

**FAIRFIELDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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**FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday 12 October 2023 @ 19h00**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors: Jake Bloomfield (JB)-Chair, Shelley Holmes (SH), Jovita Kodyte (JK), Ron Holmes (RH)

Officer: Vicky Mote (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: 2

MKCC: Paul van Geete (PvG) sent in his apologies.

Ward Councillors: Cllr's Jennifer Wilson-Marklew and Joe Hearnshaw sent their apologies.

Meeting started at 19h00

REF	MINUTES
FC23/24 94	<b>Election of Chair</b> Clerk opened the meeting and asked for nomination for Chair. Cllr SH proposed Cllr JB, who confirmed he was happy to take up the seat of Chair, there were no other nominations. Council RESOLVED to accept Cllr JB as the new Chair, he was duly elected. Clerk presented an Acceptance of Office form, duly signed by Cllr Jake Bloomfield.
FC23/24 95	<b>Apologies:</b> Council RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Jennifer Wilson-Marklew (JWM). <b>Resignation:</b> Council NOTED the resignation of Cllr Edward Martin (Chair) on 15/09/23, due to health reasons. Council wished to thank him for all his hard work and contribution to Fairfields Community Council and wish him well.
FC23/24 96	<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). There were none to declare.
FC23/24 97	<b>Co-Option:</b> Cllr JB asked Ron Holmes, who had applied for a vacant councillor role, to give an overview. Councillors had no further questions and RESOLVED to co-opt Ron Holmes as a councillor. Clerk presented an Acceptance of Office form, duly signed by Ron Holmes, who was then invited to join Council at the table.
FC23/24 98	<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.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resident asked for an update on the drain cover issue outside her house. Clerk confirmed she had an initial response from Barrat Homes and will continue to chase for a resolution.</li> <li>2. Resident reported that there were some trees on Marius Grove that were no longer upright and asked whose responsibility it is to replace them. Clerk asked resident to send in details so that she can find out about land ownership.</li> <li>3. Resident asked, whose responsibility it is to maintain the piece of land at the corner of H1 Ridgeway and Watling Street, next to the big play park, which has temporary fencing around it. Fencing is not secure in places. Clerk confirmed she would find out and respond.</li> <li>4. Resident asked if there were any plans to put lighting in the big play area along the back of Marius Grove, next to the allotment site. Clerk responded to say that it is highly unlikely, the play area is managed by The Parks Trust and this is not common practice. Clerk will find out for clarity.</li> </ol>
FC23/24 99	<b>Minutes.</b> Council RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 September 2023, be accepted as a true copy. Duly signed by Cllr JB (Chair).
FC23/24 100	<b>External Audit Report</b> Council NOTED the conclusion of External Audit and report.
FC23/24 101	<b>Finance Matters.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Payments:</b> Council NOTED the list of payments made from 01/09/23 to 30/09/23.</li> <li>2. <b>Finance Report:</b> Council NOTED financial report showing receipts and payments vs budget to date 30/09/23, currently at 57% of the mid-point of this financial year ending 31/03/24.</li> <li>3. <b>Grants,</b> there were no grant applications to consider.</li> </ol>
FC23/24 102	<p><b>Local Government Pension Scheme,</b> Clerk presented the draft Employer Discretionary Policy for council to consider for adoption.</p> <p>Clerk stated that, due to the conflict of interest as an “employee” benefiting from this policy, if there were any specific questions, the details of our account manager will be forwarded.</p> <p>Cllr SH highlighted a couple of points as follows:  Page 3. Contributions – how much will it cost? Clerk to check if the correct link has been included.  Page 10. Clerk to check with Buckingham Council (administrator of the LGPS pension scheme) to see if the pension age of 65 listed in the document is correct or this should be updated.</p> <p>Following clarity of the two points raised above, Council RESOLVED that they are happy to adopt this policy.</p>
FC23/24 103	<b>Reports</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clerk:</b> to report on updates from previous meeting minute actions. Clerk ran through the updated report, previously circulated.</li> <li>2. <b>Councillors:</b> There were no councillor reports received.</li> <li>3. <b>Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC):</b> to note updates. Clerk had an initial meeting with PvG at MKCC in September to run through where we are in the planning process and find out what is currently on the table regarding the design, size of the building and landscaping.</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The updated MKCC visuals of the Fairfields community centre were presented.</li> <li>• The Clerk commented on the flat roof, which had been discussed at the meeting with MKCC I September. The preference is not to have a flat roof due to the potential higher insurance costs.</li> <li>• Clerk informed Council that MKCC has gone for the smaller hall, as part of the two original concepts presented over a year ago, due to budget constraints. Hall sizes originally presented were 18m x 10 m and 14m x 10m. The downside of the smaller hall is that it will not be able to accommodate playing things like badminton.</li> <li>• MKCC are trying to find a building that they can deliver and deliver now.</li> <li>• The larger hall cannot be funded today, if deferred until the balance of the funding is delivered by the developer, this would further delay the construction and not come with any guarantee of the larger hall.</li> <li>• Some of the developer contribution towards Community and Leisure facilities has been used by MKCC on the Sports Hub, which is not accessible to Fairfields community without a booking and fee. The Clerk is working with MKCC to understand the finer financial details and ensure, as far as possible, that Fairfields community is not disadvantages by this.</li> </ul> <p>Council RESOLVED to arrange a residents open meeting to show the visuals and find out more about what residents want to see in their community centre.</p> <p><b>4. Developer (Barratts/David Wilson):</b> to note updates.  Questions put to Simon Steer (SS) prior to the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>When will the shops be completed?</u>  SS-still on plan for completion-June 24.</li> <li>2. <u>When will Barratts be completing the pedestrian crossing just past Cicero Crescent, at the top end of Apollo Avenue, as there are still grass verges either side of the road.</u>  SS hadn't noticed this and will get site to review and provide us with time scales.</li> <li>3. <u>Update on barrier at the carpark off Maximus Court.</u>  SS will chase his commercial team and will provide us with an update.</li> </ol> <p><b>5. Fairfields Sports Hub:</b> there were no updates.</p>
FC23/24 104	<p><b>Operational (Clerk)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Allotment Report.</u>  Clerk did not present an updated report due to not enough information available post sending out the annual allotment tenancy agreements and invoices. A full report will be presented at the next meeting.</li> <li>2. <u>Allotment Inspection App and hardware-EDGE IT.</u>  Clerk presented the proposal, which would be more time efficient in carrying out allotment inspections on site, instead of the current manual process of printing out paper, taking photo's and then having to tranfer when back at the office.</li> </ol> <p>The new tablet and app will mean direct access into the allotment program and inspections can be fully carried out on site.</p>

	Council RESOLVED to go ahead with the quote (Q18467A) from EDGE IT, which includes the supply of a tablet, set-up and annual subscription of the app at £401.88 (inc VAT).
FC23/24 106	<b>Annual Community Survey</b> Council to consider details of running an annual residents survey to find out what our community views, needs and wants are. Clerk presented a draft concept of an annual survey, Council noted and agreed in principle. Council to discuss in further detail and come back to a future meeting for resolution.
FC23/24 107	<b>Planning Applications</b> (list circulated prior to meeting). There were no current applications to consider.
FC23/24 108	<b>Licensing Applications</b> (list circulated prior to meeting) There were no current application to consider.
FC23/24 109	<b>Consultations.</b> Council to consider any live consultations. 1. <u>Get Around MK: electric vehicles survey: 06/09/23 to 31/03/24.</u> <a href="https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk">Get Around MK: electric vehicles survey   Milton Keynes City Council (milton-keynes.gov.uk)</a> Council NOTED the current consultation, Clerk asked councillors to have a look and feed back any comments they wish to make.
FC23/24 110	<b>Event(s).</b> 1. <u>Santa Float:</u> Clerk confirmed that there is hearsay of a planned Foodbank Santa patrol in December. Having contacted Foodbank, they are not aware of this event. Clerk has sent out a Facebook post to find out if a resident is planning this privately and to make contact, so the two events don't clash.  2. <u>Residents meet and greet;</u> Council to consider an open evening and/or Saturday afternoon for residents to come and meet the team and find out more about their expectations and what the Community Council can do for them.  Council RESOLVED that, as a first meet and greet, it would be a good idea to engage with residents on the topic of Fairfields new Community Centre and find out what it is they would like to see.  Clerk to liaise with MKCC to find out what the timeline/deadline is for the planning application and then look at arranging a residents open meeting, to include light refreshments.
FC23/24 111	<b>Future Agenda Items and next Meeting.</b> 1. Future agenda items for consideration. • Clerk wished to add MK Play Association craft packs.  2. Council NOTED the next full council meeting on 09 November 23 at 19h00.
FC23/24 112	<b>Confidential Item.</b> Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business, the Public and Press will be excluded from the following agenda item for the reason of it relating to Councils discussion and agreement on the Clerk's working hours.  Clerk presented a report and proposal for justifying an increase in working hours. Council could not come to a unanimous decision; Clerk did point out that it only had to be a majority vote. Council RESOLVED to either bring back to the next full council meeting or call an extra ordinary meeting, pending further information requested.

Meeting ended at 21h00.