

Attendees:

John Orr (Chair); Nicky Johnson (notes); Ron Ellis; Bill Fuller; Paul Hurcombe; Sheila Taylor; Barbara Willis; Jenny Hathaway; Anne Bircham (YourMK); Terry Weller; N. Galloway; Dave Lee; Ann Bircham (YourMK); Rosemary Englander; Cliff Green; Cheryl Hoare; Alex Wells, Vince.

Apologies:

Lesley Berry; Kathy Higgins; Derek Weller

**Action
by whom**

- 1 Welcome**
The chair opened the meeting and welcomed members.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting (23 February 2017) were in hard copy only.
- 3 Chairs report**
The accounts had been audited without problem and passed to Mavis Boatwright, the new treasurer. John tabled a copy of the end of year accounts to January 17.
A card was received in the meeting from Mrs Musgrove of Hatton. It thanked the resident's association for the work that Ron and Dave had done putting up a light and painting the steps outside her house to make them more visible at night.
- 4 Treasurers report**
At the end of February, we had £2,423.47 in the bank. Of this £836.33 is from the First steps grant and £500.00 is grant money ring-fenced for renewing the planting boxes.
The £310 was received from Kevin Wilson with thanks that was donated for the trip to the Panto in December 16.
Approximately £60 was spent in printing costs this month.
The hire of the meeting place for the Celebration day had been paid (£100), and it appears WCC are not charging for the Christmas party booking.

5

Environmental report

Lorraine Essam had arranged 'payback teams' to work on spreading woodchips where needed on the estate around trees etc. These were left in piles around the estate and members may use them. They are not intended for grassed areas however. The area between Bascote and Brent had been cleared and cut back. The teams also cleared weeds from Buckby park and thanks were extended.

Damage had been done to the grass in some areas during the wet weather by vehicles driving on the public grassed areas. This looked unsightly and is dangerous. Ron had spent a lot of energy repairing these areas.

Some flytipping was occurring behind Colne. Members were reminded to call the council and report it. The council now takes 6-8 weeks to respond to flytipping calls instead of the previous 2 weeks due to cut backs.

Flytipping or unsightly rubbish in car ports could not be moved by the environmental people. Only the owner or occupier of the property can control that area, so they need to be approached on a case by case basis.

There will be a charge of £33 a year for emptying green bins from September. Food caddies would be picked up for free. Pink sacks would only be replenished by ordering them from the council, they would not be available freely at multiple outlets as before. It was felt that this was false cost cutting and a short-sighted action by the council and was condemned by the resident's association. Questions were asked about how it would work as the council would lose much of the income they received for compost made from the green bin waste. There seemed to be a lack of consultation and communication/explanation/publication about this to residents.

Street cleaning will take place every 8 weeks instead of every 2 weeks from September.

6

Plan MK Consultations

The plan for Milton Keynes for the next 5 years has now been put out for consultation. Copies of the plan can be found on the council website. There will be consultation period between Friday **17th March to 9th June 2017** they are seeking comments from anyone who has an interest in the future of the Borough. Details about how you will be able to have your say on the plans will be published in local media, on the council website and on our social media channels.

Members were urged to give comment: **In person:** you can read Draft Plan:MK ([Draft Plan:MK Consultation document \(PDF, 9.2MB\)](#)) at the Council's Civic Offices and in all the libraries ([Library locations](#)) in the Borough.

Online via our consultation portal:

Action

Via email: Plan:MK@milton-keynes.gov.uk

In writing:

Development Plans,
Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East,
Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

It was proposed that we hand in our own neighbourhood plan to inform it.

Affordable housing consisted only of rented accommodation from Housing Associations in the plan. There was no affordable housing to purchase. Even with the right to buy, this will not make it easy to get onto the housing ladder as the discounts are smaller and in some cases disappearing.

Most development is happening east of the city.

7 Woughton Community Council Neighborhood plan.

WCC had progressed. The inspector was looking at the plan, which stays open for comments until 10th April. There were several controlling factors within the plan due to members of TBRA who had been on the steering group. It would go to referendum.

8 Regeneration MK

Your MK is on track to deliver the schedule of estates at the end of April. They are currently trying to organize drop ins and dissemination of the information when it appears. Some surveys are still ongoing in Bradville and on the Lakes estate.

SmileMK was an initiative to help sufferers of mild mental illness (depression, anxiety, sleep disorders etc.). they provide free courses to support mental wellbeing and get you on the road to recovery. Leaflets were handed out in the meeting. Tel 01908 556700, email jane.sharp@milton-Keynes.gov.uk. The courses would take place between 2nd- 23rd May.

A position for a young person interested in child care had opened at Little Tinkers Preschool. Anne Bircham has details.

YourMK has been awarded a grant to help with the costs of consultation in the regeneration project.

There is a meeting of the regeneration committee on 12th April at 6pm. As this clashes with the Working Group, members were asked for volunteers to attend. Sheila and Cliff would attend and then attend the WG afterwards. We need volunteers to attend the meetings that occur during the day as Ron cannot go to these.

Regeneration Watch MK has been set up to scrutinize the work of YourMK and the plans of regenerationMK across all 7 estates. They have a facebook presence and members are encouraged to follow.

9 Council house maintenance issues that can be reported.

Council house maintenance issues can now be reported. The council has admitted responsibility for clearing the guttering on council houses. Please ring and report this if your guttering needs clearing.

They will also repair ridge tiles that are missing/damaged/dangerous.

Fences that separate gardens from public green spaces will be repaired or replaced by a proper wooden fence, fences between houses will be replaced with wire fencing when necessary, except where there are potential problems with animals.

10 Funding committee update

We are currently halfway through 2 months of voting for Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, with TB being one of the three projects. Initially there were problems with communication on the process of getting the tokens, but it has been agreed with Tesco, that you do not have to purchase a bag to get a token and that any value of purchase gets a token. Members were urged to ask for tokens when they purchased items in Tesco and put them into the TB section on the right.

We need to agree a date for the building boxes activity day. John and Ron are working on acquiring the wood.

Approval to seek funding for a seaside trip and a visit to the panto was voted for and passed.

Dave Lee agreed to do the same role as last year for the panto trip should we get funding.

John would ask Deana and Cassandra for help in organising the seaside trip and possibly a fun day. John would ask April if she would be able to help. Alex Wells offered help with the dog show.

10 Homeless fund raising

Dave Lee requested sponsorship for sleeping rough to help the winter night shelter for the homeless, which may be getting a multi-year lease of part of the old MK bus centre (Buszy).

11 Next meeting:

27 April 2017

