



Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 19:30

Present: Councillor Legg (Mayor)

Councillors M Bradburn, Andrew, Adewale, Ahmad, Bailey, Bell, K Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, A Carr, J Carr, Clarke, De Villiers, Exon, Ferrans, Fuller, Geary, Hall, Hearnshaw, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hume, Hussain, Kendrick, M Khan, Long, Mahendran, Marland, McLean, McQuillan, Middleton, Muzammil, Nayee, Nolan, Oguntola, Oyakhire, Petchey, Rolfe, Smith, Townsend, Trendall, Verma, Wardle, Whitworth and Wilson-Marklew and 27 members of the public

Apologies Councillors Andrews, R Bradburn, Crooks, Darlington, Imran, Lancaster, McPake, Priestley and Taylor

Aldermen Bartlett, Alderman Beeley, Alderman Bristow, Alderman Connor, Alderman Coventry, Alderman Geary, Alderman Henderson, Alderwomen Henderson, Alderwomen Irons, Alderman Lewis, Alderwomen Lloyd, Alderman McCall, Alderman McKenzie and Alderman Tallack

CL76 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 November 2023 and 5 December 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

CL77 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Bell advised, for the purpose of transparency, that with regard to Item 6(a) Motion 1 – Demand the Government hold an inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication, that she had ADHD.

CL78 Announcements

The Mayor made announcements in respect of: King Charles the III's New Year's Honours list; the recent death of Val Williamson BEM; the Milton Keynes Breakers basketball team; and the deadline for Ward Based Budgets.

CL79 Petitions

The Council received a petition from Kevin Vickers on behalf of local residents requesting that Milton Keynes City Council call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

The Leader of the Council agreed to consider the petition appropriately, on behalf of the Council.

ACTIONS:

The Leader of the Council, noting that the Council had previously debated a motion on the conflict in Israel and Gaza and recently considered a question on the subject from Councillor M Khan, agreed to consider the petition appropriately, on behalf of the Council.

CL80 Questions from Members of the Public

Questions were received from two members of the public.

Michael Allsopp was unable to attend the meeting but the Mayor agreed for his question to Councillor Townsend to be submitted, as follows - can you give me a reason why - since September 2023, you have not allowed the Church of Champions & Galley Hill Residents Association access to the Small Meeting Place on Galley Hill. Is it a malfunction of the plumbing system, sanitation, electrical or structural?

Simon Palmer asked Councillor Townsend, when can the residents expect some positive action for the community of Galley Hill with a view to restoring some form of community space?

Councillor Townsend advised that she had spoken to officers and was advised that work was underway on the feasibility study and the results of this were expected in the spring. The formal working group would be set up once the feasibility study had been received. The House of Champions Ministry were given four months notice and offered an alternative site which they did not take up. Access to the building had to be restricted due to the results of a structural assessment which raised safety concerns, particularly with the floor of the building.

As a supplementary question, Simon Palmer asked Councillor Townsend, it was important to the community that a local purpose built facility was looked at as soon as possible.

Councillor Townsend reiterated as soon as the feasibility study was received they would meet to discuss the options going forward.

ACTIONS:

Councillor Townsend re-committed to forming a Working Group for the purpose of discussing the community investment in the Galley Hill placemaking proposals, once the feasibility study had completed, which was likely to be in the Spring.

CL81 Business Remaining from Last Meeting

None.

CL82 Reports from Cabinet and Committees

CL83 Making the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan - Delegated Decisions (19 December)

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendation which was seconded by Councillor McLean:

“That the Council makes the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Council makes the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

CL84 Councillors' Questions

Questions were received from Councillors Trendall, Whitworth, Oyakhire, Verma, Hearnshaw, D Hopkins, Bell, McQuillan, K Bradburn and McLean.

Question from Councillor Trendall to Councillor D Hopkins (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Councillor Trendall asked Councillor D Hopkins, did he agree that it was irresponsible and misleading for a conservative campaign flyer to tell the people of Milton Keynes there was a new hospital coming when it was actually a maternity and paediatric unit on the existing site?

Councillor D Hopkins indicated that it was perfectly clear that there were additional NHS facilities coming to Milton Keynes because of the policies of the current government.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Trendall asked Councillor D Hopkins, did he think that this should actually be described as a new hospital and expect people to understand that it isn't and it is just a unit that the government counts as a hospital?

Councillor D Hopkins indicated that the hospital was expanding to meet the needs of Milton Keynes and it was down to this Council to lobby for the infrastructure that was required to deliver MK 2050 to meet the needs of 'Greater Milton Keynes'.

Question from Councillor Whitworth to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Whitworth asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, with regard to complaints about the bus service between Olney and Newport Pagnell could the Cabinet member advise what avenues the Council had to address these issues?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that the Council worked hard to get that bus route reinstated and this highlighted the challenges that came from the Council not being responsible for running bus services in Milton Keynes. The Council could subsidise bus services which it was doing with the 'use it or lose it' campaign however the Council had limited powers if bus companies were not meeting their obligations. The Cabinet member and officers held regular conversations with the bus company and they were being asked to explain what the problems were so that officers could see how they could help fix any issues. The Cabinet member hoped that the Council would be in a position to provide a much better public transport service at some point in the future.

Question from Councillor Oyakhire to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Oyakhire asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, would the Cabinet member join him in agreeing that speed played a part in many traffic accidents?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that often speed was a factor in traffic accidents.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Oyakhire asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, would the Cabinet member agree to investigate a proposal to extend the current 20 MPH Zone within Newport Pagnell to include Marsh End Road, Tickford Street and Wolverton Road?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that Councillor Oyakhire should canvas the views of local residents on this matter and bring a petition back to Full Council that showed the support of residents so that this matter could be progressed further if there was local support for it.

Question from Councillor Verma to Councillor Mahendran (Cabinet member for Climate, Sustainability and Innovation)

Councillor Verma asked Councillor Mahendran, would the Cabinet member join him in extending heartfelt congratulations to the entire Hindu community on the inauguration of the largest temple at the birthplace of Lord Ram?

Councillor Mahendran indicated that of course she would like to celebrate every community having a space to worship.

Question from Councillor Hearnshaw to Councillor Mahendran (Cabinet member for Climate, Sustainability and Innovation)

Councillor Hearnshaw asked Councillor Mahendran, with regard to 'Welcome to Your Voice Week 2024', what was the Council doing to support this?

Councillor Mahendran indicated that this was an important issue to increase the number of young people aged 16-18 registered on the electoral role. The Cabinet member had filmed a video to be used on social media channels and the Youth Council would be undertaking work at their schools and colleges to encourage young people to register.

Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland, would the Leader of the Council be prepared to support the inclusion of community houses and temporary community shops as a planning obligation for development in the New Local Plan and as a requirement for inclusion in the forthcoming outline permission for areas in the South East Milton Keynes Development.

Councillor Marland indicated that this was something that could be considered and was something that had been done in the past. However, there was always a question of who paid and when and providing these facilities would use planning gain or tariff funds which would then not be available to be used for infrastructure elsewhere on a

development. His preference was that the planning system allowed for the proper phasing of development but if that was not possible then providing temporary facilities was a possibility but this may come at the cost of delivering other infrastructure for the development

As a supplementary question, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland, did the Leader agree that a temporary shopping facility in Eagle Farm or bus service would have prevented some of the current issues people particularly who don't own cars are experiencing with isolation.

Councillor Marland indicated that in principle Councillor D Hopkins was correct. However, as he had stated earlier, when it comes to paying for this through S106, CIL or tariff funds this would mean that funding was not then available to provide for example subsidised bus services or playing fields. The Leader of the Council would encourage as the Council moves towards the New City Plan that all councillors need to discuss priorities and what were the tradeable elements in different areas as it would not be possible to deliver everything and to pretend to the public we can was not managing their expectations.

Question from Councillor Bell to Councillor J Carr (Cabinet member for Tackling Social Inequalities)

Councillor Bell asked Councillor J Carr, could you explain what the commitment in the Council Plan was for a 'Library of Things'?

Councillor J Carr indicated that the 'Library of Things' or 'Borrow It' as it would be known in Milton Keynes was a project where members of the public could borrow items like you would borrow a book from the library.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Bell asked Councillor J Carr, could the Cabinet member provide an update as to when the scheme would be open in Milton Keynes?

Councillor J Carr indicated that the scheme would be launched in February although there was not an exact date yet as details regarding the venue were just being finalised.

Question from Councillor McQuillan to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor McQuillan asked Councillor Wilson Marklew, does the Cabinet member join her in calling for the Government to bring forward legislation to ban the sale of zombie knives and machetes to children?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would be happy to support this request that legislation was brought forward as soon as possible.

Question from Councillor K Bradburn to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor K Bradburn asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, would the Cabinet member agree to speak with the appropriate officers to resolve outstanding issues with a landscaping case in Milton Keynes Village?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she was happy to take this away and speak to officers to make sure it was resolved.

Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor McLean asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, with regard to his recent report to officers that on a particular route there were over 25 street lights that were not working out of 65, could the Cabinet member advise whether that was representative across the city and was there any evidence to support this?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would look at this issue with officers and respond to Councillor McLean with the details of the situation.

Councillor McLean noted that he would appreciate the feedback and a report of the number of inspections that were taking place and what those were finding

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Wilson-Marklew, agreeing in principle to explore an extension of a 20 mph zone in Newport Pagnell to Marsh End Road, Tickford Street and Wolverton Road, asked Councillor Oyakhire to support residents to bring a petition on the subject.
2. The Leader of the Council, noting his preference for the phasing of strategic residential development to enable the opening of more permanent community facilities earlier in the building process, agreed that the principle of temporary facilities could be explored as part of the framework for the new local plan, but also set out that this would place further pressure on planning gain funds, and that discussions would be required about the Council's priorities for this limited funding.
3. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to write to government requesting that legislation to ban zombie-style knives and machetes be brought forward as soon as possible.
4. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to speaking with officers to resolve outstanding landscaping issues raised in Milton Keynes Village.
5. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to review the number of street lights out across the City, and noting the route / example provided by Councillor McLean, committed to understanding whether this area was already on a programme of works and when works would be completed.

CL85 Notices of Motions

CL86 Motion 1 - Demand the Government hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor J Carr seconded the following motion:

"1. That this Council notes that:

- a) In September 2023, the NHS issued a National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA) about the shortage of certain medication used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- b) The shortage of medication has been caused by multiple factors, including changes to manufacturers, reduced production of some medications, delays in distribution, Brexit red-tape, and increased demands on stocks of medication with rapid rises in the number of ADHD diagnoses made.
- c) ADHD is a condition that affects people's day to day lives in many different ways. People with ADHD can be inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive, or a combination of both. Traits include restlessness, difficulties with organisation and concentration, and a tendency to act on impulse.
- d) ADHD can be a serious and impairing condition that affects children, young people, and adults across Milton Keynes.
- e) Although other medication remains available, they may not be suitable for everyone and the availability of this medication is not enough to meet the demands created by the shortage.
- f) The ADHD Foundation revealed that just over 200,000 (10%) of an estimated 2 million UK citizens with the condition are receiving medication.
- g) For people with ADHD stopping their medication can lead to withdrawal symptoms, leaving them feeling jittery.
- h) Many people are used to managing their ADHD traits with medication, thereby reducing the impact ADHD can have on their educational/professional life, relationships, and finances. Without this medication, people are left to navigate modern life which is geared towards neurotypical people, and this has the potential to negatively impact the day to day lives of people with ADHD in many different ways.
- i) Many people have been left without medication since September and will likely remain unable to access medication until Spring 2024.

2. This Council believes that:

- a) The severe shortage of medication is causing stress and worry among children, young people, and adults diagnosed with ADHD across the city.
- b) ADHD medication is a lifeline for many, and without access to medication it can have a significant impact on their everyday lives, for children and young people this could mean struggling to attend or stay focused at school, and for adults struggling at work and with their everyday routines such as managing household chores, sleeping, and eating. The shortage is also negatively impacting people's mental and physical health.
- c) People in Milton Keynes with ADHD are being let down and are being left stranded without support, with some only finding out there is a shortage of their medication when their pharmacy can no longer supply it.

3. That this Council resolves to:
 - a) Ask the Chief Executive of the City Council to write to the Department of Health and Social Care and the city's MPs to demand they hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication.
 - b) Call on residents across the city to sign the online petition demanding the Government hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/650973>"

The Council heard from one member of the public in the consideration of this matter.

The motion was passed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that:
 - a) In September 2023, the NHS issued a National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA) about the shortage of certain medication used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
 - b) The shortage of medication has been caused by multiple factors, including changes to manufacturers, reduced production of some medications, delays in distribution, Brexit red-tape, and increased demands on stocks of medication with rapid rises in the number of ADHD diagnoses made.
 - c) ADHD is a condition that affects people's day to day lives in many different ways. People with ADHD can be inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive, or a combination of both. Traits include restlessness, difficulties with organisation and concentration, and a tendency to act on impulse.
 - d) ADHD can be a serious and impairing condition that affects children, young people, and adults across Milton Keynes.
 - e) Although other medication remains available, they may not be suitable for everyone and the availability of this medication is not enough to meet the demands created by the shortage.
 - f) The ADHD Foundation revealed that just over 200,000 (10%) of an estimated 2 million UK citizens with the condition are receiving medication.
 - g) For people with ADHD stopping their medication can lead to withdrawal symptoms, leaving them feeling jittery.
 - h) Many people are used to managing their ADHD traits with medication, thereby reducing the impact ADHD can have on their educational/professional life, relationships, and finances. Without this medication, people are left to navigate modern life which is geared towards neurotypical people, and this has the potential to negatively impact the day to day lives of people with ADHD in many different ways.

- i) Many people have been left without medication since September and will likely remain unable to access medication until Spring 2024.
2. This Council believes that:
- a) The severe shortage of medication is causing stress and worry among children, young people, and adults diagnosed with ADHD across the city.
 - b) ADHD medication is a lifeline for many, and without access to medication it can have a significant impact on their everyday lives, for children and young people this could mean struggling to attend or stay focused at school, and for adults struggling at work and with their everyday routines such as managing household chores, sleeping, and eating. The shortage is also negatively impacting people's mental and physical health.
 - c) People in Milton Keynes with ADHD are being let down and are being left stranded without support, with some only finding out there is a shortage of their medication when their pharmacy can no longer supply it.
3. That this Council resolves to:
- a) Ask the Chief Executive of the City Council to write to the Department of Health and Social Care and the city's MPs to demand they hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication.
 - b) Call on residents across the city to sign the online petition demanding the Government hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/650973>

CL87 Motion 2 - Recognising the contribution of Tamil people to Milton Keynes

Councillor Mahendran moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

- "1. That Milton Keynes is a thriving place that has consistently welcomed people from diverse backgrounds that have enhanced our city and contributed to the dynamism of our economic and social fabric.
2. That this Council notes that:
- a) Tamil people have made significant contributions to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the UK; from serving in the Royal Air Force during the World War Two, Tamil scientists working on ground-breaking Covid vaccines, and an estimated 15,000 Tamil people working in the NHS, amongst other achievements;
 - b) the number of Tamil speaking people in Milton Keynes is increasing, with the 2021 census highlighting 1 in 100 people in the city can speak Tamil; and
 - c) many Tamil people came to Milton Keynes have experienced persecution and have rebuilt their lives here while contributing and enhancing our city.

3. That this Council further notes:
 - a) that January each year marks Tamil Heritage Month;
 - b) Pongal, the Harvest Festival, takes place from January 14 each year; and
 - c) that Tamil people make a rich contribution to social, economic and cultural life in Milton Keynes.
4. That this Council resolves to:
 - a) thank the Tamil community for their contribution to Milton Keynes and our country;
 - b) mark Tamil history month in an appropriate way;
 - c) highlight the celebration of Pongal; and
 - d) use the communications channels of the Council to raise awareness of these actions.”

The Council heard from one member of the public in the consideration of this item.

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That Milton Keynes is a thriving place that has consistently welcomed people from diverse backgrounds that have enhanced our city and contributed to the dynamism of our economic and social fabric.
2. That this Council notes that:
 - a) Tamil people have made significant contributions to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the UK; from serving in the Royal Air Force during the World War Two, Tamil scientists working on ground-breaking Covid vaccines, and an estimated 15,000 Tamil people working in the NHS, amongst other achievements;
 - b) the number of Tamil speaking people in Milton Keynes is increasing, with the 2021 census highlighting 1 in 100 people in the city can speak Tamil; and
 - c) many Tamil people came to Milton Keynes have experienced persecution and have rebuilt their lives here while contributing and enhancing our city.
3. That this Council further notes:
 - a) that January each year marks Tamil Heritage Month;
 - b) Pongal, the Harvest Festival, takes place from January 14 each year; and
 - c) that Tamil people make a rich contribution to social, economic and cultural life in Milton Keynes.
4. That this Council resolves to:

- a) thank the Tamil community for their contribution to Milton Keynes and our country;
- b) mark Tamil history month in an appropriate way;
- c) highlight the celebration of Pongal; and
- d) use the communications channels of the Council to raise awareness of these actions.

CL88 Report on Changes to the Council's Constitution

The Mayor moved the following recommendation which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor:

- “1. That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2, the following recommendation, having been proposed and seconded, stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Council:
- a) That revised Rule 19.5 of the Council Procedure Rules (shown with track changes), be agreed (Annex A)
 - b) That all councillors will attend mandatory refresher training in interests before the end of May 2024.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2, the following recommendation, having been proposed and seconded, stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Council:
- a) That revised Rule 19.5 of the Council Procedure Rules (shown with track changes), be agreed (Annex A)
 - b) That all councillors will attend mandatory refresher training in interests before the end of May 2024.

CL89 Electoral Review - Council Size Submission

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded the following recommendations:

- “1. That Council note the prepared overall local government electorate forecast of 220,000 by 2030.
2. That given the forecast increase in local government electorate by 2030, the Council confirms its position:
- a) that ‘no increase’ to the Council’s size, neither secures appropriate representation for the residents of Milton Keynes, nor is sustainable from a Councillor workload perspective; and

- b) a modest increase in Council size should be supported, recognising that there are arguments for and against an increase of plus 3 and plus 6 Councillors.
3. That the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England attached at Annex A, with a proposed Council size of 63 (plus 6 Councillors), be agreed.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make minor changes to the submission, in consultation with the Leaders of Political Groups.”

Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 were agreed by acclamation. On being put to the vote, recommendation 3 was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council note the prepared overall local government electorate forecast of 220,000 by 2030.
2. That given the forecast increase in local government electorate by 2030, the Council confirms its position:
 - a) that ‘no increase’ to the Council’s size, neither secures appropriate representation for the residents of Milton Keynes, nor is sustainable from a Councillor workload perspective; and
 - b) a modest increase in Council size should be supported, recognising that there are arguments for and against an increase of plus 3 and plus 6 Councillors.
3. That the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England attached at Annex A, with a proposed Council size of 63 (plus 6 Councillors), be agreed.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make minor changes to the submission, in consultation with the Leaders of Political Groups.

CL90 Scheme of Councillors Allowances for 2024/25

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded the following recommendation:

1. “That the recommendations of the IRP to index allowances by 4.48% be noted and agreed for 2024/25 only.
2. That the revised Scheme of Councillors’ Allowances attached at Annex A to the report be agreed to take effect from 1 April 2024.
3. That the recommendations of the IRP that (where paid) Town, Parish and Community Councils, allowances should also be indexed by 4.48% for 2024/25 only, be noted.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the IRP to index allowances by 4.48% be noted and agreed for 2024/25 only.
2. That the revised Scheme of Councillors' Allowances attached at Annex A to the report be agreed to take effect from 1 April 2024.
3. That the recommendations of the IRP that (where paid) Town, Parish and Community Councils, allowances should also be indexed by 4.48% for 2024/25 only, be noted.

CL91 Ward Based Budgets 2023/24

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded the following recommendation:

“That the report be noted”.

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CL92 Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded the following recommendation:

“That the report be noted”.

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.01 pm