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Fishermead
Milton Keynes
MK6 2AS
Tel: No: 01908 608559

Clerk - Dominic.warner@campbell-park.gov.uk

**Minutes of the meeting of Council held on
Tuesday 17 September 2024, 7.30pm
at the
Oldbrook Centre, Oldbrook Boulevard, Oldbrook**

This meeting was open to the public

Members Present

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cllr L Adura | Cllr J Howard |
| Cllr B Barton | Cllr H Kakei – arrived 7.34pm |
| Cllr O Cole | Cllr K Kavarana |
| Cllr V Dixon | Cllr D Kendrick |
| Cllr B Greenwood (Chair) | Cllr K Kent |
| Cllr J Hearnshaw | Cllr M Petchey |

In Attendance

D Warner, Clerk to Council

75/24

Apologies for Absence

- Cllr T Fraser – personal circumstances
- Cllr R Golding – personal commitment
- Cllr C Odunewu – personal circumstances
- Cllr D Pafford - unwell

76/24

Declarations of Interest

None

77/24

To approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 July 2024, previously circulated and therefore taken as read.

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

78/24

Public Involvement – Deputations, Petitions and Questions

None

One member of the public was present.

Signed.....Chair

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79/24

Chair’s Report

The Chair reported on his attendance at the Springfield Picnic event which had been very successful, extending a vote of thanks to Cllr Cole for organising the event.

80/24

Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported that, ●The distribution of the annual Council consultation would commence this week, with a change of format designed to enable residents to influence the upcoming Council visioning day and the resulting long-term plan. ●That a successful application had been made for £3,105 linked to a historic S106 agreement for Oldbrook Green. ●Members should report all landscape enquiries as per the Estates Officer email of 16.08.24. ●MKCC will be establishing a Forest Garden initiative in Fishermead on an area of their land, details to follow in due course. ●MKCC are in the process of evaluating options for Shared Prosperity Fund public realm investment in the four estates either side of the City centre, including Fishermead and Oldbrook, details to follow in due course.

81/24

Conclusion of Audit 2023/24

Council formally received and noted the Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2023/24 as prepared by PKF Littlejohn. Council further noted that no action or follow up is required resulting from the audit, with a vote of thanks recorded for the Officers involved.

82/24

Ward Member Reports

i. Council received the following verbal Ward Member Reports:

Cllr Barton – another accident had occurred on the junction of Strudwick Drive/H7 resulting in a road closure, the date of the accident to be confirmed with the Clerk.

Cllr Kavarana – thanked Cllr Cole for organising the successful Springfield Picnic event and seaside trips (Fishermead and Springfield residents) and reported on his involvement at the Springfield Council Coffee Morning.

Cllr Dixon – commented on the success of the Council seated exercise sessions at Willen, further reporting that the No.1 bus service had been removed from Willen again, and that she is making associated enquiries.

Cllr Howard – commented on the work carried out recently by the Council landscape team in Woolstone which had left the area looking good.

Cllr Kent – commented on young men gathering in her street, she was being assisted by a neighbour in addressing the matter.

Signed.....Chair

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Cllr Cole – reported on the successful Springfield Picnic event which had been well attended and enjoyed, thanking everyone who helped with the event. She went on to give details of the (third) seaside trip. Lastly, she reported dog fouling on the Red way in both Fishermead and Springfield.

- ii. Council noted that no written reports had been received.

83/24 To receive draft minutes (including recommendations) from Committees. Any Member questions arising from matters detailed in the minutes to be raised under the relevant Committee

a. Minutes of the Community & Communications Committee

Chair: Cllr K Kavarana

Council received the minutes.

b. Minutes of the Planning, Infrastructure & Transport Committee

Minutes Chair: Cllr B Greenwood

Council received the minutes (12 August and 9 September) noting the following item

**i. Draft minute 25/24 (i) General Consultations
MK City Plan 2050**

Consultation in relation to the new MK City Plan 2050, will run for 12 weeks until 9th October. The consultation documents are on the MKCC website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/city-plan.

Committee resolved that this consultation should be drawn to the attention of Council, with all Councillors encouraged to attend the drop-in session and/or submit comments to MK City Council.

There is a drop in at MK Christian Centre, Oldbrook on Wednesday 18 September, 9:30am-4:30pm

c. Minutes of the Personnel Committee – see agenda item no. 15

Council received the minutes, see Minute No. 90/24 in relation to ratification item.

d. Minutes of the Finance, Administration & Policy Committee

Council received the minutes, ratifying items i, ii, and iii.

i. Draft Minute 20/24 Review Code of Conduct

Committee reviewed the Code of Conduct and resolved to make a recommendation to adopt the reviewed policy to Council.

Signed.....Chair

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- ii. **Draft Minute 21/24 Review of Financial Regulations**
Committee reviewed the Financial Regulations and resolved to make a recommendation to Council to adopt the revised Financial Regulations.
- iii. **Draft Minute 25/24 Increase of Earmarked Reserve for New Hub**
Committee received a recommendation from the Responsible Financial Officer and resolved to recommend to Council, increasing the earmarking for the new hub by £500,000.00 to cover the agreed expenditure on the hub.
- e. **Minutes of the Estates Committee**
Chair: Cllr R Golding
Council received the minutes, ratifying items i and ii.
- i. **Draft Minute 36/24 (i) Council Allotments Annual Rent Review – 2025/26**
The Committee reviewed the allotment rent levels for 2025/26. Based on the most recent Consumer Prices Index rate of 2.2% (published 14 August 2024), Committee resolved to recommend to Council that rents for 2025/26 be increased from 52.0 pence to 53.0 pence per metre (rounded down figure).
- ii. **Draft Minute 43/24 Springfield Centre Disabled Parking Bay Provision – see agenda item 16** (Minute No. 91/24)

84/24 Community Council Annual Insurance Policy Renewal
Council noted that the Community Council general insurance policy with Zurich expires on 30 September 2024. Council then received and noted the associated tabled report from the Clerk to Council relating to the renewal. Council resolved to make delegated arrangements for the Clerk to Council (in consultation with the RFO), the Chair of Council and the Chair of the Finance, Administration and Policy Committee to ensure appropriate insurance cover is in place by 1 October 2024. The delegation arrangements to include the acceptance of the Gallagher proposal if no alternative proposals are received by 20 September 2024.

85/24 Community Hub – Working Group Update
Council received a verbal report from the Working Group on their progression of the Community Hub project including:

- Post Contract Working Group minutes 04, 05 & 06
- Contractors Report no. 6 & 7
- Updated Project Programme
- Financial Statement Nr 2.

The Clerk to Council reported that the project is currently 3-weeks behind due to the reasons detailed in the contractor reports and Working Group minutes, with the contractor currently reporting that it would not be possible to mitigate the

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delay - revised completion date, February 2025. The Clerk to Council went on to talk to the tabled final account projection produced by Currie & Brown which detailed an anticipated construction cost of £2,569,763, which is less than the Currie & Brown Pre-Tender Estimate as agreed at October 2023 Council. The Clerk to Council concluded by reporting that it was the recommendation of the Community Hub Working Group that value engineering of the project is not pursued at this point.

Cllr Howard reported on his recent site visit which he had found beneficial and asked that the Clerk to Council make a similar arrangement for all Councillors to visit the site. Cllr Howard then spoke to the Working Group recommendation of not pursuing value engineering, explaining that the opportunity to do so was reducing as the project progressed, and that the recommendation was on the basis that any value engineering would lead to compromises on the delivery of the project and the function of the Community Hub.

Based on the above, Council resolved not to pursue value engineering of the project. It further agreed to the increased utility connection charges (electrical mains supply and Openreach) detailed in the final account projection.

i. **Community Hub Café – Expression of Interest: Café Operator –**
Council received an update on the expression of interest process, with the Clerk to Council confirming that two submissions from community interest companies had been received, with the two charities previously involved in the process not making submissions. The submissions are currently being validated for completeness and compliance, with a further report to be made in due course.

ii. **Charitable Trust Creation**
Council considered and accepted a fee proposal of £400 + VAT from Wellers Hedley Solicitors for initial professional advice pertaining to the creation of a charitable trust associated with the management of the Community Hub. A full fee proposal to be submitted dependant on the outcome of the initial session. Council further agreed to the dialogue with Wellers Hedley expanding to include potential lease arrangements for the Community Hub café operator.

86/24 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) 2025/26
Council noted the anticipated reduction (-38%) in LCTRS levels for 2025/26. The reduction (which is subject to confirmation from Milton Keynes City Council) would see the 2025/26 level drop to £13,321 compared to £21,321 in 2024/25.

87/24 Appointments to Committees
Item deferred until the next meeting.

Signed.....Chair

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Councillor Vacancies

Council noted that there are currently two vacancies, one in Willen and the other in Fishermead.

89/24

County Association Facilitated Training and Future Visioning Session

Council noted that the confirmed date for the session is Saturday 16 November. All Members are requested to confirm their attendance with the Deputy Clerk.

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 15 & 16.**

90/24

Draft Minute 16/24 Staff Review

Committee progressed the staff review by considering draft updated job descriptions for the Senior Caretaker, Caretaker and Landscape Operative, resolving to recommend them to Council for acceptance.

Council resolved to accept the updated job descriptions for the Senior Caretaker, Caretaker and Landscape Operative as recommended by the Committee.

91/24

Draft Minute 43/24 Springfield Centre Disabled Parking Bay Provision – Report EO6/24

Committee received and considered quotations for the provision of disabled parking bays at the Springfield Centre. Noting that the associated planning permission would expire in June 2025, and with all the quotations being more than the allocated budget, Committee resolved to recommend to Council that the project is not pursued based on it being unfeasible. The project to potentially be revisited at a later date.

Council resolved to accept the Committee recommendation that the project is not pursued based on it being unfeasible. The project to potentially be revisited at a later date.

92/24

Dates of Future Committee & Working Group Meetings

Planning – 7 October at 6.30pm
Estates – 8 October at 6.30pm
FSG Working Group – 15 October at 6.30pm

93/24

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 7.30pm

Signed.....Chair

.....Date

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