

The Annual Meeting for Woburn Sands

The Memorial Hall

7.00 pm Tuesday 2nd May 2023

	Minutes	Action
1/23	Present: Councillors - P. Skelton, C. Cowmeadow, D. Hopkins, G. Brooke, J. Green, M. Geddes, R. Lanyon-Hogg, J. Rae, T. Sutton, Town Clerk A. Jordan, Caretaker S. Tomlinson, Greensand Partnership Officer, PCSO Amy Ryan and Police Sgt Rob Childs. Members of public: 13	
2/23	Apologies: M. Wathen	
3/23	Minutes of the last Town Meeting, 3 rd May 2022: Accepted – Proposed Vanessa Skelton seconded Bob Youngman	Accepted
4/23	<p>Thames Valley Police Report:</p> <p>Crime figures. Sometimes a crime can be reported but when investigated it is not a crime, however this will show as a reported crime. PC Rob Childs said he will not include certain crimes e.g. domestic assault and sexual assaults.</p> <p>347 reports over past 12 months 170 were then recorded as a crime, others were, for example, suspicious incidents.</p> <p>4 business burglaries 3 residential burglaries this is a good, low figure.</p> <p>12 public order offences e.g. shouting in the street</p> <p>12 auto thefts, this is an improved figure from previous years but easily preventable as most are because cars are left unlocked.</p> <p>13 theft of vehicles.</p> <p>4 reports of ASB – community</p> <p>1 personal ASB. This is very low, maybe people all get along here or, more likely, people are reluctant to report this crime. PC Childs would urge people to report any incidents so the police can identify and control areas of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>10 shop lifting incidents. This may not be accurate because of the issue of recording incidents sometimes shops are referred to Central Beds Police when this is TVP area.</p> <p>Theft of vans is a problem generally in MK and so TVP are working on that, also the summer does bring more ASB where people/groups might be hanging out e.g. in the rec.</p> <p>Urge residents to report issues because the police won't put resources to an area if they do not know of issues.</p> <p>- Can Central Beds Police crime statistics be included as we are so close to the border?</p>	The minutes record TVP crime figures as being over the year but are actually 90 days. Minutes need to be corrected.

	<p>- Crimewave/CCTV link: was at the rec and now on the High Street. Anticipates busiest here for now but potentially might be more useful at the recreation ground during the summer.</p> <p>What happens if ring 101 but live on the border, i.e. Weathercock Lane? Should be asked which force you require, Woburn Sands residents should ask for TVP and you will be redirected. Problem is some do not know if they are under Beds or MK. Some incidents are passed back and forth between the two forces. There has been a serious incident on fields near Frosts/Bellway; TVP are patrolling the area regularly and it is still under investigation.</p> <p>Last year's total numbers in minutes was 35 +so this year is a significant increase. These were the past 90 days not the whole year.</p> <p>Sgt R thinks has been a small increase from last year but nothing the he thinks is of a significant concern for the community and council. Happy to provide more accurate figures if wanted.</p> <p>Crime figures checked every morning and police will attend to, not just checked for a meeting.</p> <p>Asked if Sgt has thoughts on future expansion and potential changes. Cannot say, impossible to answer.</p> <p>Wood St resident said a drug dealing problem on the street, are police aware? Needs to be officially reported.</p>	
5/23	<p>Greensand Country Landscape Partnership:</p> <p>An initiative of 23 different organisations with aim of enhancing and promoting the Greensand area. Current funding has come to an end but are continuing with awareness raising activities. Working with farmers – agricultural land. Heritage. Climate change initiatives. Scheme for young people (leaflet). Greensand Festival May-June with a series of events, see website. Always looking for volunteers, and local businesses can be involved through a charter scheme.</p>	
6/23	<p>To Receive the Annual Reports of the Council: Chairman's General Report</p> <p>Mayor Peter Skelton summarised an eventful year. Mayor P Skelton thanked council officers and other councillors. See report.</p>	
a	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Councillor Jo Green summarised the planning process and WSTC situation. See report.</p>	
b	<p>Halls and Library: Councillor Mike Geddes gave a report on the increase of halls bookings and improvements in the WSTC buildings as well as GPCC and Greens Court. Thanked S Townend for her efficient bookings system, and Nicky Slater for her enthusiastic running of library. Thanked office staff including previous staff for efforts over the years. See report.</p>	
c	<p>Environment and Edgewick Farm and Recreation Ground:</p>	

	<p>Councillor Richard Lanyon-Hogg reported the spending this year has exceeded the budget due to unforeseen circumstances. Thanked Mayor Peter Skelton for leadership on the successful CCS. Thanks to Val Russell, Edgewick Farm volunteers and Greensand Trust for work on Edgewick Farm. Big thank you to former Mayor Councillor Jan Rae for successfully setting up the YEA. See report.</p>	
d	<p>Unitary Councillor's report: Ward Councillor David Hopkins gave a report looking at mayor developments across the ward, SEMK, EWR and other community pressure groups. Cllr Hopkins standing down as TC Cllr but will continue to attend as a Ward Cllr. See report.</p>	
e	<p>Town Council Accounts: Councillor Clive Cowmeadow reported on annual accounts. Last year was the first complete year of operation since covid restrictions. Cllr Cowmeadow summarised expenditure and income issues. Financially stable council. Thanks to all councillors including those who have previously stood. See report.</p>	
	<p>Questions from the public: Buses – Britannia Buses are running one a day. Not yet expanded due to a dispute with MKCC. Walk through from Club Lane, steps up to Vicarage Street private car park. Cones keep being moved. The land at the top of the steps and the steps themselves are private. Can the parking bay at the bottom of the steps in the WSTC car park be marked for no parking? The High Street and bus shelter look disgraceful, litter from shops and restaurants. Needs better maintenance. Cigarette ends outside The Swan, others too. Bus shelter annual clean in next two weeks. Park is very popular, love the recreation ground but lots of broken glass in play area and on paths. MKCC will deal with broken glass and offensive graffiti in 24hours. Can we have more signage to remind people to dispose of litter responsibly. For Cllr Hopkins – feedback from MKCC on 20mph speed limit on The Leys/BB Road. In discussion. BB Road SID doesn't work, why? MKCC is using s 106 funding to provide new SIDs on Station Road and Newport Rd which will free up WSTC SID to go on the BB Road. Traffic on corner of The Leys; double yellow lines marked out but some residents park there every day but nothing is done. – Parking is a problem, but a traffic warden needs to go out and observe this to be able to ticket, no good us reporting they will not act on a photograph.</p>	<p>Put parking bay on next agenda.</p> <p>Litter on next agenda</p> <p>Ask MKCC to send traffic wardens to this area.</p>

	<p>Condition of roads – Wood Street Theydon Avenue and The Leys get patched up but the roads are old and need proper attention. Want to raise awareness.</p> <p>Resident is pleased to say the road sweeper has been in WS today.</p> <p>Cllr Skelton said keep reporting if there is a problem, tell the Clerk and it will be reported. If not reported it will not be acted upon.</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins reminded everyone about the new wheely bins which are coming by September. Can request assisted collection and can request bags if housing makes space for bins difficult.</p> <p>Russell Street resident has written to MKCC about lack of space for bins on pavement in Russell Street.</p> <p>Resident said can request boxes instead of bins – if a single person and recycling on a small scale. Cllr Hopkins said supposed to be making a judgement on individual circumstances.</p>	
7/23	<p>To consider resolutions of which written notice has been received:</p> <p>None</p>	
8/23	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>None</p>	

Meeting closed 8.50pm