



**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF
WHITEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Held on THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023 at 7pm
at The Library, Watling Academy, Barossa Way,
Whitehouse, MK8 1EP**

Present: Councillor Eileen Card (Chair); Councillor Julian Thomas (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Fola Akinsowon, Jekaterina Kartasova and Godwin Michael

Officer: Lesley Sung (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 1

C121 WELCOME AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended that welcome to members of the public viewing the proceedings via Teams. Issues raised under public forum are set out in an appendix to the minutes.

C122 URGENT ITEM – BANK ACCOUNTS

At the last meeting, the Council had agreed to transfer its current account from Lloyds Bank to Metro Bank and to set up 3 additional bank accounts with Metro to contain the Council's reserves and an account to deal with the financial receipts from allotments. Taking account of recent financial reports about Metro, the Chair requested that the Council consider urgently, alternative banking arrangements for the Council's finances.

Resolved Unanimously: That an item about the Council's bank accounts be included on the agenda and discussed after Agenda Item 5.

C123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jekaterina Kartasova had sent her apologies for lateness.

C124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

Councillor Jekaterina Kartasova arrived at 7.30pm.

C125 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 21 September 2023 be approved, and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

C126 RESIGNATION – MYNHARDT KITSHOFF

The Chair reported that she had received the resignation of Councillor Mynhardt Kitshoff. The Clerk reported that a Notice of Vacancy would be published and placed on the Council's noticeboards informing residents of the resignation and that residents had an opportunity to call for an election to fill the vacancy. If an election was not called, then the Council would have the option to appoint to the vacancy by co-option.

Resolved Unanimously: That the resignation of Mynhardt Kitshoff be officially acknowledged by the Council.



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C127 URGENT ITEM – BANK ACCOUNTS

The Council, at its last meeting had agreed to transfer its monies and set up new bank accounts with Metro Bank. However, due to recent financial reports about the bank, the Council was asked to consider alternatives for the Council's future banking arrangements.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Council's current account, for now, remains with Lloyds Bank and that the Clerk attempts to resolve the bank mandate issues as soon as possible.
2. That the Council opens a second bank account with Lloyds Bank to deal with the financial administrative arrangements for the allotments.
3. That the Council considers an Investment Strategy and to look at alternative ways in which to best invest its reserves.

C128 NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A temporary rapid retail unit was due to be constructed in Whitehouse just before Christmas and would remain until the construction of the High Street and a permanent retail unit was in full operation. The shop location was due to be located on Barossa Way, but this has now changed back to its original location, opposite the Whitehouse Medical Centre.

L&Q would be responsible for the rapid retail unit and it was aiming to submit a planning application to Milton Keynes City Council within the next two weeks. The shortest time from submission of a planning permission to a decision being made, was about 6 weeks as the application would be subject to neighbour notification and public consultation. If no objections were received, the decision to permit the application would be delegated to MKCC's Head of Planning and, subject to the planning application being submitted in the next couple of weeks, permission for a temporary shop may be granted by mid-December 2023.

Once planning permission was granted, a Rapid Retail could be constructed very quickly and it is feasible that the unit could be up and running before Christmas, depending on the retailer's ability to stock/staff the unit.

The new community meeting place was still on track for completion and opening by end of February 2024. Whitehouse Community Council will take ownership of the community meeting place once construction is completed. The transfer of ownership would be agreed by MKCC by delegated decision on 5 December 2023.

The opening of the new allotment site has been postponed to early next year. The car park and fencing is complete and contractors are now on site developing the layout and installing ridings and the water supply.



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Once construction of the allotment site is complete, the ownership of the site will be transferred from Milton Keynes Council to Whitehouse Community Council.

The track that runs along the allotment site will also come into the ownership of Whitehouse Community Council and it should be possible to take a small vehicle weight so that tenants whose plots are located quite a way from the car park, could transport equipment to their plot as required. The track is only 4m wide and there is no turning circle so vehicles would need to reverse to exit the track. The materials used for the track are not highway standard and is often used for additional or overspill parking. It will need replacing about every 30 years depending on level of use.

Residents that have been allocated an allotment plot will be informed of the delay and the new expected timetable.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report on new community facilities in Whitehouse, be noted.

C129 MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AMENITY LAND AND OPEN SPACE – LACK OF MAINTENANCE

L&Q had been invited to the meeting, but a representative was unable to attend. The Council discussed landscaping issues in the area reporting that Milton Keynes City Council highway adopted areas remained unsightly. The Council again, mentioned its concerns at Milton Keynes City Council's lack of response to maintenance complaints.

The Chair reported that she had attended a meeting at Milton Keynes City Council with other parish councillors representing new development areas, to discuss the lack of maintenance in these areas. The Group considered the existing MKCC maintenance contract and considered options that could be open to councils for an alternative means of delivery.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted.

C130 DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE COUNCIL'S ADOPTED SCHEME OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY (SODA)

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council accepts the following decisions, made under its adopted Scheme of Delegated Authority:

SODA No.	Decision
23/24 - 09	That the Chair, Councillor Eileen Card, and a representative from Milton Keynes City Council, meet with prospective temporary shop retailers to make recommendations to L&Q Estates about which retailer they feel could best meet the needs of the Whitehouse community.



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23/24 - 10	That the Council's MK Play Association membership be renewed, at a cost of £30 per annum, to allow the Council to continue it hire of MK Play equipment and to take advantage of discounts at the MK Play Association's Scrap Store.
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C131 EVENTS UPDATE – DIWALI CELEBRATION – 11 NOVEMBER 2023

Councillor Godwin Michael updated the Council on the work carried out by the Diwali Celebration Working Group to date. Whitehouse Primary School had agreed to host the event and allow fireworks on the school field, on the proviso that the display would be managed by a professional company and that the Council submitted a detailed risk assessment and plan for the event.

Councillor Michale reported that he would be arranging a timetable of events for the event.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report and work carried out to date, be noted.

C132 EVENTS UPDATE – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – 10 DECEMBER 2023

Councillor Julian Thomas updated the Council on the work carried out by the Christmas Fayre Working Group. He reported that the Council was discussing the holding of the event with both Watling Academy and Whitehouse Primary School. The event would host a brass band, semi-professional carol singers, a Christmas Market with a variety of Christmas themed stalls. Santa would be travelling the usual route around the Whitehouse estate.

Councillor Thomas added that there would not be any Christmas tree this year and instead, Christmas decorations would be put up in the marquee, and Christmas Market

Resolved Unanimously: That the report and the work carried out to date, be noted.

C133 EVENTS UPDATE – MK CAN – 16 OCTOBER 2023

The Clerk updated the Council on arrangements for the Council's participation in the MK CAN event. This was an event sponsored co-ordinated by MKFoodank to break the world record for the longest continuous line of food cans. All the food cans on the line would be collected by the foodbank to help struggling families over the winter period.



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The Council had collected just over 250 cans of food and arrangements were being made to collect the remaining 100 cans to meet the Council's commitment to donate 350 cans of food to the MK CAN line.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the update report be noted.
2. That the Council wishes to thank all individuals and organisations that had contributed food cans for such a worthy cause.

C134 SUMMER PLAY SESSIONS – MK PLAY ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Council received a report from MK Play Association, providing a summary and feedback on the play sessions they managed on the Council's behalf, over the summer school holidays.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Council notes how well the play sessions had been attended.
2. That the Council notes the good feedback from parents of children attending the sessions.
3. That the Council continues to fund the provision of play sessions in 2023/2024 and that sessions be booked early next year, either on a Thursday or Friday with a mixture of morning and afternoon sessions.

C135 PROPOSED CHANGE TO STANDING ORDERS – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council received a Councillor attendance report covering 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to date. Over that time, there had been occasion when apologies for absence had been submitted so late that meetings were inquorate and could not go ahead. The Chair added that apologies received in advance of the meeting would have given the Council the opportunity to re-schedule. The Chair also reported that Councillors should aim to be in attendance before the start of the meeting.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council amends its Standing Orders to include a deadline of 7 days for the receipt of apologies for absence to the Clerk, at which point, unless for reasons of an unavoidable emergency, Councillors will be recorded as absent without apologies.

C136 CONSULTATION – CONSENT STREETS IN WHITEHOUSE

The Council was invited to comment on a Milton Keynes City Council Consultation on Consent Streets, some of which are proposed in Whitehouse.

Resolved Unanimously: That discussions on the consultation continues outside of the meeting and that any comments be collated by the Clerk



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and submitted to Milton Keynes City Council by the deadline of 1 November 2023.

C137 FINANCE - AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

The Council received a financial report from the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) (the Clerk), including details of payments made during September 2023 and payments to be made in October 2023.

The Council noted income of £255.00, a contribution from Councillor Joe Hearnshaw's Ward Based Budget, to cover the cost of a bleed control kit and a third contribution towards the cost of a Council purchased secure cabinet to contain a defibrillator and the bleed control kit, located at Whitehouse Primary School.

The Council received the September bank statement and the RFO reported a closing bank balance of £179,543.32 as of 30 September 2023.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the following payments in September 2023 be authorised:

£114.00	A Imbimbo	Facepainter (SFFD)
£27.60	Google Cloud	Google Suite
£200.00	Lesley Sung	Float/Petty Cash
£950.00	Mr A James	Inflatables (SFFD)
£2,064.00	Bucks Marquees Ltd	Marquee Hire (Xmas)
£320.00	Mason Edwards	Leaflet Design (Coronation)
£378.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor
£350.00	Elizabeth Ashley	Retro Vocal Live Band (SFFD)
£568.00	Robert Tuckwell	Haybales (SFFD)
£150.00	MK Box	Storage Unit
£67.00	E Vella	Volunteer Expenses (SFFD)
£166.88	Cllr Julian Thomas	Expenses
£232.21	Lesley Sung	Expenses
£149.90	Pyro Cartel	Fireworks (deposit) (Diwali)
£175.27	Cllr E Tate	Expenses
£201.40	Cllr E Tate	Expenses
£452.00	SLCC	Conference
2. That the Council accepts income of £255.00 for the month of September 2023.
3. That the Council accepts expenditure of £6,566.26 in September 2023.
4. That the Council accepts a closing bank balance of £179,543.32 as at 30 September 2023.
5. That the Council authorises payment of expenses to the Clerk for the following items:

£19.94	Amazon	5xReams Printer Paper
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£24.48	Amazon	Laminator Pouches/stationery
£142.85	Baker Ross	Arts & Crafts (Diwali)
£54.00	Homebase	Firefly Jars (Diwali)
£22.00	Homebase	Cable ties (assorted length)
£1.10	MKCC	CMK Parking Fee
£71.00	Re-Imbursement	Car Mileage

6. That the Council notes that payments and expenses to be made in October 2023 is estimated at £10,169.

C138 EARLY DAY MOTION (EDM) – DR JULIAN LEWIS MP – A CALL FOR TOUGHER SANCTIONS TO DEAL WITH POOR BEHAVIOUR IN LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council considered writing to MK South's MP, Iain Stewart requesting him to support an Early Day Motion to be presented in parliament by Dr Julian Lewis MP to call for tougher sanctions to deal with poor behaviour in local councils. The Clerk submitted a draft letter for the Council to consider.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council writes to MK South's MK, Iain Stewart, calling on him to support the Early Day Motion.

C139 INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN D-DAY 80 – 6 JUNE 2024

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

C140 MKALC (MILTON KEYNES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS) CONFERENCE – 22 NOVEMBER 2023

The Council considered nominating up to two parish councillor representatives to attend the MKALC Conference on 22 November 2023. The main discussions will be planning policy, neighbourhood plans and the new city plan (to replace PlanMK).

Resolved Unanimously: That Councillors Jekaterina Kartasova and Julian Thomas attend the MKALC Conference on 22 November 2023.

C141 ELECTION TO NALC (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS) SMALLER COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council notes Councillor Godwin Michael's consideration of candidacy for election to the NALC Smaller Council's Committee. This Committee represented smaller council interests (smaller councils are those with less than 6,000 electorate).



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C120 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications for comment to Milton Keynes City Council.

- (a) **Application 23/02032/CLUP – 118 Longhorn Drive, MK8 1DF –** Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed loft conversion with rear dormer and three front roof lights and single storey rear extension.
- (b) **Application 02035/HOU – 118 Longhorn Drive, MK8 1DF -** Conversion of the loft, with the erection of two front dormers and skylights to the rear.
- (c) **Application 23/02173/DISCON – Land off Watling Street (V4) WEA ('Fairfield' – Areas 10.1 – 10.3) –** Approval of details required by Condition 22 (Ground Investigation Report) and 23 (Soils Action Plan) of permission ref: 05/00291/MKPCO.
- (d) **Application 23/02185/DISCON – Land South of Calverton Lane and West Watling Street, WEA –** Approval of details required by Condition 3 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) of permission ref: 23/01395/FUL.
- (e) **Application 23/02191/DISCON – WEA Area 10.1 – 10.3 Watling Street H3 to H4 –** Approval of details required by Condition 9 (Lighting) of permission ref: 21/00318/REM.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council has no objections or comment to make on the above planning applications.

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signed as a true and correct record:

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Chair

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Date



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APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES

MATTERS RAISED UNDER 'PUBLIC FORUM'

Mr Cameron Parks, the Assistant Head Teacher / PSHE / Wellbeing Lead at Watling Academy attended the meeting to introduce himself and to discuss ways the Council and the school could work more closely together for the benefit of school pupils and residents.

The Council discussed the parking issues outside the school during peak drop off and pick up times. He said he would contact Milton Keynes City Council Road Safety Officer for advice on park smart schemes and consider how these may be introduced as part of an initiative on road safety.