

**Minutes of the meeting of Council held on
Tuesday 20 May 2025, 7.30pm
at the
Oldbrook Centre, Oldbrook Boulevard, Oldbrook**

This meeting was open to the public

Members Present

Cllr L Adura
Cllr B Barton
Cllr V Dixon
Cllr R Golding (Vice Chair)
Cllr B Greenwood (Chair)
Cllr J Hearnshaw
Cllr J Howard

Cllr K Kavarana
Cllr D Kendrick
Cllr K Kent
Cllr B Macharia
Cllr R McCafferty
Cllr D Pafford

In Attendance

D Warner, Clerk to Council
P Sullivan, Deputy Clerk

23/25

Apologies for Absence

Cllr O Cole – work commitment
Cllr P Halton-Davis - unwell
Cllr H Kakei – personal commitment
Cllr F Mangan – personal commitment
Cllr M Petchey – personal commitment

24/25

Declarations of Interest

None

25/25

Public Involvement – Deputations, Petitions and Questions

None

26/25

Chair's Report

Cllr Greenwood thanked members for returning him as Chair of Council for the forthcoming year and looked forward to the move over to the new Community Hub.

27/25

Clerk's Report

Council received a verbal report from the Clerk.

- BMKALC Conference is being held in Aylesbury on 16 June 2025 and 2 delegates from each council are invited to attend. Cllr Kent has offered to attend, please let Deputy Clerk know if you are interested.
- Following Cllr Kent's reporting of the defective soft play area on Oldbrook Green, Cllr Petchey took up the issue as an MKCC ward councillor and has been informed that the area has been inspected and their landscaping department will be carrying out levelling up and resurfacing works. No date has been confirmed.
- This meeting marks the end of the Oldbrook Centre as the Council's democratic home for more than 20 years, the space is now available for further community use.

28/25

Community Council Financial Accounts 2024-2025 Year End

Council received and agreed the accounts detailing the financial position of the Community Council as at 31 March 2025.

29/25

Community Council Internal Audit Report 2024-2025

Council received and agreed the internal audit report for the financial year 2024-2025 as presented by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

Cllr Barton wanted to place on record his thanks to the RFO and staff who have done 'sterling work' and commented that in his experience it is very rare to have a spotless audit report without any comment on a continuous basis.

30/25

Community Council Annual Return 2024-2025

Council considered, populated where applicable, and approved the Community Council Annual Return for 2024-2025, including:

- i. Annual Governance Statement 2024-2025 (Section 1)
Council considered the accounting statements in Section 1 of the 2024/25 Annual Return, answering yes to statements 1-8 and N/A to statement 9.
- ii. Accounting Statement 2024-2025 (Section 2)
Council considered and approved the figures entered in boxes 1-10, answering no in box 11a and N/A in box 11b.

The Clerk produced the original AGAR document previously signed and dated by the RFO and Internal Auditor. Clerk and Chair signed confirming all agreed assertions.

The Annual Return and all supporting documentation to be forwarded to the External Auditor for consideration.

31/25

Transfer of funds between Council Bank Accounts (Council minute 216/24 April 2025)

Further to the associated decision to transfer funds from the Unity Trust deposit account to the CCLA public sector deposit fund to secure a more advantageous interest rate, Council is invited to consider the Responsible Financial Officer recommendation that £500,000 is transferred in the next month, with a further £150,000 transferred in September 2025. Both amounts to be transferred back to Unity Trust when they are needed to meet committed Council expenditure. Transfers will be in accordance with the associated bank mandates and countersigned by authorised Councillor signatories.

Council considered and agreed the recommendation as presented.

32/25

Earmarking of Council Funds – Community Hub Completion

Council determined in November 2024 that further earmarking would be required when the final construction and fit out cost of the Community Hub was established (Council minute 120/24). With the Community Hub project nearing completion, Council is invited to consider a recommendation from the Responsible Financial Officer that £250,000 is earmarked to meet the associated cost. If agreed, the earmarked funds will be transferred from the general reserve, with any surplus earmarked funds transferred back to the general reserve at the conclusion of the project. The proposed transfer will not increase Council Public Works Loan Board borrowing.

Council considered and agreed the recommendation as presented.

33/25

Milton Keynes City Council Proposed Constitutional Changes

Council received a verbal update from the Clerk and Cllr Kendrick on the outcome of the proposal by Milton Keynes City Council to make changes to its constitution, specifically a change to procedural rules that would remove the ability of local councils to call-in Executive decisions.

34/25

Sport England Place Expansion Investment

Council received a verbal update on the MK Place Based Expansion Programme, including its progression to the discovery phase and the appointment of an associated consultation and insight partner.

- Consultation and insight partner confirmed as the OU, work will start late June.
- Recruiting community officers (this week)
- Application for full award needs to be submitted by January 2026

35/25

Community Hub – Working Group Update

Council received a verbal report from the Working Group on their progression of the Community Hub project, including the practical completion and handover of the building.

- i. Financial Statement Nr 11 as provided by Currie & Brown
- ii. **Community Hub Café**
Council received a verbal update from the Clerk, including that the Café would open to the public on 27.05.2025

Under this item the Clerk confirmed that the Council Office would relocate to the Community Hub and become operational by 16.06.2025, and that during the relocation there would be periods where public contact would be phone or email only.

36/25 1 Pencarrow Place – End of Lease/Dilapidations

Council noted that the end of lease dilapidation schedule had just been received from Milton Keynes City Council and agreed that the task of negotiating and agreeing the financial terms of the dilapidations to be completed by the Chair and Vice Chair of Council in conjunction with the Clerk to Council (Council minute 218/24).

37/25 Dates of Future Committee & Working Group Meetings*

Community & Communications - 27 May at 6.30pm

Planning – 2 June 2024 at 6.30pm

Finance, Administration & Policy – 3 June 2024 at 7.00pm

Estates – 10 June 2024 at 6.30pm

*All meetings at the Springfield Centre

38/25 Date of Next Meeting*

Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 7.30pm

*Inaugural Council meeting at the new Community Hub