

**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on
Tuesday 14th December 2021
at the Discovery Suite 1, The Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook
commencing at 7.30pm**

The meeting was open to the Public

147/21 Members Present

Cllr T Baines (Chair)
Cllr V Dixon
Cllr P Dunn
Cllr T Fraser
Cllr R Golding
Cllr B Greenwood
Cllr J Howard

Cllr K Kavarana
Cllr K Kent
Cllr N Oguntola
Cllr D Pafford
Cllr M Petchey
Cllr D Reynolds

In Attendance

D Warner, Clerk to Council
P Sullivan, Deputy Clerk

148/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Odunewu – study commitment
Cllr P Halton-Davis - unwell
Cllr K Jones- unwell

149/21 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Kavarana and Pafford declared an interest in item 162/21.

150/21 Members of the Public Present

None

151/21 Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 16th November 2021

The Minutes of the meeting, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

152/21 Public Involvement – Deputations, Petitions and Questions

None received.

- 153/21 Council is invited to receive the recommendations of the Finance, Administration & Policy Working Group in relation to the Parish Council budget and Precept level 2022/2023 – Report No 05/C/21**
Council resolved to accept the recommendations in relation to the Parish Council budget and Precept level 2022/2023.
- 154/21 Draft Minute No. WG/22/21 - Parish Council Budget Proposals 2022/23 - 2025/26**
Council resolved to accept the recommended Parish Council budget proposals and Cllr Howard asked that thanks be minuted to the Finance, Administration & Policy Working Group, RFO and Clerk for their work in production of the budget.
- 155/21 Draft Minute No. WG/23/21 - Parish Council Precept Level 2022/23**
The Working Group considered an appropriate Precept level for 2022/23, resolving to recommend to Council that the Precept level for 2022/23 be increased by 2%. In the previous year it had been decided that the Precept should be increased by 5% for 2022/23, however the Working Group resolved that due to hardship caused by the Global Pandemic the Precept would be reduced for 2022/23 to 2%. From 2023/24 it would be increased back to 5%.
With a confirmed 2022/23 tax base of £3990.64, a 2% rise to the Precept will increase it from the 2021/22 level of £753,508 to £788,934. A 2% rise to the 2022/23 Precept will increase the amount payable by a Band D equivalent property from £193.82 to £197.70.
Council resolved to set the Precept Level at 2% for 2022/23.
- 156/21 Chair's Report**
Council received a verbal update from the Chair, who reported that he had attended a meeting at MKC with regard to safeguarding. Given recent tragic events, he reminded councillors of their responsibility in reporting any issues relating to the safety of children and vulnerable adults. Deputy Clerk will circulate details on reporting and relevant contacts at MKC.
The Chair concluded by offering his thanks to the staff and wished them a merry Christmas and a happy new year.
- 157/21 Clerk's Report**
See item 161/21.
- 158/21 Correspondence**
Council noted the schedule of correspondence received during the last month.

- 159/21 Ward Members' Matters (i)/Reports (ii)**
- i.
- Cllr Fraser reported that a resident had been unable to find contact details for their councillor in Homeground magazine. The Clerk confirmed that the details are within the magazine, however the information is not printed in an easily read colour. The Chair will take this issue to the Communications Working Group.
 - Cllr Oguntola reported issues with the condition of the play area in Springfield and was advised to speak with Tracey Jones.
 - Cllr Pafford asked that council representatives on MKALC submit reports of meetings to council.
 - Cllr Greenwood had been contacted by a resident in Oldbrook who had reported building work on a site which had been refused planning permission to MKC Planning Enforcement. Officers have visited the site.
- ii. Council noted that no written reports had been received.
- 160/21 To Receive Draft Minutes (including recommendations) from Committees.**
- 160a Minutes of the Community & Social Wellbeing Working Group**
Chair: Cllr K Kavarana
Council is invited to receive the minutes with 1 item to ratify [i] and 1 item to note [ii]
- i.
- Grant Application – 1 Love Projects (Grant Application 010/21-22/Sect 137) The Working Group considered an application for a Start Up Grant from The 1 Love Projects for £1500.00. Following discussion on some concerns which were raised on the lack of details in some areas of this application council resolved to refuse the grant application and requested that the Community & Social Wellbeing Working Group contact 1 Love Projects to consider improvements to the application prior to resubmission.**
- ii. **Draft Minute - WG/19/21 - Celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022**
Council noted the proposal of the Working group.
- 160b Minutes of the Communications Committee**
Chair: Cllr D Priest
Council received the minutes.
- 160c Minutes of the Planning, Infrastructure & Transport Committee**
Chair: Cllr B Greenwood
Council received the minutes.
- 160d Minutes of the Finance, Administration & Policy Working Group**
Chair: Cllr T Baines
Council received the minutes with 1 item to ratify [i] and 1 item to note [ii]

- i. **Draft Minute No. WG/24/21 Operation London Bridge**
The Working Group resolved to recommend to the Council that the Clerk to Council should arrange a meeting with Woughton Community Council and collaborate with them to produce an action plan – **Council resolved to accept the recommendation**
- ii. **Draft Minute No. WG/25/21 Celebrating The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022**
Council noted the estimated costs submitted by the Working Group.

161/21 Coronavirus Pandemic – Parish Council Response, Further Measures and Contingency Planning
The Clerk reported that in view of the current updated government guidance, staff have returned to working predominantly from home and if working at the office have single occupancy rooms. As before, the Landscape Team will operate in ‘mini bubbles’ with staggered start/finish and break times. The telephone system is being switched to Microsoft 365 Business Voice which will allow staff to accept/make calls remotely. With regard to forthcoming meetings in January, the Clerk suggested that, as the covid situation is ongoing, Council should consider the following:
Buildings and Property Portfolio Committee become a working group and Planning, Infrastructure and Transport Committee meet as an online panel to consider applications. It should also be considered whether the January council meeting is necessary.
Council agreed to the proposals of the Clerk as regards the Buildings and Property Portfolio Committee and Planning, Infrastructure and Transport Committee. A watching brief would be kept on the January council meeting and announced in the new year.

162/21 Springfield Initiative Grant Application
Following discussion and observations made with regard to the financial reserve levels of the group and their non-affiliation to MKC umbrella groups, an amended proposal by Cllr Oguntola was put forward which would allow the application to be submitted with a commitment of the group to affiliate with the MKC group.
Following a vote, the council resolved to reject this application.

163/21 Communications Working Group – Review of Chair Appointment
Following discussion and a subsequent vote, it was resolved that Cllr Oguntola be appointed Chair of the Communications Working Group to May 2022.

Confidential Item In view of the terms of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, the following items ** will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and Council is therefore invited to resolve that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(2) the public and press be excluded.

****Items 164/21, 165/21 & 166/21**

- 164/21 Under 5's Play Area Project, Kernow Crescent – Report No 03/C/21**
Council resolved to commission work on the new play area as reported.
- 165/21 Springfield Disabled Parking Bays – Report No 04/C/21**
Council resolved to appoint contractor (A) as detailed in the report.
- 166/21 Parish Council Community Hub**
The Clerk reported that a letter of intent had been issued to the agreed demolition contractors, Beecroft, and work is due to commence on 14th March 2022 for 4 weeks. Beecroft will be producing information for local residents which will have a covering letter from CPPC. With Council having agreed on building option B, the Working Group is now looking at how the specifics of the building will work and will make a further report/recommendation to Council.
- 167/21 Date of Next Meeting**
Tuesday 18th January 2022, 7.30pm. To be kept under review, with regard to latest government guidelines re covid-19.