrow festival workshops again in July and the event will take place in September. With the slight underspend on the festival in 2023, the Council has enough EMR to invite a third school to take part. CEPO to follow up.*

Fireworks

- *Two other fireworks companies have been contacted to provide quotes for a display, following the news that our usual company would no longer run them at the REC. Quotes are WIP and will follow shortly*

Twinning

- *Itinerary for the Twinning trip is nearly complete.*

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- Attendees have been asked to pay their deposits for the trip (£170pp for a twin room or £220pp for a single room). **The deadline for the deposit is Friday 12th April**

Traffic and Parking Working Group

- Due to the resignation of the chair and the very low numbers attending, the group has not re-elected another chair yet. The CEPO in the meantime is compiling agendas and actions for the WHG.

We require additional councillor support with this group, which would be very welcomed. The next meeting is on 23rd May @ 10:30am

An update on the Kinsella Trust was relayed to the Cllrs for year 6 pupils at Bushfield

- Buckthorn Park Stacey Bushes:** Following the council three-year plan. MKCC have now provided an equipment upgrade to Buckhorn Park using the allocated CIF funding, match funded by WGTC, it was noted that some of the equipment was second hand from other paly areas.
- Monthly Craft Sessions at HLMP and SBMP:** It was **noted** that both sessions have been fully booked.
- 20mph Zone Old Wolverton:** It was **noted** that following a meeting with MKCC they have asked for WGTC to consult with the Old Wolverton residents and submit a 20mph proposal. The findings to be reported to MKCC on 27th March.
- Gloucester Road Wolverton:** It was **noted** that funding has been provided by ward Cllr Rob Middleton to improve its public realm for which WGTC are most thankful, a short-term fix, however a longer-term plan needs to be agreed on further improvements. Council is to look at future CIF funds for this.
- Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF):** It was **noted** that WGTC has been successful in obtaining more funding this will be directed towards additional SIDS and the posts for which to site them.

11. TC23/293 Services: (To note)

- CCTV:** The report for February was **received** and **noted** (*minute ref TC23/282*). Councillors were advised that this and future relocation of the CCTV's within the parish is now £225 per movement.
- Allotments:** To approve the following draft management policies on: Bee, Rabbit and Poultry Keeping Policy
It was **RESOVLED** to defer to the next meeting to allow further time to read and provide comments
- Stacey Hill:** Cllrs **noted** that there has been an expression of interest by a group of allotment tenants to undertake its self-management. A discussion will take place and will be reported on at the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 20:58

The next scheduled meeting is due to be held on 23 April 2024 at the Town Hall Wolverton.

Signed as a true and accurate record.

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Chair