

The Annual Meeting for the Parishioners of Woburn Sands

The Memorial Hall 7pm Tuesday 7th May 2024

- 1/24** Present: councillors A Poppleton, K. Temple, G. Temple, J. Green, T. Sutton, R. Townend, Ward Councillors D Hopkins, Tracey Bailey. Clerk A Jordan. Members of Public approx. 40
- 2/24** Minutes of the last Town Meeting, Tuesday 2nd May 2023, nominated by Cllr T. Sutton and seconded Cllr D. Hopkins. Resolved to be APPROVED
- 3/24** Woburn Sands Town Council Report: presented by Chair J. Green on Finance, Halls, the Environmental responsibilities of WSTC.
- Qu.1 about the unreliability of the 450 bus service and what can the Town Council do about it.
 - Qu.2 Regarding the bollards outside chemist: the bollards were installed for safety reasons, to improve view of pedestrians crossing the road. Look to reinstate disabled space. Can WSTC request for a pelican crossing? Pleased to see the yellow box in the car park.
 - Qu. 3 what has happened to the street cleaner? WSTC understand cleaning still daily by MKCC. Bus shelter needs a clean? It is due to be cleaned very soon, this is annual.
 - Qu. 4 the council is not responsible for ensuring buses run. So why not, how long do we have to wait for a reliable bus service? Cllr Hopkins replied MKCC would say the MK Connect Service is there for all. Some attempts to improve it although we are aware it is not ideal.
 - Qu. 5 why can't Woburn Sands have more than one bus? Answer there is the no.47 [to and from Leighton Buzzard]. Suggest the bus issues be followed up by Ward Cllrs.
 - Qu. 6 the City Council does not repair potholes promptly, is MKCC not interested in Woburn Sands. Answer – MKCC does not have a vendetta against WS it is just as bad in all other areas. Everywhere in MK suffering due to lack of resources. Is every part of MK reporting same disappointment and what is MK doing about that? To be answered by ward cllr in reports.
 - Qu, 7 Wood Street resident – cars drive on pavement, this is not safe nor is pavement parking. Answer happening all over WS but not enough police/traffic wardens to police the problem.
 - Qu. 8 Traffic/Highways issue: at The Leys/Theydon Avenue junction there are two 'splays' and bollards to restrict traffic but the junction is blind and sharp. The structure is not safe can someone from Highways look to see if junction safe? Answer WSTC will follow this up and yellow lines too.
- 4/24** Gravel Pit Close Charity Report: presented by Chair J. Green. This report is on the TC website
- Qu. 1 roadside hedge cutting is incomplete ends near the pedestrian crossing, probably due to tractor not being able to get in the field. Answer – will pass onto RTM the grounds maintenance company

- 5/24** Ward Councillor David Hopkins. 2024 will be a year of consultations which will include: EWR; MK2050 Local Plan; SEMK (will be presented on by MG as Futures Group); Greensand Ridge protection; Danesborough Fort needs protection and working on having it listed on heritage list; on the 80th anniversary D-Day a peace lamp is to be lit. Thanked for support to Cllr V Hopkins in elections. The Ward is likely to change in the future due to growth.
- 6/24** Ward Councillor Tracey Bailey. Reflections on first year as a new councillor. A long-term resident of MK. The role of Ward Councillor is much harder work than anticipated and so Cllr T Bailey is resigning from other part time job to give more time to this role. The main frustrations are due to budgetary restraints. She has been working with Parklands residents to have Taylor Wimpey repair roads; working on road marking and crossing improvements; has walked the town and seen pavement/drain/pothole problems. In contact with Britannia Buses for an improved bus service. Appreciates the passion of local residents.
- 7/24** Thames Valley Police – a report on local crime statistics was read out on their behalf
- 8/24** George Wells Educational Foundation – report read by D Hopkins as a trustee of the charity. Money bequeathed by George Wells for education expenses for residents of the old Wavendon parish. Please encourage students to apply.
- 9/24** Poor's Coal Charity – a report by D Hopkins as a trustee of the charity. A charity to assist low-income families with energy costs. 50 applications of help approved last year, and funds paid directly to the suppliers. This support enabled by donations from various groups and charities including all parishes in the Danesborough Ward. Please encourage anyone with a household income of less than £20,000 pa to apply.
- 10/24** Greensand Trust – report presented by D Hopkins as sitting on the board of the trust.
- 11/24** Woburn Sands Library – a report presented by Clerk A Jordan and apologies from N Slater, Librarian.
- 12/24** Futures Group – report presented by M Geddes as Chair of the Futures Group. SEMK one of the biggest challenges to WS, about 2/3rd of this development is to be in WS. The first Developers applications are coming through in the autumn. The aim of the Futures Group is to try to make sure that the existing residents benefit as much as new residents from new facilities, and all development is complimentary to the existing villages/areas. M Geddes explained the proposals for the 'Woburn Sands Park' and the fishing lake. The Futures Group has had constructive meetings with developers. A local centre in SEMK with a new combined school, and discussions about what to go in the local centre. A medical centre is popular, but this is dependent on the NHS. Might like to consider community rooms but not a hall to complete with existing halls, the developers must contribute funds towards community facilities (s.106). Estimate another 18 months to 2 years before plans are fixed.

Cllr D H added the Marston Vale is operating cheap tickets for now and to the Bedford River Festival.

There were table top displays of information from:

Sands Singers, Edgewick Farm, The Community Market, Woburn Sands & Aspley Guise WI,