

FAIRFIELDS PARISH COUNCIL

11 Gladius Grove
Fairfields
Milton Keynes
MK11 4DE



Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Fairfields School 23rd November 2021

	Action
<p>Item 1. Members present Cllr I Hunt Chairman Cllr J Harris Vice Chairman Cllr R Burn Cllr P Gupta Cllr K Findlay</p> <p>Ward Cllr J Wilson-Marklew</p> <p>2 members of the public</p>	Mrs J Nicholas Clerk
<p>Item 2. Apologies Accepted unanimously from Cllr S Webb Paul VanGeete (MKC) Ward Cllr J Hearnshaw</p>	
<p>Item 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest All councillors present acknowledged that they may have an interest in all policies discussed but none felt it should prevent them from voting.</p> <p>Cllr K Findlay declared an interest in Item 7 as he has an allotment.</p>	
<p>Item 4. Public Time - Questions had been requested to be sent in prior to the meeting</p> <p>None had been received by clerk</p> <p>One member of the public present asked about the Pollarding of the tree on the Community Garden and was given the information under Item 13.</p>	
<p>Item 5. Minutes of previous Meeting of Council</p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting on 9th October 2021 were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman of the meeting</p>	

<p>Item 6 Reports</p> <p>Cllr R Burn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZOOM meeting with Maralyn Smith from MKDons SET was very informative. They are having some delays getting the services into the building. They are very interested in running sessions for the community such as Zumba, tennis and netball. Maralyn will come to the January meeting of the Parish Council. Questions for Maralyn should be sent to Cllr Burn before the evening. <p>Cllr J Harris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The speed watch training is going ahead and those interested should submit an interest from the 29th December. More information will be given at January meeting. • Neighbourhood Watch seems to be working as there have been no reports on the Security WhatsApp group this month • Crime figures for Fairfields are low compared with other nearby Parishes <p>Chairman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Steers of Barratts was going to remove/move the crossing at the entrance to the site as it was considered dangerously near the entrance. Clerk was requested to make contact to find out the programme for this. • A download from SID was requested from Cllr Gupta • Need to collect the banner from the printer for advertising the litter picks • When do the Tommys have to be removed? The clerk would find out the recommended date. <p>Cllr K Findlay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 families attended the Halloween litter pick which was disappointing • Following a general discussion, it was decided that future litter picks would be on Sundays from 12 – 1pm on the last Sunday in the month to set a routine in residents minds. • January 30th would be organised by Cllr J Harris • February 27th would be organised by Cllr K Findlay • March 27th would be organised by Cllr I Hunt <p>Cllr P Gupta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Project the website has gone live and they are now investigating the way of linking it to the websites of Fairfields and Whitehouse Parish Councils. • An article on the Roman street names was requested for the Public Art website which Cllr R Burn said he would provide. • The website had been down in the month, and it was found that the domain had expired, this has now been set up for a further 2 years. <p>Ward Councillor J Wilson-Marklew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MKC have a meeting on the 24th November to finalise how the adoption of roads would take place. A question was raised as to the extent of the adoption would it be verges and footpaths as well? Cllr Wilson-Marklew agreed to find out • The alternative bus transport had not been performing to their Service Level Agreement but it is now catching up and performing much better. • There may be some interest from a Commercial enterprise in running a standard bus service in some areas but this is very early in their investigations. 	<p>All</p> <p>Clerk PG Chairman Clerk</p> <p>JH KF IH</p> <p>RB</p>
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<p>Ward Councillor J Hearnshaw had sent a written report as he was unable to attend the meeting this is included as Appendix A to these minutes.</p>	
<p>Item 7 Allotments</p> <p>Following a long discussion, it was decided unanimously to keep the Rules and Regulations concerning opening hours of the Allotment sites for the time being and to monitor this to see if any change is required.</p>	
<p>Item 8 MKC and developers</p> <p>There was no one present from MKC or the Developers A short report from Paul vanGeete was read out and confirmed that L&Q are should have a study completed in the next few weeks for the Community Building and adjacent flats which they will then share with Paul and the Parish.</p>	<p>Clerk/PvG</p>
<p>Item 9 Newsletters</p> <p>Following a presentation from Cllr R Burn it was unanimously decided to award a 2 year contract for print and delivery of newsletter to Sure2door</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p>Item 10 Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10a) The Finance report was accepted. • Following a discussion, it was decided that the deposit amount on the Allotments would not be increased at this time. • Cllr J Harris would assist with collection of outstanding Allotment Tenancy invoices following a further email and Overdue letter to be sent out by the Clerk. • 10b) October Invoice were signed. There were no cheques as they had been signed out of the meeting due to the delay in the meeting date. • 10c) The clerk requested that she be allowed to make payments by BACS using the Payment Authorisation which allowed for two mandate signatures. Payment would only be made for invoices where the invoice was covered in the budget or by items such as stationery, training and newsletters where it was obvious that an item had been received This was passed unanimously • 10d) It was agreed unanimously that a payment of £250 be made to Fairfields Primary School towards the no parking “characters”. This would come out of the Play Association budget which is underspent this year. 	<p>Clerk/JH</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>Item 11 Speed Indicator Device</p> <p>Following a discussion is was decided that a second device would be added into the 2022/2023 budget.</p>	

<p>The maintenance agreement and the second device costs would be discussed with Swarco the supplier by Cllr J Harris. The clerk would email Cllr Harris the relevant quotes.</p>	<p>JH/Clerk</p>
<p>Item 12 Budget 2022/2023</p> <p>It was agreed that the band D precept would stay the same for the year 2022/2023 as the increase in properties had given an increase of precept in total.</p> <p>All Councillors were requested to let the Clerk have comments and suggestions for the budget to the Clerk before the next meeting.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Item 13 Community Garden</p> <p>The clerk had circulated a report prior to the meeting giving details of the project to date including the pollarding of the large ash tree of all the dead and diseased wood. This is included with these minutes as Appendix B The name of the garden was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr J Harris would talk to the school and put something on facebook to get children and residents ideas and bring the findings back to the January Council meeting.</p>	<p>JH</p>
<p>Item 14 Policies for Approval</p> <p>Fixed Asset and Valuation Policy It was agreed unanimously that assets would be included in Box 9 of the AGAR at purchase price and would be included at this value every year until they are disposed of. The policy was signed off by the Chairman and Clerk.</p> <p>Social Media, Press & Newsletter Policy and Protocol This was passed unanimously</p>	
<p>Item 15 Planning</p> <p>Application no: 21/03028/REM Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission ref. 06/00123/MKPCO for 40 dwellings, 2 x commercial units (Use Class A1 / A3) totalling 5,105 sqft, area of open space and associated infrastructure. At: Land West of Watling Street And North of Calverton Lane Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area 11 Fairfields Local Centre (Parcels 21C & 1C)</p> <p>There were no objections or comments on this from Councillors present. Cllr S Webb had sent in some questions which will be relayed to MKC/the architects for answers</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>Application no: 21/03358/FUL Proposal: The erection of a single storey ground floor side extension and a front porch At: 5 Lucius Lane Fairfields Milton Keynes MK11 4AN</p> <p>There were no objections or comments on this application</p>	
<p>Item 16 Next meeting 11th January 2022</p> <p>There would be no meeting in December</p>	

Meeting closed 8.40pm

Signed.....Chairman

Appendix A

Ward Councillor Joe Hearnshaw

Reports:

1. Regarding the community centre, to reiterate we have an open route to get a cafe and co-op as we can navigate through the existing MK:plan policies regarding parking limitations. When I last spoke to Paul Thomas at MKC, he confirmed we've the developer agreeing to this, and we are just now working towards ensuring final agreements are in-place for this. If anything changes, I'll quickly update you. We must work closely together on this and ensure that this is seen through.
2. Unfortunately, I did receive a large volume of Cerico Crescent complaints for failed waste collection. I am also aware that other streets are affected. I have talked with Stuart Profitt and David Proctor regarding this, and they are working towards improving services particularly in these areas. I need to again stress that residents should report missed collections online, even if it's recycling, they should just report it as missed general waste if the option is still missing. They can then report it to me, and I'll raise it again with officers if there's no recollection the subsequent day, as has happened in the past on several occasions.
3. I am also aware of trucks leaving behind waste/mess and I have also raised this with waste officers and relevant directors. I need people to also report this and then email me instances of this occurring, with pictures.
4. In instances where workers are putting green bins in the waste truck (which has happened elsewhere in MK, too) please report it and inform me asap and we can get a replacement issued and officers will talk with workers. I sincerely apologise on the behalf of MKC that this even happens, it shouldn't.
5. For residents signed up to the Whitehouse medical centre, I am aware of the existing issues regarding a lack of permanent staffed GPs, with only Locums. This is increasing wait times and can affect quality of care sometimes. I am talking with colleagues in the health committee I am seated on about how we can improve this. We will talk with the CCG and see what can be done. There is also news of leasing to MKUH on the first floor of the medical centre and the 2nd to be leased to Oxford University Hospital - this may mean increased staff recruitment. This is due for delegated decisions 21st December, so I'll keep my eye on it.

Appendix B

Community Garden update

The Community Garden is being cut regularly so that the contractor can see just what he must contend with. The latest plan is to start the main ground works ready to commence putting in the path and hard standing on the 22nd November. This has been delayed due to work required on the large ash tree as follows but will not delay the rest of the project we are still on time to plant the saplings and fruit trees in late February and hopefully the main trees before Christmas.

Prior to our being offered the land which included the large ash tree Milton Keynes Council had prepared a planning application for a nursery, but this failed due to there not being enough room for off road car parking due to the sloping nature of the site.

When we were offered the land as a gift, I contacted Edel Langen Senior Landscape Architect at MKC to see what work they had done, and she provided me with some plans. Edel also warned me that the tree was in a poor state as Ash Trees do not have a long-life span especially with the Chalara fraxinea (ash die back disease) and this one was probably 30 to 40 years old.. To complete their plans, they would have removed the tree all together.

I contacted the landowners L & Q and asked if they would pay for the tree to be pollarded to give it a chance of living and I went out for three quotes to do this work. Two gave me quotes but the third declined to quote as he felt the tree should come down for the safety of those using the footpaths around the site. A third quote was obtained by L & Q following which they agreed that RTM would be contracted to undertake the work. The main reason for this was expediency as they are the same contractor who is doing the whole site work for us and could therefore diary the work on the tree to take place before they commenced major works. The second favourite was Rose Tree Surgeons Ltd, and they couldn't start the work until mid-December which would have delayed the main contractor starting work even more..

The work was completed on 27th October and the tree has been cut back to what appears to be sound wood but only time will tell if the tree has been saved. The recent strong winds would have brought down most of the branches if not the whole tree just as its sister tree did in November 2020.

I asked RTM for a comment on the fact that some residents had been upset by the extent of tree pollarding and his comments were

"The tree was in a very poor condition (still is) and in mine and my arboriculturist Dan's opinion the work undertaken was the only option short of taking the tree down completely. All the timber removed had extensive decay which would at some point lead to the tree at a high risk of failure, even without a storm. Cutting the tree back as per the photo was not an option there was far too much decay. Even now the tree will need to be closely monitored, as there is significant decay in the main stem. The timber was too decayed to be useful so, it has all gone for Bio mas pulp"

I hope that we have saved the tree by doing this work. It may not show for two growing seasons but at least we have tried.