



**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF  
WHITEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Held on THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023 at 7.20pm  
at The Library, Watling Academy, Barossa Way,  
Whitehouse, MK8 1EP

**Present:** Councillor Eileen Card (Chair); Councillor Julian Thomas (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Fola Akinsowon, Varma Kanumuri and Godwin Michael.

**Officer:** Lesley Sung (Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** 1

**C162 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.

**C163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jekaterina Kartasova. The apology was accepted.

**C164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**C165 MINUTES**

**Resolved Unanimously:** That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 16 November 2023 be approved, and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

**C166 NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**(a) Allotment Site**

The Chair reported that she and the Clerk had met with the allotment officer at MKCC and the contractor on site to see how the site was progressing. The site would be sectioned into plots in February 2024, in accordance with the sectioned site plan submitted to Milton Keynes City Council. An invitation will be sent to plot holders to attend an open day so that they could see where their plot was located on the site.

There had been a further delay to the scheduled completion date due to drainage accessibility. The contractor had reported that there was a significant amount of fly-tipping in the area and that the Council should be aware and consider how to deal with this once the transfer of the site had taken place.

**(b) Community Meeting Place**

The Vice-Chair reported a further delay to the transfer of the community centre to Whitehouse Community Council due to the lack of an electricity supply. Negotiations between GTC, Milton Keynes City Council and Watling Academy were currently taking place to resolve liability issues. Milton Keynes City Council was investigating a fall-back position.



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Completion of the community centre was now scheduled for the end of April 2024.

**(c) Temporary Shop**

The Vice-Chair reported that there had been a delay with the planning application as the developer had not provided an Ecology Report or details about drainage. The developer had submitted a revised planning application that had now been validated by Milton Keynes City Council. The planning application could be viewed on Milton Keynes City Council's website and to date, one resident had made a comment in support of the application.

Milton Keynes City Council's Highways Officer had commented that the facility required 2 electric vehicle charging car parking spaces.

The Council would have the opportunity to discuss the planning application later in the meeting.

**Resolved Unanimously:** That the reports be noted.

**C167 MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AMENITY LAND AND OPEN SPACE –  
LACK OF MAINTENANCE**

This item was deferred to the meeting in January 2024.

**C168 DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE COUNCIL'S ADOPTED SCHEME OF  
DELEGATED AUTHORITY (SODA)**

No decision had been made under the Council's adopted scheme of delegated authority since the last meeting.

**C169 EVENTS – REVIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE – SUNDAY 10  
DECEMBER 2023**

The Council had received favourable feedback about the Christmas Fayre held on Sunday 10 December at Whitehouse Primary School.

The Christmas Market had been set up in the school hall and the marquee that had hosted a range of entertainment was in the car park, giving the event a dis-jointed feel. Next year, the event is likely to take place in the new Community Council owned community centre and set up could be better planned.

Councillor Kanumuri reported that a resident had requested that for future events, local vendors be given priority on pitch availability.

Councillor Thomas added that the event had raised around £1,000 in aid of the Council's charities, UnityMK (previously known as The Winter Night Shelter) and The Bus Shelter.



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**Resolved Unanimously:** That the report be noted.

**C170 LOCATION OF NEW DOG BIN**

The Council considered the siting of a dog waste bin that it had recently purchased. The dog waste bin was to be sited on the junction of Portland Avenue and Antolian Avenue, but since the purchase, the developer had installed two dog bins near the allocated site.

The Clerk had met with the dog waste bin emptying contractor and had identified an alternative site at the start of a path along the green open space, ensuring an even spread of dog waste bins in the area and where dog walkers were likely to visit.

**Resolved Unanimously:** That the dog waste bin be located at the end of Antolian Avenue at the start of a path along open space, near the sub-station.

**C171 INSTALLATION OF TALLER POLES FOR SPEED INDICATION DEVICES TO ACCOMMODATE SOLAR PANELS**

Last year, the Council had purchased solar panels to be fitted to the Council's speed indicator devices to eradicate the need to change the batteries every month or so. Unfortunately, the poles were too short to accommodate the panels and the installation of longer poles was investigated.

The Clerk reported that the installation of three longer poles to accommodate the speed indicator device and solar panels would cost a maximum of £2,500, depending on the need for traffic management procedures (installation of temporary traffic lights) whilst installation of the poles took place.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Council purchases and installs three longer poles to accommodate speed indicator devices and solar panels, at a maximum cost of £2,500.
2. That a virement of £2,500 be made from the Council's General Reserve to the Community Speedwatch budget.

**C172 FINANCE - AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

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

The Council received the November bank statement and the RFO reported a closing bank balance of £157,603.59 as of 30 November 2023.



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**Resolved Unanimously:**

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

£27.60	Google Cloud	Google Drive
£182.00	Format Graphics	Banners (Diwali)
£509.96	S2D Leaflets	Print/Leaflet distribution (Xmas)
£300.00	Nivethitha Chinnai	Feel the Beat (Diwali)
£1,745.00	Best of India Ltd	Desi Snacks (Diwali)
£70.00	BALC	Training – Canva Skills
£50.00	BALC	Training – Risk Assessments
£73.20	TopSource Global	Payroll Services
£275.52	Impact Productions Ltd	Generator Hire (Xmas)
£182.35	Format Graphics	Banners (Xmas)
£50.00	WH Primary School	Meeting Hire
£429.91	Pooja Murde	Henna Services (Diwali)
£387.50	WH Primary School	Hall Hire/Cleaning (Diwali)
£1.00	Lloyds Allotment A/c	Open new bank account
£285.04	Cllr Julian Thomas	Expenses (Mirosoft)
£1,688.29	Lesley Sung	Expenses (Various)
£163.20	MK Box	Storage Units
£219.00	Royal Mail	PO Box – 6 months
£350.00	Robert Adams	PA System (SFFD)
£541.66	WH Primary School	s.137 Grant (Bench)
£2,264.23	Staff	Salaries
£1,191.75	TopSource Global	HMRC
2. That the Council accepts expenditure of £10,987.30 in November 2023.
3. That the Council accepts a closing bank balance of £157,603.59 as of 30 November 2023.
4. That the Council authorises payment of expenses to the Clerk of £745.84.
5. That the Council notes that payments and expenses to be made in December 2023 was estimated at £8,800.

**C173 COUNCIL BUDGET REPORT 2023/2024**

The Council received the Council Budget report for 2023/2024. The Council's forecasted total income for 2023/2024 was £87,619, against a budget of £109,664, the difference due to the delays in the completion of the community centre and allotment site.

The report forecasted an end of year expenditure of £100,706 against budgeted expenditure of £182,200. This represented an underspend of £81,494, of which £60,000 had been allocated for spend at the new community centre that was not due completion until 2024/2025.

The forecasted end of year bank balance was £121,984, that included reserves of £67,900.



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**Resolved Unanimously:** That the Council Budget Report for 2023/2024 be accepted.

**C174 DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/2025**

The Council's Budget Working Group presented its recommendations on the draft Council Budget for 2024/2025 to inform the setting of the precept.

**Resolved Unanimously:**

1. That an estimated income of £36,333 and predicted expenditure of £128,634 for 2024/2025, be accepted.
2. That the Council's 2024/2025 De-Minimis Reserve be set at £45,675 (6 months operational costs).
3. That the Council's Earmarked Reserves of £60,000 (Community Centre), £5k (Legal Expenses) and £5k (Beautification) be approved.
4. That the Council's General Reserve for 2024/2025 is set at £58,059.

**C175 SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025**

Following agreement of the Council's Budget 2024/2025, the Council was able to calculate the precept required for 2024/2025. All precept requests were required to be submitted to Milton Keynes City Council by 1 February 2024.

The Council Tax Base had increased from 1552.19 Band D equivalents in 2023/2024 to 1990.53 in 2024/2025. The 2023/2024 average Band D household precept was £55.90.

**Resolved Unanimously:**

1. That the Council accepts a Council Tax Base of 1990.53.
2. That the Council's 2024/2025 precept be set at £152,051, an average Band D household precept of £80.00.
3. That the Council notes that an average Band D household precept of £80.00 represents an increase of 43.1% or £24.10 for the year.

**C176 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (a) **Application 23/02422/FUL – Site at Brahaman Way –** Erection of a Temporary Retail Unit for a period of 3 years.
- (b) **Application 23/02575/DISCON –** Parcels S, T and U, WEA
- (c) **Application 23/02605/NMA –** Parcel W, Land off Watling Street, WEA ('Fairfield' – Areas 10.1 – 10.3)
- (d) **Application 23/2693/DISCON –** Parcel E, Land off Watling Street, WEA ('Fairfield' – Areas 10.1 – 10.3)
- (e) **Application 23/2692/DISCON –** Parcel C and D WEA, Area 10.1 – 10.3 Watling Street H3 to H4



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- (f) Application 23/02743/DISCON – WEA Area 10.1 – 10.3 WEA, Watling Street H3 to H4**
- (g) Application 23/02754/HOU – 2 Whitebred Chase, MK8 1AX – Erection of a two-storey side and single extension with associated internal and external works.**

**Resolved Unanimously:**

1. That, in respect of planning application 23/02422/FUL (Erection of a temporary retail unit for 3 years), the Council strongly supports the planning application and does not agree with the Highways Officer's requirement for the provision of two EV charge points. The reasons being:
  - There is sufficient EV charging points located in the nearby Whitehouse Medical Centre car park.
  - The shop is a temporary facility and will be de-constructed once the High Street is complete.
  - The shop is a very local facility and all new build homes in the area will have an EV charging point installed.
  - The temporary shop will be the size of a portacabin, and visitors are not likely to be in the shop for a long enough time to charge an electric car.
2. That the Council has no objections or comment to make on the remaining planning applications.

**The meeting ended at 8.40pm**

**Signed as a true and correct record:**

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**Chair**

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**Date**