

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held by Zoom on Monday 15th March 2021 at 2.30p.m.

Present Councillors:	Cllr M Geddes (in the chair) Councillors Clive Cowmeadow, Paul Farrant, Jo Green, David Hopkins, Jacky Jeffreys, Richard Lanyon-Hogg, Jan Rae, Peter Skelton,
Clerk	Alison Jordan
Others present	Jennifer Wilson-Marklew
Apologies	None

121/21 **Town Mayor's Announcements**
None

122/21 **Declarations of Interest**
Under the localism act 2011 (section 26-37 and schedule 4) and in accordance with the Councils code of conduct Cllr D Hopkins referred to his entry in the member's register of interests.

123/21 **Minutes**
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th February 2021 had been circulated, approved and signed as a true record.

124/21 **DRT**
Cllr Geddes welcomed MS Wilson-Marklew who was invited to talk about and answer questions on the new DRT service which will replace the 301 bus service.
Ms Wilson-Marklew explained non-commercially viable routes are being replaced but the DRT will cover all of MK and can be used in conjunction with regular buses. She addressed specific questions:

- Return journeys: passengers need to book a return before leaving or using phone while out. She is aware this is an issue for those without mobile phones if you do not know how long you will be out
- MK Move cards: available at machines in town, including the one at the bus stop on WS High Street, and MK train station. Ways of distributing via groups for elderly are being investigated
- How to get to an appointment/catch a train at a specific time? The app will give you the arrival time at your destination
- Can no longer use Saver Tickets because these are issues by the carrier
- Bus use was considered pre-covid when deciding to replace the 301
- What about commuters using the buses? Currently can only book individual journeys but block booking is being looked at
- Is there government support? Ms Wilson-Marklew doesn't know
- Routes are worked out by the software, it isn't a taxi service so will stop to pick up others but only if they are going in the same direction. More than one vehicle will come out to WS if passengers are travelling from WS at the same time but going to different destinations. There will be no set route
- Vehicles have been specially purchased for MKC and are branded so clear what they are
- The scheme has been tested in other areas of MK and 'stress tested' by VIA operators. It works world wide and is well tested in rural areas. There will be evaluation and improvements put in place if necessary
- There will be a leaflet drop in WS about DRT
- What will happen to bus stops/shelters? Not sure, but one idea is to use for e-scooters and bikes

125/21 **Progress Reports**

a. Clerk's Report attached,

Complaints reports to MKC:

- Street light out on Chapel Street reported
- Street name sign to Tidbury Close broken and request for no through road sign reported
- A blocked drain or gully on Cranfield Rd near Station Rd junction

Responses:

- Cranfield Rd Station Rd junction flooding – MKC replied to say it does not fall within their immediate safety priority for undertaking a repair
- The bollard at the junction next to Nonnas has had a temporary repair

b. Halls and Library

The Sports Hall has been delayed, there is no date for handover but probably nearer June

c. Environment

- Five dog bins have been replaced in Parklands
- There is no progress with the Hardwick Rd layby resurfacing, maybe ask someone else to do it
- Are Taylor Wimpey supposed to put in more trees on Summerlin Drive? Clerk to check

126/21 Unitary Councillor's Report Circulated

- Garden waste collection to be resumed this week
- Numbers of people not socially distancing/wearing masks while out including at WS Community Market is of concern, Cllr Hopkins will raise this issue however TVP are the enforcing officers

127/21 Planning

Notification from Milton Keynes Council of the following applications:

- a. *21/00570/HNOT Hedgerow notification to remove hedgerow to facilitate the laying of connection for improved water main

WS Railway Station

WSTC do not object but would like planting after work to replace plants removed

- b. *21/00614/FUL Single storey front extension

34 Drayhorse Crescent

Objection sent because it will destroy the symmetry of a pair of semidetached houses and make an incongruous view from the street scene. Furthermore it would be visible from the front rooms of the neighbouring semi and shade their frontage.

- c. *21/00552/FUL single storey building for refuse and cycle store

Land adjacent Asplands Close

Objection sent because it enlarges the footprint of the shed, moves the footpath and removes the new tree proposed for the site entrance, nor does it allow for the footpath to be behind a gate. Also red cedars appear to be suffering damage from construction work.

- d. *21/00681/FUL Ground floor and first floor rear extensions and conversion of garage

22 Russell Street

WSTC is not objecting but concerned about the alteration in symmetry and impact upon light and views from neighbours

- e. *21/00746/FUL :

33 Vandyke Close

Application for a single story extension

- f. **Notification of Decisions made from Milton Keynes Council**

Single storey extension to Asplands Medical Centre – permission granted

Frosts Garden Centre: 4 retail units and dog grooming – approval given subject to conditions

128/21 Grounds maintenance tenders

Cllr Skelton reported tenders were opened at Environment meeting 10.30am Monday 15th March. There were three responses not including JLB who decided not to submit a tender again. The Environment Committee decided RTM Landscapes were the most suitable. It was **RESOLVED** to accept their tender subject to references. The Clerk will phone at least two other parishes who use RTM for references.

129/21 SEMK consultation update

- a. **WSTC response to MKC:** there are concerns with Woodleys Rd and the housing density.

The existing Woodleys Rd could be utilised as part of a new road, also, there should be a 30mph limited not 50mph as in the document. The Council would like to see one access onto Bow Brickhill Rd which could be a boundary for the country park, and there should be parking. There should not be grid roads across the housing development.

Proposed housing is too dense with blocks up to six storey high is not at all in keeping with the rural area. The proposals are about 50 dwellings per hectare (dph), it is currently 10-20 dph on Bow Brickhill Rd. Cllr Hopkins recommended watching the Q&A session with Matthew Clarke. If there were larger green buffer zones they will not fit 3,000 homes in with a lower density. However, a new proposed development MK East has a lower density. It also has 'green bridges' and is more sympathetic to its environment.

Cllr Geddes will draw up a draft for midweek so can be summarised for WSTC newsletter.

b. **Exhibition changes:**

It was decided the exhibition should be cancelled, government guidance suggests this type of event should not take place yet and to do so would not set a good example to residents who wish to make hall booking for their own activities.

130/21 **Model Councillor Code of Conduct**

Updated Model Code of Conduct **APPROVED** for adoption

131/21 **GDPR**

Update on Councillor's email addresses. We already have an e-communications policy, going forward all new councillors should be encouraged to have a separate email address for TC communications. Current Councillors can continue with their existing email addresses, but remember all official communication should go through the Clerk. The email domain wstc.org.uk has a cost per address, Cllrs Rae and Cowmeadow to have further discussion on this. If Councillors have an email address just for official use then it should have the wstc.org address The Clerk to find out the cost.

132/21 **CCTV**

- a. Report circulated – it shows very high levels of anti-social parking
- b. The police have requested use of the camera to monitor anti-social behaviour, this was **AGREED**
- c. A resident has requested to have the camera on Vicarage Street

133/21 **Notification of Urgent Decisions that have been made**

- a. Purchase of a screen at £89.99. This can be used on a table top as a barrier between two people

134/21 **Finance**

- a. To consider and approve payments on list enclosed
- b. A list of payments had been circulated and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise all payments to be signed by the Chairman.

135/21 **Councillor's reports and items for next agenda**

136/21 **Date of next meeting agreed on Monday 12th April 2.30pm at the Summerlin Centre.** This is a change from the time on the agenda.

The following meeting can be held face-to-face if it is on the third week on the month, **Monday 17th May** and will be at 2.30pm. Town Council meetings can resume in the evening on the second Monday of the month from June onwards.

Meeting closed: 4.10pm