

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on
WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Crooks (Mayor)
Councillors Akter, Alexander, Baines, Baume, Bint, Bowyer, Brackenbury, K Bradburn, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, Carr, Cryer-Whitehead, Darlington, Exon, Ferrans, A Geary, P Geary, Gilbert, Gowans, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, Lancaster, Legg, Long, Marland, Marlow, McCall, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Minns, Montague, Nazir, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Raja, Rankine, Reilly, Townsend, Trendall, Walker, Wales, Wallis, Williams, C Wilson-Marklew and J Wilson-Marklew
Alderman Howell

Apologies: Councillor Priestley and Aldermen Bartlett, Beeley, Bristow, Coventry, Henderson and McKenzie and Alderwomen Irons, Henderson, Lloyd and Saunders

CL01 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Miles that Councillor Andrew Joseph Geary be elected Mayor of Milton Keynes for the Council Year 2020/21.

Other councillors spoke in support of the nomination.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Andrew Joseph Geary s be elected Mayor of Milton Keynes for the Council Year 2020/21.

Councillor A Geary signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor, on accepting the office of Mayor, thanked the Council for granting him the honour of becoming the Mayor of Milton Keynes and the many kind messages of support he had received.

The Mayor referred to the unusual, but ground breaking nature of the meeting with most councillors, friends and family attending remotely. The Mayor undertook to organise the customary celebrations later in the year once restrictions on gatherings were relaxed.

The Mayor stressed the importance of civic leadership at this time when the Council and the community was facing the challenges presented by Covid-19 and the need to support the community as it adapted to the new normal. The Mayor specifically referenced the importance of supporting local businesses which had proved so important to the people of Milton Keynes during the Pandemic and indicated that he would be making supporting local business as his theme for the year.

The Mayor reported that his chosen charities would be the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the Milton Keynes Dons Sports and Education Trust, both which did important work in Milton Keynes.

The Mayor undertook to complete the Lands End to John O’Groats Bike Ride, undertake a zip wire trip across StadiumMK, run the Milton Keynes Marathon and resurrect the Mayor’s Cricket Match in support of his charities.

The Mayor thanked his wife Lisa for agreeing to become the Mayoress, his family whose support would be essential during his year in office, colleagues at the Council, former Mayors and Aldermen Maurice Howell and the late Edward Ellis for their advice and mentoring over the years and the Reverend Andrew Pritchard-Keens who had agreed to be his Chaplin.

The Mayor outlined that that a Civic Service would be held later in the year at the Church of St James the Greater in Hanslope when restrictions were relaxed.

The Mayor summed up by reiterating the importance of civic leadership and his role in providing that leadership in support of the community.

CL02

VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor R Bradburn moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor (Councillor Crooks), which was seconded by Councillor Marland.

Other councillors spoke in support of the vote of thanks.

The vote of thanks was approved unanimously.

Councillor Crooks received a Past Mayor’s badge.

Councillor Crooks referred to his year in office and the challenges which had been faced by the citizens of Milton Keynes and the way the community had responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic, showing great resilience and support, with support not only being provided by the Council, but also by parish councils, the voluntary sector and communities across Milton Keynes.

Councillor Crooks expressed his sympathy to all of those who had lost friends and relatives as a result of the Pandemic. He referred to the intention of the Cenotaph Trust to dedicate a Pillar at the Milton Keynes Rose to Covid-19, the intention for the Council to establish a grant fund to build on the public, voluntary and community work which had resulted from of the Pandemic and his wish, working with Campbell Park Parish Council, to designate the Springfield Obelisk as a permanent memorial to the uniformed services.

Councillor Crooks highlighted a number of memorable events from his year in office which included:

- (a) Princess Anne visiting Woughton Community Council to present the Star Council of the Year Award;
- (b) visiting Brussels when Milton Keynes became the 2020 European City of Sport;
- (c) attending the presentation to Nifty Lifts of its Queen's Awards for Industry;
- (d) attending MK Dons matches, entertaining visiting Team's Mayors at the kind invitation of the Club and particularly attending the match against Liverpool; and
- (e) participating in commemorative events with many of the different communities across Milton Keynes.

Councillor Crooks thanked a number of Council colleagues for their support, including Councillor Geary, the new Mayor who had been his Deputy, Angie Deacon, Siobhan Pitkin and Chris Matthews.

Councillor Crooks particularly thanked his wife, who had been the Mayoress, for her support and encouragement.

CL03

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Council considered the request from Councillor Marland that the appointment of the Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes for the Council Year 2020/21 be deferred.

RESOLVED -

That the appointment of the Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes for the Council Year 2020/21 be deferred until the June meeting of the Council at the earliest.

CL04**MINUTES**

In considering the draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 March 2020, Councillor R Bradburn outlined that because of the Covid-19 Pandemic many councillors who had wished to attend the meeting had been unable to do so because of the Government's guidance on gatherings and the need for social distancing.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 March 2020 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the following note being added after the apologies:

“(Note – because of social distancing guidance in place, Political Groups had agreed in advance that subject to the meeting being quorate, most councillors should not attend).”

CL05**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor P Geary advised the Council that, he had a personal interest in item 1 (Election of Mayor) as the Deputy Mayor and Mayor elect, was a member of his family.

CL06**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) Covid-19 - Contribution of the Community and Staff Colleagues

The Mayor thanked staff colleagues, Council partners, councillors, and local charities and community groups who had been pulling together to respond so brilliantly to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In the last eight weeks the Council had contacted more than 14,000 clinically vulnerable people and made over 1,500 emergency deliveries, mostly essential medication, to people who had no one else to help.

The Council had set up a special partnership with the Milton Keynes Food Bank to expand its operations and had shared over 4,000 food parcels to people in crisis.

Both operations had been staffed by people whose usual Council work had been put on hold, for instance librarians.

The Mayor also recognised that for others, it had been business as usual, whether that was supporting hospital partners, giving care in residents' homes, or picking up the rubbish. Last week the Council restarted green bin collections and collected a week's worth of waste on the first day alone.

Also, because fraudsters had taken the opportunity to try to scam isolated people, the Trading Standards team had responded and had managed to foiled 40 scams related to coronavirus. The Finance Team had also been busy, making sure that eligible businesses received their part of £40m of emergency Government grants.

The Mayor thanked the people of Milton Keynes for playing their part; following the rules, checking in on neighbours, and for donating more than £240,000 to the MK Emergency Covid-19 Appeal.

(b) Whitehouse Parish Council

The Mayor announced that Whitehouse Parish Council had agreed to change its name to Whitehouse Community Council.

(c) Lawrence Jordan

The Mayor congratulated Lawrence Jordan, the Council's Professional Lead for Children Missing, Exploited or Trafficked, whose work had been recognised by the NGW Exploitation Response Unit, a nationwide charity that worked with almost 15,000 professionals tackling child exploitation and trafficking in the UK. Lawrence had won this year's Unsung Hero award within the Families and Communities category.

CL07

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990.

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council note that the Conservative Group is entitled to 31.5789% of the seats on the Council's Committees, the Labour Group is entitled to 40.3509% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 26.3158% of the seats and 1.7544% of seats are vacant.”

RESOLVED -

That, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council note that the Conservative Group is entitled to 31.5789% of the seats on the Council's Committees, the Labour Group is entitled to 40.3509% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 26.3158% of the seats and 1.7544% of seats are vacant.

CL08 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET

Councillor Marland, the Leader of the Council, informed the Council that the Deputy Leader would be Councillor O’Neill and that, in addition to himself and Councillor O’Neill, the Cabinet would comprise Councillors Baume, Darlington, Middleton, Nolan and Wilson-Marklew.

CL09 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES/ SUB-COMMITTEES / GROUPS / PANELS

The Council considered:

- (a) The appointment of the committees and sub-committees, the number of councillors that would comprise the committees and sub-committees, together with the membership of those committees and sub-committees;
- (b) the number of members on the Appeals Commission and the Chief Officer Appointments Panel;
- (c) the number of members to comprise the Chief Officer Appointments Panel; and
- (d) the appointment of substitutes to the committees, sub-committees and panels.

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

- “1. That the following Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Working Groups be appointed for the Council Year 2020/21, with the number of members as detailed in brackets, in accordance with the political proportionalities on the Council, where applicable:
- (a) Appeals Commission (15)
 - (b) Audit Committee (10)
 - (c) Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (d) Chief Offer Appointments Panel (3/5)
 - (e) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (12)
 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)

- (f) Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (g) Corporate Parenting Panel (8)
 - (h) Development Control Committee (11)
 - Development Control Panel (5)
 - (i) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (j) Health and Wellbeing Board (4)
 - (k) Joint Negotiating Committee (Employer's Side) (8)
 - (l) Licensing Committee (15)
 - Licensing Sub-Committee (3)
 - (m) Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (10)
 - Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (n) Regulatory Committee (15)
 - Regulatory Sub-Committee (5)
 - (o) Scrutiny Management Committee (15)
 - Scrutiny Management Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (p) Standards Committee (8)
 - Standards Sub-Committee (5)
 - (q) Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee (10)
 - Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
2. That the Appeals Commission and the Chief Officer Appointments Panel be treated as not needing to comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

3. That Group Leaders be given delegated authority to appoint members to Appointment Panels for Directors on a one member per Political Group basis, to include a member of the Cabinet, and for the Deputy Chief Executive, a Panel of 5 members on a 2:2:1 member per Political Group basis, to include a member of the Cabinet.
4. That all Members of the Council, with the exception of Cabinet members (unless they are substituting for another Cabinet member), be appointed as substitutes to all bodies listed above, noting the requirement for councillors to be trained before participating in meetings of the Appeals Commission, Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee.
5. That the Committees, Sub-Committees, Appeals Commission and Panels comprise the councillors reported to the Council”.

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the following Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Working Groups be appointed for the Council Year 2020/21, with the number of members as detailed in brackets, in accordance with the political proportionalities on the Council, where applicable:
 - (a) Appeals Commission (15)
 - (b) Audit Committee (10)
 - (c) Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (d) Chief Offer Appointments Panel (3/5)
 - (e) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (12)
 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (f) Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (g) Corporate Parenting Panel (8)

- (h) Development Control Committee (11)
 - Development Control Panel (5)
 - (i) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (9)
 - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (j) Health and Wellbeing Board (4)
 - (k) Joint Negotiating Committee (Employer's Side) (8)
 - (l) Licensing Committee (15)
 - Licensing Sub-Committee (3)
 - (m) Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (10)
 - Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (n) Regulatory Committee (15)
 - Regulatory Sub-Committee (5)
 - (o) Scrutiny Management Committee (15)
 - Scrutiny Management Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
 - (p) Standards Committee (8)
 - Standards Sub-Committee (5)
 - (q) Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee (10)
 - Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee Call-In Sub-Committee (5)
2. That the Appeals Commission and the Chief Officer Appointments Panel be treated as not needing to comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
 3. That Group Leaders be given delegated authority to appoint members to Appointment Panels for Directors on a one member per Political Group basis, to include a member of the Cabinet, and for the Deputy Chief Executive, a Panel of 5 members on a 2:2:1 member per Political Group basis, to include a member of the Cabinet.

4. That all Members of the Council, with the exception of Cabinet members (unless they are substituting for another Cabinet member), be appointed as substitutes to all bodies listed above, noting the requirement for councillors to be trained before participating in meetings of the Appeals Commission, Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee.
5. That the Committees, Sub-Committees, Appeals Commission and Panels comprise the members as set out in the **Annex** to these Minutes.

CL10

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED PERSONS - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

The Council, noting that elections to the vacant parent governor vacancies were scheduled to be held prior to the start of the new School Year, considered the appointment of voting co-opted persons to the Children and Young People Committee for the Council Year 2020/21.

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

- “1. That the following co-opted members be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in a voting capacity:
 - (a) 1 representative of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education
 - (b) 1 representative of the Northampton Diocesan School Commission
 - (c) 1 representative of parent governors in primary schools
 - (d) 1 representative of parent governors in secondary schools
 - (e) 1 representative of parent governors in special schools
2. That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be authorised to appoint co-opted members to the vacancies.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the following co-opted members be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in a voting capacity:

- (a) 1 representative of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education
 - (b) 1 representative of the Northampton Diocesan School Commission
 - (c) 1 representative of parent governors in primary schools
 - (d) 1 representative of parent governors in secondary schools
 - (e) 1 representative of parent governors in special schools
2. That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be authorised to appoint co-opted members to the vacancies

CL11 APPOINTMENTS TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That Councillors Exon, D Hopkins, Marland, McCall, McLean and Minns be appointed to the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Combined Fire Authority.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

“That Councillors Exon, D Hopkins, Marland, McCall, McLean and Minns be appointed to the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Combined Fire Authority.”

CL12 JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – NHS ACCOUNTABLE CARE SYSTEM

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That Councillors R Bradburn, Jenkins and Minns be appointed as the Council’s representatives on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – NHS Accountable Care System and Councillors Reilly Wales and Walker be appointed as substitute representatives.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Councillors R Bradburn, Jenkins and Minns be appointed as the Council’s representatives on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – NHS Accountable Care System and Councillors Reilly Wales and Walker be appointed as substitute representatives.

CL13 **APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES (LGSS) JOINT COMMITTEE**

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That Councillors R Bradburn, Middleton and Rankine be appointed to the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Joint Committee and that Councillors Marland, McLean and a nominated member of the Liberal Democrat Group be appointed as substitute representatives for their Group representative.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Councillors R Bradburn, Middleton and Rankine be appointed to the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Joint Committee and that Councillors Marland, McLean and a nominated member of the Liberal Democrat Group be appointed as substitute representatives for their Group representative.

CL14 **APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES (LGSS) REVENUE AND BENEFITS JOINT COMMITTEE**

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That Councillor Middleton be appointed to the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Middleton be appointed to the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee.

CL15 **APPOINTMENTS TO THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

“That Councillors R Bradburn be appointed to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and that Councillor McLean be appointed as a substitute representative.”

The Council’s agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Councillors R Bradburn be appointed to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and that Councillor McLean be appointed as a substitute representative.

CL16 THE EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Council received the Leader's Executive Scheme of Delegation which detailed the delegations to individual Cabinet Portfolio holders.

CL17 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Crooks seconded, the following motion:

"That the Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21, be agreed subject to:

- (a) the addition of a meeting of the Standards Committee on 23 July 2020;
- (b) the Health and Wellbeing Board being rescheduled from 18 June 2020 to 29 July 2020;
- (c) the SaferMk Partnership being rescheduled from 29 July 2020 to 24 September 2020;
- (d) the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting scheduled for 7 October 2020 being removed from the Calendar;
- (e) the SaferMk Partnership being rescheduled from 10 February 2021 to 10 March 2021; and
- (f) a provisional meeting of the Council being scheduled for 10 March 2021."

The Council's agreement was given by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21, be agreed subject to:

- (a) the addition of a meeting of the Standards Committee on 23 July 2020;
- (b) the Health and Wellbeing Board being rescheduled from 18 June 2020 to 29 July 2020;
- (c) the SaferMk Partnership being rescheduled from 29 July 2020 to 24 September 2020;
- (d) the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting scheduled for 7 October 2020 being removed from the Calendar;
- (e) the SaferMk Partnership being rescheduled from 10 February 2021 to 10 March 2021; and
- (f) a provisional meeting of the Council being scheduled for 10 March 2021.

CL18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

That the public and press representatives be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information Relating to the Financial or Business Affairs of the Authority) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the Council may consider the report in respect of the LGSS Review.

CL19 EXEMPT MINUTE

RESOLVED -

That the Exempt Minute from the meeting of the Council held on 18 March 2020 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9:21 PM