

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.53p.m.

Present Councillors:

Cllr M Geddes (in the chair)
C. Cowmeadow, D. Hopkins, J. Jeffreys, Dr J Rae, P. Skelton

Clerk : Mrs L Stapleton

Apologies P. Farrant

Also Present 9 members of the public

131/20 Town Mayor's Announcements

Cllr. Geddes thanked those who helped clear under stage on 30 December.

A meeting has been arranged on 20 January at 10am with a company that MKC use for CCTV equipment and open to all Councillors.

The Clerk will be away 23, 24 and 27th January

132/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jeffreys - Greens Hotel/Community Room and subsequent meetings.

The meeting was closed for public speaking at 7.30 – 7.52

Notes of this item will be separate to the minutes.

Meeting reconvened 7.53

133/20 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 09 December 2019 had been circulated, approved and signed as a true record.

134/20 Progress Reports for information

a Clerk

- Oversaw skip into car park Saturday 21 December. Came in 7.30am 2nd January to arrange access for the skip to be taken away.
- Sent letter to Age UK cancelling I & A from 31 March, calculated all telephone costs and sent invoice.
- Liaising with Chargemaster and MKC regarding Electric charger in car park
- No news given regarding employment units in Parklands and no one has contacted resident.
- Trying to establish who has put CCTV camera up in High Street. MKC have confirmed it is not theirs and almost sure it would be the Police.
- Shoppers car park barrier has been destroyed and removed after an accident. Notified Insurance Company that there might be a claim, and liaising with third party. This took up most of 6th January to sort out.
- Cllrs. Jeffreys and Rae arranged for the Christmas Tree to be on display at St. Michaels Tree Festival.
- Meeting with Phil Snell at Recreation Ground 8th January and Greens Community Room meeting on 8 January.
- Trying to get someone out from MKC to look at lay-by in Hardwick Road.
- Still chasing Taylor Wimpey regarding who/where are the employment units being advertised.
- Inspected hedge opposite Nursery on Hardwick Road for lack of splay of vision for vehicles with Grounds Contractor, as I asked him to cut back but was reluctant to do this. The hedge is cut back to kerb and would need serious removal of Yew tree to cut right back. The problem does not lie with the hedge, it is the parking making vehicles leaving Hardwick Road on the wrong side of the Road. Council will have to consider losing tree which is not near the junction or get some form of parking restriction.

Note of complaints registered to Environmental Services

Parking signs for High Street which were removed (post has now been installed with no sign)

Chasing the post on Mowbray Green Highway verge which is broken

Hardwick Place for meeting for Lay-by

Since Agenda being sent out have had complaints that dogs are not kept on a lead in Rec.

Applied to become a Stakeholder with Highways England just before Christmas, but not received a reply yet. Likely due to the Christmas Break. I will chase at the end of next week if not heard anything.

- b. **Halls and Library**
 Cllr. Geddes reported that 2 repairs that will need addressing in the near future flat roof at The Memorial where there was a leak around the roof light and the Summerlin Centre flat roof which leaks in heavy rainfall, which the solar panels are on, quotations will be sought.
 Quotations are being sought for access to under the stage.
 The Clerk had alerted the Chairman of the impending expenditure of the roof works and of future salary costs, in case budgets need to be adjusted.
- c. **Environment**
 Cllr. Skelton enquired if there had been any news on the trees that had been removed at Burlington Hall, it had been notified to MKC but no news received. There had been a complaint regarding dogs off lead in the Recreation Ground.
 Cllr. Skelton will be attending a follow-up Biodiversity meeting at MKC on 6th February.
- d. **Police and Policing**
 Cllr Geddes suggested that an open meeting be held with the Police discussing recent spate of crimes. This was agreed.
- e. **Edgewick Farm**
 Cllr Skelton informed members that the Fullers Earth Heritage Trail has been submitted for match funding (approx. £500), some fence posts will need replacing. He will be attending Greensand Country Landscape Partnership training session on 27th January.
 He will write an article for the Spring Newsletter.
- f. **Fulbrook School**
 Notification that Central Beds have backed the part of the plan for Fulbrook to become an extended Secondary School and Swallowfield and Aspley Guise Lower to become primary Schools in 2022
- g. **Market**
 Nil to report
- h. **Christmas Fayre**
 It was reported that a donation of £500 had been made to LWS Community Transport, and a contribution will be made to the Council towards the Lights.
- j. **Summer Festival 2019**
 Nil to report
- k. **Communications**
 Cllr. Rae informed members that information regarding the Expressway and contact details of the local group “No to Expressway” should go on the website as soon as possible.
- l. **Love Woburn Sands**
 Nil to report
- m. **East/West Rail/Network Rail**
Nil to report
- n. **SEMK**
 Nil to report
Expressway
 The “No Expressway” group attended at 7pm, Cllrs agreed that the full information will be placed on the Council’s website, a public meeting will be held when Government announce some decisions.
 Cllr Skelton will continue to work with the group.
 Cllr Hopkins put a motion to Cabinet *I invite the Cabinet to immediately issue a statement expressing this Council’s total and unequivocal opposition to the said Expressway.*
 Motion declined. He will submit a further motion to Full Council.
 It was agreed to work with the “No to Expressway” group to get a balanced view and look at opportunities.

135/20 **Unitary Councillor Report**

Cllr Hopkins had circulated a report which included the approval 20mph restrictions for Theydon Avenue, Wood Street and Chapel Street and to be considered next financial year Station Road, Expressway, the impacts of climate change, cold Weather Alert system is now operating, Fulbrook School changes, Wavendon Properties Appeal and EWR train details.

136/20 **Planning**

Notification from Milton Keynes Council of the following applications:

- a. 19/03413/FUL Single storey side/rear extension with raised patio at:
24 The Leys *No comment*
- 19/03406/FUL Hip to gable roof extension, rear facing dormer structure and replacement roof to existing front dormer from flat to pitch at:
46 The Leys *No Comment*
- 19/03401/FUL Demolition of existing garage, erection of a single storey front/side/rear extension and internal alterations at:
27 Vandyke Close *No Comment*
- b. **Notification of Decisions made from Milton Keynes Council**
59 High Street No Objection
- c. **Parklands, Greens, Greens Community Room, Updates (if any.)**
Cllr Jeffreys updated members that a draft agreement between the Greens Court and the Town Council outlining responsibilities was discussed at a meeting held on 8 January. Further investigations regarding insurance are being taken up with the Housing Association. HML. It is hoped that the rooms will be ready to hire by 1st February.
It has been reported that Residents of Greens Court and Connelly Homes are trying to resolve land ownership of Club Lane and the Access road into the car park.

137/20 **Memorial Under Stage**

The Clerk reported that a contractor had been to inspect the access to under the stage, there is not enough head room for a hatch to be lifted but an option to install a staircase on the actual stage, losing approximately 1 mtr. off the width of the stage. Quotes are being obtained.

138/20 **Young Environmentalist**

Cllr Rae informed members that the meeting with the Greensand Country was cancelled; Councillors Hopkins and Skelton had been very helpful recommending contacts.

139/20 **Play Area Rec.**

Cllr Geddes and the Clerk met Phil Snell 8th January, report circulated, there is some funding available from S.106, the Council will now get suggestions from residents on how to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground, when these have been compiled Mr Snell has offered to project manage.
Cllr Cowmeadow reported the flood at the northern edge of the Recreation Green making assess difficult.

140/20 **Danfo WC**

Under contract until October 2020, Clerk making enquiries on the best way forward to remove. Payment has already been made to SSE for the removal of the meter. Clerk is in discussion with Danfo and will update when further information received. The Clerk confirmed that notice of termination has been given.

141/20 **Car Park Barrier**

Barrier has been damaged beyond repair. Clerk has notified Insurance, but in discussions with third party regarding any liability.

142/20 **Climate Emergency**

That Woburn Sands Town Council supports Milton Keynes Council in that it agrees to;

- a. Support the declaration of a climate emergency.
- b. Pledge to help make Woburn Sands carbon neutral by 2030 through supporting the initiatives of central government and MKC (as appropriate and practicable) to make target possible.
- c. Work with other 'governments' to identify and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5%.
- d. Work with partners in the town, the Danesborough Forum, the Borough and the Region to help deliver this goal.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the above points.

Suggestions that the shops could be supplied with re-usable shopping bags, anti-idling was also mentioned. Cllr Skelton will bring forward suggestions for the next meeting.

143/20 **Community Infrastructure Fund**

This fund is now open deadline for applications being 7 February.
Council will apply funding towards the cost of installing CCTV.

144/20 **VE Day**

Agreed that the day will be recognised with a commemoration ceremony at the War Memorial, with the Woburn Sands Band and Sands Singers, this will start at 10.30am. Further ideas to be discussed.

145/20 **Green Infrastructure Project**

Drop in information event on January 22nd in Wolverton. This is a project of putting a green roof on bus shelters, a flat roof is required, which we have none.

146/20 **April Council Meeting Date & Annual Town Meeting Date**

April Town Council Meeting will be held 6 April due to Easter Monday 13 April.
Town Meeting 21st April in the Memorial Hall.

147/20 **Notification of Urgent Decisions that have been made.**

Removal of car park barrier due to risk factor after an accident.

148/20 **Finance**

- a.. Cllr Cowmeadow to report on meeting held on 6th January
The Clerk
Salaries Proposed staff salaries to take effect from 1st April 2020
2% increase for the Clerk, Clerical Assistant and Mike Smith increase hours from 16 per week to 18.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve these increases
Budgets Draft budgets had been circulated
Outline of changes: WC budget increased to £13,000.
£15,000 will be used from Reserves to lower the Council Tax increase implication.
£8,000 from Reserves to fund CCTV.
£10,000 from Reserves to fund employment of Warden. Both of these were driven by the community.
Members were made aware that some of the expenditure items will be a one-off expenditure.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budgets for 2020 – 21 and the use of Reserves if required.
- b. A list of payments had been circulated, all invoices were tabled, and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise all payments and duly signed by two members.

149/20 **Correspondence for Information**

- a. Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Annual Report November 2019 tabled.
b. Redeeming our Communities – Community engagement events in February will be held at Grange Farm, Monkston Park, Water Eaton and Milton Keynes.

150/20 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

Cllr Rae thanked the Council on behalf of The Cryers in making the Memorial Hall available on 4th January their concert which raised over £800 for Charity.

151/20 **Date of next meeting will be on 10 February 2020**

Meeting closed 9.05 pm