



Minutes of the extraordinary meeting MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2017 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Coventry (Mayor)
Councillors Alexander, Bald, Betteley, Bint, Brackenbury, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brunning, Buckley, Burke, Cannon, Clancy, Clifton, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Gifford, Gowans, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, Legg, Marland, I McCall, McDonald, McKenzie, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Morla, Morris, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Small, Wales, Walker, Wallis, Webb, C Williams, P Williams, C Wilson and K Wilson

Aldermen Bartlett and Bristow

Apologies: Councillors Long, D McCall and Patey-Smith and Aldermen Beeley, E Henderson and Howell and Alderwomen I Henderson, Irons, Lloyd and Saunders

Also Present: 18 members of the public

CL123 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the death of former Councillor David Flook who served from 1979 to 1987 and was Leader of the Labour Group and Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee during 1986/87.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

CL124 APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY

Councillor Morris, Vice-Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Committee introduced the recommendation from the meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 29 March 2017, which requested the Council to consider commenting to Cabinet on the following:

- “(a) The lack of a formal consultation on the issue of charging for green waste with the residents of Milton Keynes;
- (b) The lack of opportunity for effective pre-decision scrutiny;
- (c) The perception that decision was made in way that undermined the Council’s budget setting process;
- (d) Concerns as to whether the proposed charge for green waste collections would achieve the anticipated savings; and

- (e) The widespread level of residents' concerns about a range of issues associated with the proposed charge for green waste collections."

Councillor Brackenbury moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Eastman:

"That the Council calls on the Cabinet to respond to the issues raised by councillors, parish councils and residents at both the 7 March Cabinet and the 29 March Executive Scrutiny Committee and to reverse its decision regarding the charging for green waste collections."

Councillor McLean moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Walker and accepted by the mover of the motion:

"That the following additional clauses be added to the motion submitted by Councillor D McCall:

'That the Council further calls on the Cabinet, in response to issues raised by councillors, parish councils and residents at the Cabinet's meeting on 7 March 2017 and the Executive Scrutiny Committee on 29 March 2017, and subject to any agreed cross Party review which might improve the service and deliver savings, to restore the 2015/16 arrangements for the supply of pink sacks, accepting that to do otherwise risks reducing recycling rates which is against Council policy and likely to create a further cost burden for the Council and operational problems at the Milton Keynes Waste Recycling Plant.'"

Councillor A Geary moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Bald and accepted by the mover of the motion:

"That the following additional clause be added to the motion submitted by Councillor D McCall:

'That the Council further calls on the Cabinet to rule out the closure of the Civic Amenity Centre at Newport Pagnell which provides vital facilities for trade waste collection as well as domestic waste; to investigate use of this site by non-Milton Keynes Council Tax payers and introduce appropriate measures to ensure out of area usage is a "paid for" service, not subsidised by Milton Keynes tax payers.'"

Councillor P Geary moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Bald and on which a recorded vote was requested:

“That the following additional clauses be added to the motion submitted by Councillor D McCall:

- ‘1. That the Council notes and recognises the negative public response to the Cabinet's decision to proceed with the new Waste Strategy and that this, together with the acceptance by both opposition parties that the negative impacts of this decision on communities would be very serious, has resulted in holding this extremely rare special meeting of Council this evening.
2. That in the event that Cabinet does not accept in full the recommendations from the Executive Scrutiny Committee, and in addition reverse its decision regarding the charging of green waste collections, this Council expresses no confidence in either the Leader or his Administration.’”

The voting on the amendment was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bald, Bint, Brunning, Buckley, Clancy, Dransfield, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Jenkins, McDonald, McLean, Morla, Morris, Small and Walker (21)

AGAINST: Councillors Alexander, Betteley, Brackenbury, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Burke, Cannon, Clifton, Coventry, Crooks, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, Gifford, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Marland, I McCall, McKenzie, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Wales, Wallis, Webb, C Williams, P Williams, C Wilson, and K Wilson (33)

The amendment was declared lost.

The voting on the substantive motion was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Alexander, Bald, Bint, Brackenbury, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brunning, Buckley, Cannon, Clancy, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Jenkins, I McCall, McDonald, McLean, McPake, Morla, Morris, Small, Walker and C Williams (33)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTENTION: Councillors Betteley, Burke, Clifton, Coventry, Gifford, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Marland, McKenzie, Middleton, Miles, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Wales, Wallis, Webb, P Williams, C Wilson, and K Wilson (21)

The substantive motion was declared carried.

The Council received a petition signed by 411 persons calling for the prospective charge for 'Green Bins' to be stopped; heard from 3 members of the public; and received a letter from Walton Community Council objecting to the Waste Strategy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council calls on the Cabinet to respond to the issues raised by councillors, parish councils and residents at both the 7 March Cabinet and the 29 March Executive Scrutiny Committee and to reverse its decision regarding the charging for green waste collections.
2. That the Council further calls on the Cabinet, in response to issues raised by councillors, parish councils and residents at the Cabinet's meeting on 7 March 2017 and the Executive Scrutiny Committee on 29 March 2017, and subject to any agreed cross Party review which might improve the service and deliver savings, to restore the 2015/16 arrangements for the supply of pink sacks, accepting that to do otherwise risks reducing recycling rates which is against Council policy and likely to create a further cost burden for the Council and operational problems at the Milton Keynes Waste Recycling Plant.
3. That the Council further calls on the Cabinet to rule out the closure of the Civic Amenity Centre at Newport Pagnell which provides vital facilities for trade waste collection as well as domestic waste; to investigate use of this site by non-Milton Keynes Council Tax payers and introduce appropriate measures to ensure out of area usage is a "paid for" service, not subsidised by Milton Keynes tax payers.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8:58 PM