



Central Milton Keynes Town Council Meeting held on 6th February 2025 at Centrecom Meeting Place Central Milton Keynes

Present:

David Stabler (Chair)
Andre Brady
Anurag Jain (from item 25/023)
Rebecca Kurth
Peter Lightfoot
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

Apologies: Philip Murphy

On other council business: Andrew Thomas

Members of the public: Three members of the public and a ward councillor were present.

25/019 – Apologies

Councillor Murphy extended his apologies for the January, February and March meetings.

25/020 – Declarations of Interest

None

25/021 - Ratification of Minutes of the January Town Council meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed as such by the Chair.

25/022 - Ratification of Minutes of the Budget meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed as such by the Chair.

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25/023- Amended 3 year budget and operating budget

The paper as previously circulated, was noted.

Councillor Jain arrived at this juncture.

25/024 - Clerk's Report on Outstanding Items

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

Updates to the action sheet were agreed, as follows:

Item 24/24- Mark on to May

Item 25/01- Closed

Item 25/02- Closed

Item 25/03- Closed

25/025 - Representations from the Public

A member of the public present reported ant and bed bug infestations in the North 9th and 10th Street flats and enquired how to request a block-wide clearance. The Chair noted that the issue should be reported to Environmental Health at MKCCouncil, the principal authority, who are also the head lease owners of the blocks. He confirmed that when the issue had been reported the Town Council would write to support the request.

Another member of the public noted that graffiti had increased recently.

25/026 - Finance Paper

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

25/027 – MKCCouncil Forward Plan Monitoring Sheet

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

25/028 – Grant applications

The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.

The three applications being considered were discussed together, given the similarity of the applications in that all three were from groups previously supported and for an event taking place within CMK, but for the benefit of many across Milton Keynes.

It was unanimously agreed that requests for contributions towards established events being held in CMK should, subject to the suitability of the application, be awarded £1,000 towards the cost of the event, or less if the application was for a lower amount.

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Accordingly it was agreed that the following awards be made:-

MK Pride £1,000
MK Islamic Arts and Culture Trust £1,000
Trubys Garden Tea Room £500

Councillors requested that groups be asked to provide images and a short summary of the previous year's events to enable social media to promote the event and the council's involvement with it.

25/029 – Community Governance Review

The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.

A lengthy discussion ensued on how to respond to the invitation to take part in the Community Governance Review, during which the following points were made:-

- The current vacancy in the East Ward has not been filled for some time.
- The average allocation of councillors to number of voters is within the parameters expected.
- Councillors do not only work for their wards, but collectively as required.
- There is an inequality in numbers across the wards, which could significantly increase over the next few years as developments on the north side of Campbell Park proceed. However, development of Saxon Court and/or the Jaipur site could require further reconsideration.
- Are more councillors needed, or perhaps an adjustment of ward allocation?
- The number of electors registered does not bear any direct relation to the number of 'households' and may well be skewed by the short term lets being built in 'build to rent' schemes.

It was agreed that the Clerk prepares a paper looking at options for change, seeking to reflect, where possible, the next 10 year growth patterns for households within CMK and the impact this could have on the number of electors per councillor going forward.

ACTION: Clerk to bring paper to the March meeting

25/030 – Items for Information

The papers were noted, as previously circulated.

i) Play Area Action Plan

It was agreed that the town council should seek to influence the developers of Campbell Park northside to include within their plans the development of an indoor sports facility, possibly to be part of the existing outdoor sports complex in Downs Barn.

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It was further agreed that a sub-committee formed of councillors Kurth, Stabler and Brady should meet informally with the Sports and Leisure

Officer at MKCCouncil to consider how this might be achieved.

ACTION: Clerk to source name of the Sports and Leisure Officer and an MKCCouncil Sports Strategy document

ii) **Landscaping Update**

Councillor Kurth proposed that rather than waiting for a fully detailed proposal in respect of the value potentially added by a 4-year annual contribution to support the landscaping budget, it would be more helpful for a draft plan be presented, which could then be followed up by a walkabout and meeting with the Landscape Officers and councillors Kurth, Murphy and Stabler.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Phil Snell to propose meeting when draft proposals available for consideration

The meeting closed at 7.09 pm.

The next monthly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 6th March at Centrecom Meeting Place

Appendix to Minutes of Meeting of CMK Town Council on 6 February 2025

Debit card items:-

Google	£	180.00
Adobe	£	19.97
Vonage	£	10.25
NEST	£	95.11
Royal Mail	£	307.32
Royal Mail	£	17.50
Royal Mail	£	23.10

Online payments:-

Centrecom	£	190.00
Samantha Carmichael	£	170.00

Monthly Standing Orders:-

Salary	£	1,979.57
MK Community Properties	£	606.90
Samantha Carmichael	£	500.00

Chair's Signature.....

Date.....