

## FAIRFIELDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Email: Clerk@fairfields-pc.gov.uk

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**Thursday 09 March 2023 @ 18h30**

At Fairfields Sports Hub, Apollo Avenue, Fairfields, MK11 4BA

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: Cllr's Edward Martin (EM)-Chair, Rajeev Sharma (RS), Shelley Holmes (SH), Jake Bloomfield (JB), Jenny Wilson-Marklew (JWM)

Officer: Vicky Mote (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: 9 members of the public present

Meeting started at 18h30

REF	MINUTES
	<p>Clerk announced that Cllr Edward Martin would chair the March meeting and Cllr Jake Bloomfield would chair the meeting in April as formal elections will take place in May when a new chair and vice would be elected. Both councillors had put themselves forward to stand as chair in elections.</p> <p>Cllr EM took over chairing the meeting.</p>
1	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Council RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr David Nicholas.</p>
2	<p><b>Declarations of Interests:</b> To note councillors' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda (Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, councillors are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting).</p> <p>Cllr SH declared an interest in agenda item 9 Allotments.</p>
3	<p><b>Public question time, including Parish and Ward Councillor updates:</b> In accordance with Standing Order 1(d), members of the public may ask questions on any matters dealt with by Full Council, which are included on this agenda.</p> <p>There were nine members of the public present.</p>

	<p>Key issue raised by residents was public transport and lack of a route through Fairfields.</p> <p>Cllr JWM gave a response as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no bus subsidy for Fairfields.</li> <li>• Whilst there was initially a service through Fairfields, there were not enough people using the service to make it commercially viable.</li> <li>• It costs circa £700/day to run a service with driver and an additional circa £700 to route through Fairfields.</li> <li>• It would not be safe to put a bus stop on Watling Street without a “cut-in” and this would cost £10K ++.</li> <li>• It might be a viable option to route through Fairfields once the route between Whitehouse and Fairfields is open however, that is not likely in the near future.</li> <li>• MK Connect, which is in place, is far cheaper than a bus and whilst not reliable, MKCC are currently exploring more ideas/options to make it more effective.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr JWM confirmed that she would be happy to run a survey, alongside a petition with residents. Further details will be circulated via FCC communications platforms (Facebook, noticeboard, website, newsletter).</p>
4	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24 January 2023 and the Extra ordinary meeting held on 27 February 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meetings, duly signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Council NOTED that the meeting scheduled for February was cancelled on the night as they were not quorate.</p>
5	<p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Payments:</b> Council NOTED both the list of payments made and those due to be made before the next meeting.</li> <li>2. <b>Finance Report:</b> Council NOTED financial report showing receipts and payments vs budget to date 28/02/23. Cllr SH requested some time with the Clerk to go through the details of the finances.</li> <li>3. <b>Grants:</b> There were not grants to consider.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clerk:</b> Confirmed that there were no updates due to meetings being not quorate and cancelled.</li> <li>2. <b>Councillors:</b> There were no updates from Councillors.</li> <li>3. <b>Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC):</b> There were no updates from MKCC.</li> <li>4. <b>Developer (Barratts/David Wilson):</b> Clerk ran through the updates received from Barratt’s as follows:  <u>Shops-progress/update.</u> Ground works have started, piling is due to commence on Monday 13 March 23. Letter will be issued to residents in close proximity.</li> </ol>

	<p>The target date for piling to be completed is end June 23, further updates will follow as works progress.</p> <p><u>Roundabout Opening (Apollo/Watling)</u> It is anticipated that this will be towards the end of March/April, as soon as the construction vehicles have finished working on the front of the site. This will mean that the temporary access from Watling Street to Saturn Avenue will also be removed.</p> <p><u>Local Park 4 and Associated Play Area Facility</u> Land adjacent Juno Lane, Fairfields, construction is due to commence by MKCC. Residents in the area will receive a letter from MKCC. (Apollo Avenue, Juno Lane/Flavius Gardens, Tiberius Drive).</p> <p>Barratts contractor (Hugh Pearl Ltd) will start setting up their compound area on <b>Wednesday 8 March</b> and construction works will commence in earnest <b>Monday 13 March 2023</b>.</p> <p>Delivery access will be restricted between the hours of 8h00-9h00 and 15h00–16h00.</p> <p>Working hours will be 08h00 to 18h00 weekdays and deliveries will avoid peak school drop off / pick up times. Any issues during the time these works are taking place are to be reported to: <a href="mailto:Landscape.Architecture@milton-keynes.gov.uk">Landscape.Architecture@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p><b>5. Fairfields Sports Hub:</b> Clerk confirmed that she now attends their quarterly meetings. Their intention long-term is to still engage with the community however, they have some other key priorities to address.</p>
7	<p><b>Fairfields Community Council (FCC) Logo</b> Clerk explained that the logo currently being used by FCC is that which was created and is used by the Developer. Clerk recommended that Council discuss and agree the way forward in creating a unique identity for FCC. It was made clear that the “Welcome to Fairfields” sign would remain in place if the developer so chooses.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED: To go ahead with getting a logo created for FCC. To invite Fairfields community to take part in putting forward some suggested designs. Further details to follow on all communication platforms.</p>
8	<p><b>Civility &amp; Respect Pledge</b> Clerk gave an overview of the Civility &amp; Respect project and the reasons behind the desired change in culture within the sector, change that must be brought about by a change in legislation by Central Government.</p>

	<p>Council RESOLVED unanimously to sign up to the civility and respect pledge, demonstrating the Council is committed to treating councillors, clerk, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.</p> <p>Signed pledge certificate will be posted on the website once received, to include the following statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.</li> <li>• Our council has committed to training councillors and staff.</li> <li>• Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors</li> <li>• Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and will ensure a dignity at work policy is added.</li> <li>• Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.</li> <li>• Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment, if and when it happens.</li> <li>• Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme</li> <li>• Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Operational</b></p> <p>1. <b>Allotments:</b> Clerk to give an update.</p> <p>1.1 <b>Allotment Software:</b> Clerk put a proposal forward to Council to consider moving from running allotments on spreadsheets to AdvantEDGE Allotment Software. Comparison between s'sheet and two allotment systems was given.</p> <p>Council RESOVLED to go ahead with the allotment software, which will fall within this current year's budget. Quote for 5-year contract is £220 annually. Clerk to send through 2 and 3-year option to council for consideration as an alternative time-period.</p> <p><b>1.2 Tenancy Agreement-Updated</b></p> <p>Clerk confirmed that the existing tenancy agreement needed updating to ensure it would be legally binding in the event it was challenged.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED to adopt the new agreement, Cllr SH abstained from the vote as she had declared an interest as an allotment tenant.</p> <p><b>1.3 Rules &amp; Regulations-Updated</b></p> <p>Cllr SH, who had declared an interest as an allotment tenant, gave her views on the updated rules and felt that, due to the size and content of the new document, it would be beneficial to take more time for Council to review.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED to carry this item forward to the next meeting.</p>

	<p>Clerk asked Council to make a decision on the proposal to ban tyres from allotment sites as there are circa 45 industrial size tyres currently on Maximus Court site. Clerk explained that these are not environmentally friendly and the bigger problem is that when tenants leave and don't remove the tyres, it becomes a cost to the public purse. The cost to remove these tyres responsibly, which is law, will be circa £1200.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED to go ahead and remove the tyres. Clerk to write to all tenants who have tyres.</p> <p><b>1.4 Finance Report.</b> There were no questions, Council NOTED the report.</p> <p><b>1.5 Maximus Court skip.</b> Clerk explained that there is a big rubbish pile, which will continue to attract more rubbish if not removed.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange a skip and engage all allotment tenants on Maximus to help with putting the rubbish in the skip and that this is a one-off task.</p> <p>2. <u>Grit Bins</u>: Council to re-consider and agree next steps. Council engaged in further discussion, with input from residents within the meeting. Council RESOLVED to wait until the site is complete before bringing this topic back to the table. Cllr JWM confirmed that once MKCC has adopted the highways, they will grit the main roads. MKCC is trying to adopt those parts that have been completed however, Barratts is required to ensure that they meet a required standard and they are not happy to do so at the moment, due to construction vehicles still on site.</p> <p>3. Dog and Litter Bins: Council RESOLVED to purchase an additional dog bin and devolved the decision to Clerk and Cllr EM to agree the location.</p>
10	<p><b>Planning Applications</b> No applications to review.</p>
11	<p><b>Licensing Applications</b> No applications to review.</p>
12	<p><b>Consultations</b> Clerk gave Council an overview on city wide consultations and explained that FCC is notified, along with the wider public, as a consultee. Cllr's JB and SH added that there were sections where Council could contribute, using Fairfields as a case in point. Clerk confirmed that councillors can also submit their own personal views as a resident. Any comments that Council wish to add need to be sent to the Clerk by end of business 15/03/23.</p>
13	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p>1. <u>MK Play Association</u> Clerk confirmed that she had been informed that Cross Keys Homes usually contributes to 50% of the costs of summer play sessions. Clerk also confirmed that she had been in contact with Cross Keys and they would confirm early next week however, they did not see there being a problem.</p>

	<p>Council RESOLVED that the proposed frequency of 5-sessions mirror those of last year. Dates and times will be circulated on all communication platforms (Facebook, website, newsletter, noticeboard). Cost to FCC will be 50% of total cost £2200.</p> <p>2. <u>King's Coronation Celebrations</u> Council discussed various options. Cllr JB proposed that a location and time be set for residents to come along and bring their own eats/drinks and socialize with each other. Location will be Apollo Green, time and date TBC.</p> <p>Council RESOLVED that the Clerk also get some quotes for the supply of bunting for residents as they did for the Jubilee and cost for a tree and commemorative plaque. Final cost to be agree at the next meeting.</p> <p>3. <u>Keep Britain Tidy</u> Council to consider if they wish to take part in this national event running 17 March 23 to 02 April 23. Council RESOLVED to go ahead and arrange a litter pick. Cllr SH confirmed that she will be happy to lead on the event with the help of the Clerk. Further details to follow on all communication platforms (Facebook, website, newsletter, noticeboard).</p>
14	<p><b>Correspondence</b> No official correspondence to note.</p>
15	<p><b>Meeting Dates</b> Council NOTED the date of the next full council meeting on Thursday 13 April 2023 @ 18h30. Clerk confirmed what an Annual Residents meeting should be above. Council to bring back some ideas to the next full council meeting. Clerk to post on all communication platforms, asking residents for their input as well.</p>

Meeting ended at 20h42