# **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 23rd April 2024**

**Councillors** **Present:** Bennett, Hussain, Kanwar, Khumbula, Lewis (chair), Robertson, Saunders (vice-chair), Quereshi, and Riaz

**Also present**: Andrea Vincent (Town Clerk) and Mandy Shipp (Assistant Clerk) and two members of the public

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30:

1. **TC23/294** **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Bamisilie – Work

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Roberston

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

Cllr Orimogunje - work

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

Cllr Forbes – Bereavement

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Robertson

***The following Cllrs were absent no apologies received*:**

none

1. **TC23/295** **Declarations of Interest:** To receive Councillor declarations of interest on any matter on the agenda: Under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, made under s30 (3) of the Localism Act, members must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

**none**

1. **TC23/296 Approval of the Minutes:**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Hussain

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from 26th March 2024 as a true and correct record.

1. **TC23/297** **Governance**
2. **Council Meetings: To agree that there will be no Council meeting scheduled for August, unless and extraordinary meeting is** **required**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. 1 abstention. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to that there would be no council meeting during August and that the meeting dates for Full Council would be held closer together

Dates to be closer together

1. **Local Government Pension Scheme:** To review and approve the discretion policy.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Moss and **seconded** by Cllr Lewis

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Town Clerks recommendations to keep the policy unchanged following a review that had been taken earlier by the Personnel Committee

1. **Allotments:** To review and approve the following draft management policies on: Bee, Rabbit and Poultry Keeping

A summary of all the proposed policies were read out to all Cllrs present. Following some queries raised by Cllr Saunders and subject to some small changes to be made to the policies with officer staff

It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Roberton's

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the policy on beekeeping policy

It was **proposed** by Cllr Khumbula and **seconded** by Cllr Kanwar

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the policy on poultry keeping

It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the policy on rabbit keeping

1. **TC23/298** **Governance (To note):**
2. **Civility and Respect Pledge**: To inform council of any further training attended by councillors as part of the agreed pledge.

It was **noted** that there had been none attended

1. **CILCA Qualification:** It was **noted** that the Town Clerk has successfully completed and passed her CiLCA

Cllrs present passed on their congratulations.

1. **Committee, Working Groups and Outside Bodies updates**:
2. **ASB Working Group**: to receive an update on the groups progress from Cllr Bamisilie

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item as Cllr Bamisilie not present to provide any further updates

1. **Agora Working Group**: The following update from Cllr Moss was **received** and **noted**

**“*Agora Working Group - 11th April 2024 - Online***

1. *Agora Update - Led by "Town"*
   1. *More delays and slow progress. Difficulty with both materials and labour (combination of war in Ukraine, the global economy etc)*
   2. *The PCSA (Pre-Construction Service Agreement) is in place - to my Layman's eyes it's a Contract to enter into a Contract and, on a project this size, a vital first step.*
   3. *Explicitly noted were the St George's Way Car Park must be in place before the Agora Car Park is lost and that pedestrian North-South access should be maintained.*
   4. *Expect to see some activity on site in the late Autumn - but (to manage expectations) this* ***won't****mean bricks and steel going up. Likely to be marking the site out, working on foundations, contractors cabins etc.*
   5. *Q & A - No dates can be confirmed yet (even in outline). Rob M is handing over to Lauren Townsend (who lives in Wolverton)* ***but*** *expects to remain involved as a Ward Councillor*
2. *Church St Remodel - Led by Victoria, MKCC*
   1. *We've listened to comments both from the WG and from Residents and done what we can - More parking, less planters, better bus waiting, different* ***types****of parking... see diagram below*

A map of a city

Description automatically generated

*Discussion*

*Everyone was in agreement, the new design was a vast improvement on the original.*

* *Referring to works on, or adjacent to, Church Land there were likely to be boundary issues. St Georges predates all planning or registration law and the land registry system. Deciding land ownership for the parking bay to the East of the church could be problematic.*
* *There were still questions around bus congestion on Church Street - Buss's had to be there simultaneously to allow passenger interchange in both directions.*
* *Marie (Future Wolverton) noted that WGTC had been in contact with Arriva to suggest that Wolverton Station (instead of The Agora) be the Terminus / Holding Point / Interchange for bus traffic.* ***Do we have any update I can feed back to the WG? Or can I put WGTC directly in touch with Town / Victoria?*** *(I know you are probably in touch already, but it would be good to report a "win" to the WG...)*
* *A resident commented that the electric bus service has ceased, the (diesel) buses are noisy and polluting (both into the air and on the road) and the constant running of engines early morning and late at night disturbs residents.*
* *It was noted that the current vehicles are so unreliable - drivers dare not turn off the engine in case it won't start again.*
* *It was also noted that the current bus charging point (installed at vast expense and public inconvenience over a decade ago) was no longer in use - obsolete technology*
* *However... ripping out the charger (at more public inconvenience) without introducing* ***new****electric vehicles could send the wrong message...*
* *It was suggested MKCC / Town get an article in the next WGTC Parish Magazine (including the plan above) with current timescales etc.*
* ***It was noted the deadline is around 1st week in May for June/July issue.****(hopefully expect a formal article from Town / MKCC) Further updates are expected soon and will be passed on when received"*

Cllr Saunders also **noted** that further from the report that the delay facing the build was due to the underfloor heating and changes to the height of the build.

1. **TC23/299 Finance (Decision)**
2. **Big Lunch Grants:** Consider the proposal to offer grants to local residents using the process as in 2023

The following report was received from the Town Clerk

“*For the past 2 years we have given grants for the BIG LUNCH asking on the form that the applicant to engage at least 5 neighbours to sign up and then to contact their local parish councillor to ensure that the councillor knows what is going on in their patch. Each group received £100 towards the BIG LUNCH and the Mayor visits each event on the day. It is strongly recommended that this is done again this year.*

*With a view of advertising this very quickly and emailing those who had previously had grants and advising them to get their own insurance”*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to offer grants to local residents for up to £100 for the BIG LUNCH and to advertise this in this short time frame

1. **Grant Application:** Consider the grant application for £400 from Milton Keynes Community Choir for a concert to be held at the Ridgeway Centre

It was **proposed** by Cllr Saunders and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. 1 abstention. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to offer them £500 (not the £400) as proposed by the Town Clerk and publicise this event further on their behalf.

1. **Council Magazine:** To consider the quotes received for printing and approve the supplier

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Hussain

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current supplier**.** Their printing costs are £1796 per issue are within reasonable bounds and within budget. Should the situation change we would refer to the quotes and contacts on file

1. **Christmas Tree In the Square:** To consider the quotes received for an artificial tree In The Square and approve a contractor.

The following update was **received** and **noted** from the Town Clerk regards to Christmas tree quotes.

“*a real tree is becoming less and less obtainable as well as expensive. Also, the quality cannot be guaranteed any longer. With great reluctance I recommend you select one of the artificial trees for the Square*”

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to opt for quote B for an artificial tree

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the supplier if the theme could change slightly each year

It was **RESOLVED** to clarify with the CEPO regards to holding an event in November and have the switch on earlier in November, and to provide Cllrs an update on this at the next meeting

1. **Christmas Lights Stacey Bushes:** Per minute ref *TC23/291* to receive an update from the contractor on updating the infrastructure and any works associated for Briar Hill’s display for 2024

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote provided for 15 columns to be lit on Briar Hill for £3445.00

It was **RESOLVED** to clarify if the quoted price would reduce should the timers not be required and update Cllrs at the next meeting.

1. **TC23/300 Finance: (to note)**
2. **March Council Expenditure:** It was **RESOLVED** to **note** the expenditure over £500 for March 2024
3. **CCLA Statement:** It was **RESOLVED** to **note** the most recent statement and that the office are speaking to CCLA with a view to a possible move of funds. The statement notes that the previous statements show no profit on this account
4. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme (UKSPF):** It was **RESOLVED** to **note** that per minute ref *TC23/286*c the application for this funding was submitted by the Assistant Clerk and we await the outcome.
5. **Council IT and Equipment:** It was **RESOLVED** to note that per minute ref *TC23/286c* and b that tablets for all Cllrs have been purchased and are on order these will be allocated to councillors in due course.
6. **Online Banking:** To receive an update from Cllr Bamisilie on resolving her issues with logging on. In Cllr Bamisilie absence the Assistant Clerk **noted** that she is now able to log in.
7. **Stacey Bushes Meeting Place:** It was **RESOLVED** to note that WGTC has paid water charges of £1240.04 up to May 2023 and have since been credited with £948.66 from this. The charges from 1st February 2023 to 31st May 2023 were £291.38 and we still have a credit balance of £453.58

*Cllr Khumbula left the meeting at 20:21*

1. **TC23/301 Council Assets:**
2. **Town Hall (Decision):**
3. **Carpark CCTV**: To consider the proposal for replacement of the CCTV camera in the Town Hall car park

It was **proposed** by Cllr Hussain and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote to replace and install x1 new 2.7-13.5MM Ext Low Light 5MP Turbo Turret located in the car park (camera 3) and base due to existing being faulty. Cost to supply, install, test & commission: £ 537.71 + VAT

1. **WGTC Entrance Mats:** To consider the proposal enclosed (Proposal enclosed)

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Hussain

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the purchasing of one set of mats, to the officers for the town hall entrance

1. **The Square:** It was **noted** that The Square is a council owned asset and that all future planned events or use of it, will be added to the council booking system to avoid events coinciding.

It was **noted** that a hirers policy will be devised for council approval in due course.

1. **Water Tower:** To receive and note the update on the drone to investigate the leak,

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item as the full report had not yet been received

1. **TC23/302** **Community (Decision to be made)**
2. **Wolverton Community Improvement District (CID)** Councillors are asked to consider approving the following requests from the CID (documents enclosed):
3. *Does the Town Council give permission for monthly use of The Square for the next 6*

*months for the purpose of a Community Street Market?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Moss and **seconded** by Cllr Roberston

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this, subject to a review after 6 months and with the booking form

1. *Does the Town Council support the dispensation/suspension of 2 parking bays and*

*two areas of double yellow lines either side of The Square for future markets?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree offices comments as follows:

“We can certainly support a request and recommend council do but as its not in our gift not sure how much help that is”

1. *Does the Town Council agree to the use of a full page of the newsletter to advertise*

*the Community Street Market?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Husain and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree with officers' comments as follows:

In principle yes - but it will need to show WGTC support (e.g. logo as a minimum). There may be editions where editorially we need it to be say ½ a page

1. *Does the Town Council agree to a banner on their railings advertising the Street*

*Market?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve on one banner, and be guided by officer comments as follows:

This would need to be a design approved by WGTC and would need to be taken down for other events e.g. Scarecrow festival and Greenleys 50th

1. *Does the Town Council have any further thoughts on more semi-permanent Market*

*signage?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennett and **seconded** by Cllr Riaz

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to follow officers' comments as follows

We are already looking to use sec 106 for heritage signage so this could be added to the list

1. *Does the Town Council give permission for this one-off music event to be held in The*

*Square on Sunday 25th August?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Roberston

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the decision on this until further clarification on the type of event was provided to the Town Council.

1. *Does the Town Council give permission for Future Wolverton trainees and trainees*

*from Branch Out CIC (with suitable staff support) to repair and repaint the planters on*

*The Square?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Moss and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to be guided by the officers' comments as follows:

We should agree so long as the In Bloom team and Caretakers are included to direct works

1. *Does the Town Council give permission for the addition of edibles and herbs to the*

*planters on The Square?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bennet and **seconded** by Cllr Moss

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to follow officer comments as follows defer until further clarification was received:

We would need to see what plants are planned and if it’s intended as edibles for wildlife or people. The former is fine the latter less strait forward

1. *Does the Town Council give permission for the addition of edibles and herbs to the*

*Corner bed on The Square?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

A vote by show of hands was taken by those in attendance. Unanimous. Vote carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to reject permission to plant edibles on the corner bed of The Square.

1. *Does the Town Council give permission for a new seat/planter to be installed on The*

*Square by Bushfield School working in conjunction with Future Wolverton?*

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr Bennett

It was **RESOLVED** that there was sufficient seating in The Square and to suggest that they may wish to look at siting this instead at the top of Radcliffe Street subject to MKCC approval.

1. **Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF):** It was **noted** that WGTC have been successful in obtaining more funding for SIDS and have new application for 2024/25. The recommendation is to apply for funding towards additional parking facilities at Hodge Lea Meeting Place.
2. **TC23/303** **Community (To note)**
3. **Mayor:** A verbal update was received from Cllr Lewis on events attended. .
4. **Community Events and Projects update**: The following update from the CEPO was **received** and **noted**

***“Youth Provision***

* *Youth provisions are continuing. We are still awaiting a start date for the Hodge Lea Lounge. CEPO will organise this with Bar Bar.*

***Youth Council***

* *There is a provisional date of 26th April for the open reach box artist to visit The Radcliffe School, to deliver a workshop to year 10 art students. The idea is that the work the students will produce will be incorporated onto the street boxes*
* *Members of the Youth Council have agreed to attend Boxing and the Lounge, with a film maker on 25th April, to begin gaining footage of activities for a “promotional film” of youth activity in the parish. This will continue into May, to gain footage of other activities – including the monthly Craft Sessions*

***Warm Hubs***

* *CEPO will be meeting the Head of the Rowans Family centre on 23rd April, to organise support for family/children’s activities at Stacey Bushes warm hub.*
* *Hodge Lea lunch club – “Ragdolly Anna” who runs dance/exercise classes will be running an afternoon session every third Thursday of the month, following a successful trial.*

***School performance***

* *There is a provisional date of 11th June for a Civic Service at St Georges Church. This will be a smaller event compared to the Christmas one and we are looking to theme this on the “environment”, as this ties in with what the schools are learning.*

***Fireworks***

* *Fantastic Fireworks” will start planning their display, following Full Council’s decision.*

***Christmas***

* *Following on from Full Council’s choice of contractor for the lights, there is also a decision to be made regarding the tree (presented separately from the same contractor)*

***Twinning***

* *If any councillors would like to join – there is still space on the trip (£170pp for a twin room or £220pp for a single room). CEPO will need to release rooms back to the hotel at the end of April, so please do let me know by then.*

***Traffic and Parking Working Group***

* *Two members of MKCC will be attending the next Traffic and Parking working group on 23rd May @ 10:30am. This will provide the working group with any opportunity to ask questions regarding regulations and perhaps work schedules.*

***Events***

* *We had a very positive turnout for the community Easter Egg trail on Tuesday 2nd April with 5 Youth Councillors in attendance. Lots of families and children took part and the businesses were happy to be a part of this. This is something we would like to continue.*
* *Thursday 6th June “Lighting of the Beacon”. Gates at the museum will open from 7:00pm and singing entertainment will start at 7:30pm. The cadets have also agreed to be involved in this and the CEPO will be meeting them at MK Museum on 3rd May, to run through the activity. There will also be a food stall on site.*
* *Sunday 30th June “Family Fun day and 50 Years of Greenleys at MK Museum”. The promotion of this is underway and CEPO has started leafleting the shops area / crofts in Greenleys. Cllr. Robertson is kindly promoting at the Wednesday lunch club and amongst the flats. Places for People will also be promoting. We are particularly looking for residents of Greenleys to have their say and be involved in the event by recommending what sort of music/entertainment they might on the day, if they want a stall of activity, or if they might like to contribute memories or material towards an exhibition that is being commissioned by Living Archive MK. MKCC have contributed £3,000 to create a Greenleys themed exhibition, which should be on display in the New Gallery at MK Museum (also shown on the same day as the event).*

*Much appreciated if Councillors could promote and share these events!*

*\*\*Update 18.4.24*

*MP Ben Everett will be attending the Youth Boxing and the lounge events on June 6th*

*Youth Councillors attended the CID market event in the square and served hot chocolates for small donations which saw them raise £23. This will go back into their budget”*

Cllrs wished to **note** their thanks to the CEPO for the detailed report

1. **TC23/304 Services** (to note) **CCTV: The following report was received and noted for March**

*Parish (mobile) CCTV update*

***“Camera 1*** *Install date: 7th October 2021*

*Reason for install: This camera is in place due to ongoing reports of ASB and gatherings.*

*Reports/Identified Incidents: We have identified seven instances of motorbikes/quadbikes driving on the red ways and other pedestrian areas during the month of February. We have secured the footage for intelligence purposes and supplied evidence to the police.*

*On the 22nd March 2024, we received an urgent request to review footage regarding an incident in the area with the suspects in custody at the time. We secured and supplied the footage*

*Outcomes: The police have informed us that there is an ongoing problem-solving project for motorbike ASB in the area. We are continuing to provide evidence for this*

*Status: We are continuing to review this camera regularly.*

***Camera 2*** *Install date: 20th July 2023 Reason for install: This camera is in place due to reports of anti-social behaviour and youths in the area.*

*Reports/Identified incidents:*

*On the 11th of March 2024, we observed the same group of youths in the area. We secured this footage and supplied this to the Neighbourhood Policing Team for intelligence purposes*

*Outcomes:*

*We have been informed that one of the youths has been issued a Community Protection Warning, and two more youths are yet to receive a Community Protection Warning*

*Status:*

*We are continuing to review this camera regularly.*

*Redeploy This camera is earmarked to be redeployed”*

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 20:29

The next scheduled meeting is due to be held on 28 May 2024 at the Town Hall Wolverton.

Signed as a true and accurate record.

……………………………………………………………………………………….

Chair