

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH
 Telephone: **01908 585368** e-mail: clerk@woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk
www.woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk

Members of Woburn Sands Town Council are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Woburn Sands Town Council on **Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Memorial Hall.**

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

DRAFT minutes

ACTIONS

191/24	Present: Cllr G Jones, W Green, Ward Cllr D Hopkins, K Fisher, A Poppleton, R Allan, G Smitham, T Sutton, Clerk A Jordan. Word Councillor T Bailey Members of the public x4	
192/24	Apologies and approve reasons for absence: Cllr K Temple	
193/24	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Under the localism act 2011 (section 26-37 and schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's code of conduct Cllr D Hopkins referred to his entry in the member's register of interests https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/parish-register-interests/david-Hopkins	
194/24	Town Mayor's Announcements (if any): Remembrance would like to see as many Cllrs as possible	
195/24	The meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Town Council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire. A Councillor with a prejudicial interest in a particular issue may address the Council on the issue during Public Question Time subject to the Councillor leaving the room in the event of an exchange of the issue between the public and the Council during this period. 3 mins each up to 15 mins total if any members of public wish to speak	
196/24	Pesticide use in Woburn Sands: Residents are asking WSTC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to agree to a ban on spraying in the town • to tell MK Council we do not want their contractors to spray plants in Woburn Sands and • for this to be included in future Grounds Maintenance contracts. Peter Skelton was invited to speak by the Chair on the argument to stop spraying pesticide due to the harmful effects on wildlife. Pointing out that pesticide kill insects indiscriminately not just those considered pests. The WSTC survey of 2022 had a response showing 77% support of banning spraying. Why do councils spray? It is claimed that weeds can damage infrastructure, it looks neat and tidy, and the cost. Cllr A Poppleton explained the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) found Bucks one of the most depleted areas in the country in biodiversity and has an impact on human health. Why do the Parks Trust claim there is no harm? They say the spraying is minimal, legal, and not harmful. Cllr D Hopkins said MKCC are having a review of use of pesticides.	The Chairperson asked this to go on the agenda for the next meeting inviting P Skelton and Judith H to attend.
197/24	Emergency planning for flooding: following the recent flooding, to agree on how to support residents in future flood events. Please see this webpage for MK Council information https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/flood-and-water-management/flood-help-and-advice	

	<p>Cllr L Gaunt from AGPC invited to attend.</p> <p>This had been discussed at the Env Committee meeting and Cllr D Hopkins gave feedback. The Env. Committee agreed to a separate meeting with other relevant bodies. There is a plan for an emergency Flood group to include AGPC and AHPC. Cllr L Gaunt said AGPC are reviewing their emergency flood plans and can 'pool' volunteers.</p> <p>Ward Cllr T Bailey has been communicating with Cllr Markle who shared information about local initiatives.</p> <p>NOTE Cllr G Jones asked the Clerk to write to L Hearne to thank her on behalf of the council for her work.</p>	<p>Cllr D Hopkins and Clerk to co-ordinate setting up a meeting.</p>
198/24	<p>Minutes: To consider the approval of the draft minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on Monday 9th September 2024. Resolved to AGREE</p>	<p>AGREED</p>
199/24	<p>Committee members: to approve new councillors joining committees</p> <p>Environment: current members: K Temple, D Hopkins. New members: W Green, K Fisher</p> <p>Finance: T Sutton, A Poppleton, G Smitham</p> <p>Halls: G Smitham, T Sutton, New Members: G Jones, D Hopkins</p> <p>Chair requested the council will look at the staffing and communications committees on another meeting. Some new council members wish to attend committee meetings before deciding which to join.</p>	<p>APPROVED new members</p>
200/24	<p>Progress Reports and feedback (committees are standing items):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finance Committee: will be meeting on 21/10/24 b) Environment Committee: report on the Committee meeting. Cllr D Hopkins updated. c) Halls Committee: report on the Committee meeting. Recommended to increase the hire rates Bookings Manager to put together some suggestions of new rates. A Poppleton concerned local people use. d) Edgewick Farm: volunteer group meeting took place, and the Ecology Report was discussed, written by Phil Irving (GST) who provided a very detailed Management Plan. The report suggests monitoring surveys of wildlife, and educational potential should be explored. The group will be following the advice on the report to manage the farm. e) Remembrance Day: Clerk to order wreath, participating groups have been contacted, road closure applied for and Ringway has agreed to manage the road closure. Cllr G Jones said it is an important day and as community representatives' councillors should attend if possible. f) Christmas Fayre: Christmas Trees – volunteers urgently needed to help put up trees and lights on the High Street. Lights on lampposts to be installed on 19th and 20th November. 	<p>Clerk to ask Caretaker to assist</p>
201/24	<p>Clerk's Report: This month the Clerk has been</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing budget reports • Gathering quotes for building surveys. • Preparing for the Gravel Pit Close Charity meeting • Following up the flooding issues • Gathering quotes for benches and planters • Booked in an annual tree survey of Edgewick Farm • Attended Edgewick Farm volunteers meeting • Gathered quotes to clear car park drains 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following up and assessing work requested by Greens Court residents • Speaking to utility brokers re. electricity and gas contracts • Planning tendering of some contracts • Research a Co-option Policy • Organising various training for staff and councillors • Writing a report for MK regarding the High Street funding used for the 50th anniversary event • Arranging the changeover of our domain to gov.uk domain name • Ordering winter bedding plants • Applied for road closures for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Fayre • Arranging for film to be put on Sports Hall windows • Responding to complaints about roadworks and flooding • Registered for NALC's new website. WSTC are members of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and our local branch is Bucks and Milton Keynes (BMKALC). Councillors can register and take professional development to assist in the duties and responsibilities of being a councillor https://www.nalc.gov.uk/ 	
<p>202/24</p>	<p>Ward Councillors' report(s):</p> <p>Cllr D Hopkins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported back on the SEMK stakeholders meeting • Reported the A421 is open now • Swan Rescue are now contracted to MK Council to rescue and care for injured wildfowl including on Parkland's pond • Fulbrook has joined Kingsbridge Educational Trust which includes other MK Schools • Has liaised with MKCC regarding 20mph across Woburn Sands. The Leys, Bow Brickhill Road and Hardwick Road are problematic but other areas more straightforward. Road markings have eroded, and no one pays attention to speed (Cllr A Poppleton requested better signage). • MKCC do not have anyone who does an accessibility audit but recommend a company to commission for this work • The Standards Committee at MKCC are looking for parish representatives. • Suggested speaking to Olney Town Council about a minibus they have taken on to help with the lack of public transport. • Sad and sudden, unexpected death of leader of lib <p>Cllr T Bailey: has been</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asked by residents if /when drains can be cleared. Has asked but not got answer yet. Some drains are Central Beds Council's responsibility • Streetlight outside the Memorial Hall not a simple fix but Highways are aware • MP Emily Darlington had a stand at Woburn Sands Community Market, the most common issue she heard about is the lack of a bus service • Russell St car park potholes in the entrance are not mended yet • Pensioners who do not qualify for pension credit can apply to MKCC for funding 	

203/24	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to agree to draft a new co-option policy. The Clerk to bring further information to the next meeting. b. to agree to draft an environment policy discussion postponed to the next meeting in absence of Environment Committee Chairman. 	<p>Clerk. See next meeting.</p>
204/24	<p>Newsletter and Hogsty End: Cllr G Jones agreed to continue with these until next year.</p>	
205/24	<p>VE Day 80th Anniversary: National events are being planned see this website for information www.veday80.org.uk on 8th May 2025 as with the D-Day 80th anniversary earlier this year. The Council to agree participation. Cllr G Jones explained this is a commercial company and we can commemorate without engaging with them.</p>	<p>Cllrs to consider at a meeting nearer the time.</p>
206/24	<p>MK 2050: Cllr Poppleton has drafted a response to MK Council for their MK2050 plan, the deadline is by Wednesday. Cllr Poppleton's points include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bow Brickhill and little Brickhill have opposed housing on the slope of the Greensand Ridge; propose WSTC support them as this would impact WS by the infrastructure and lack of public transport • Woburn Sands should make a more co-ordinated approach with neighbouring parishes • Cllr D Hopkins said the proposed development east of Newport Rd should be included. <p>Cllr G Smitham left the meeting 9.05pm There followed a discussion on the 'new MK' and East West Rail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr A Poppleton asks Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) to consider demolishing warehouses at Caldecott and put housing on the brownfield site • Insist on proper public transport, currently Woburn Sands is not part of MKCC's plans for the mass public transport scheme • Woodley's Farm bridge should be as small as possible, public transport only • A traffic plan is needed for Woburn Sands <p>The council RESOLVED to agree to delegate to Cllr A Poppleton to complete the response and submit to MKCC.</p>	<p>AGREE to delegate to Cllr A Poppleton</p>
207/24	<p>Christmas Tree Festival: Cllr G Jones and Cllr K Fisher agreed to decorate a tree</p>	<p>Cllr G Jones and Cllr K Fisher</p>
208/24	<p>Neighbourhood Plan: to agree who would like to lead on this project and invite others to join the council to work on a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr A Poppleton agreed to lead on this. To apply for a grant to add to the grant.</p>	<p>AGREED to A Poppleton</p>
209/24	<p>WSTC Top 10 Priorities and 3-5 year plan: to consider WSTC's top 10 priorities http://www.woburnsands.org.uk/Top_Ten_Priorities_22918.aspx and an action plan for the council's future. Cllr R Allan agreed to look at this.</p>	<p>Cllr R Allan with the Clerk</p>

210/24	Finance: a. To consider and approve payments for October. RESOLVED to agree b. To agree quotes for car park drains to be cleared. Quotes circulated the lowest one (£588 +VAT) was approved c. To agree quote to install additional new Christmas lights: £809.00 for the sockets and timers d. To agree to pay for annual eyesight tests for staff working on computers (£30 - £50) e. To approve Clerk writing to neighbouring parish councils to request donations towards running the Institute for the library	a. AGREE b. AGREE c. AGREE d. AGREE e. AGREE
211/24	Benches and Planters: for the High Street and Downham Road. RESOLVED to approve ordering two Ranger style benches and further investigation of suitable planters. Highways approval is required.	Clerk to contact Highways for permission to instal
212/24	Russell Street Car Park entrance: following last month's request from Greens Court residents (see notes circulated). To agree if WSTC will contribute to the maintenance of Green's Court's part of the road leading to the Russell Street Car Park. RESOLVED not to contribute.	
213/24	Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/02004/TCA Tree works, crown reduction of leylandii, Cotoneaster, and Magnolia at 7 Hardwick Place. This is for notification of the application only as the deadline for response was 10th October. 	
214/24	Notifications of decisions made from Milton Keynes Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complaint of a planning breach (erection of an outbuilding at 30 Station Road) was made to MK Council, but they found no breach of planning 	
215/24	Correspondence for information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints about roadworks From a resident: Russell Street Car Park has 15 cars parked regularly all day, can the council charge for long term parking to free up short term parking spaces. REESOLVED not to act as this maybe shop and local business workers who need to park all day Received a copy of the annual report on Devon Lodge trees. Noted. 	
216/24	Notification of Urgent Decisions that have been made: None	
217/24	Councillor's reports and items for next agenda the Annual Meeting of the Town Council: Co-opton Policy to be drafted by the Clerk Flood Prevention Group Pesticide use and WSTC policies and contracts	
218/24	Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Monday 11 th November Venue: The Committee Room at The Memorial Hall	

Meeting ended: 9.35pm

Signed:

Date: