



Head of Democratic Services
John Moffoot

To: The Mayor and Members of
the Milton Keynes Council

5 March 2007

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL** to be held at the Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes on **TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2007 at 7.30 pm** when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Head of Democratic Services

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact: Simon Heap (Democratic Services Manager) - Tel: (01908) 252567 e-mail: simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

(1)

AGENDA

Item No:

1. Procedure

(a) Apologies

(b) Minutes

To approve, and the Mayor to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13 February (Item 1(b)(i)) (**Pages 6 to 23**) and 27 February 2007 (Item 1(b)(ii)) (**Pages 24 to 51**)

(c) Disclosure of Interests

Members to disclose any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted and officers to disclose any interest in contracts to be considered by the Council.

(d) Announcements

To receive announcements, if any.

2. Public Involvement

(a) Deputations and Petitions

No deputations have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.

(b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting – 27 February 2007

Changes to the Constitution – Annual Council Meeting

At its meeting on 27 February 2007, the Council resolved that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2, the suggested revisions to Council Procedure Rule 1 stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

A copy of the report submitted to the meeting on 27 February 2007 is attached at Item 3 (**Pages 52 to 55**).

The Council is recommended to adopt the revised Council Procedure Rule 1.

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

None

5. Members' Matters

(a) Members' Questions

- (i) Members to ask questions of either the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.
- (ii) Members to ask questions of the representative of the Police Authority appointed to answer questions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5, 7 clear days notice is required for Police Authority questions).

None submitted.

(b) Notices of Motions

- (i) The Future of Local Elections within Milton Keynes.

Councillor Geary – 12 February 2007

“That this Council:

1. notes with interest the information in the Government White Paper, supporting the principles of “All out” four yearly elections, and the move to single member wards;
2. agrees to investigate further the possibility of moving from elections by thirds, the principle currently operated by this council, to the “All out” four yearly system;
3. agrees to investigate further the possibility of moving from multiple ward member representation to single member wards; and
4. requests the Head of Democratic Services to prepare a briefing paper outlining all of the implications that these changes will have on the local democratic structure, both the benefits and the drawbacks, and to include in any such report a breakdown of the cost implications; and
5. requests that the Parish Boundary Review Group, assisted by the Head of Democratic Services, take this item as part of it's work programme, and produces a report for consideration by the Cabinet in the Autumn of 2007.”

(ii) Post Office Closures

Councillor Gerrella – 19 February 2007

“That this Council:

1. regrets the loss of nine post offices between 1999 and 2006 in Milton Keynes and notes with concern the announcement by the Government on 14 December 2006 of Ministers’ plans to close 2500 Post Office branches across the UK;
2. further notes the social importance of Post Offices to the well being of both communities and individuals in Milton Keynes;
3. believes that the recently announced closure programme is unnecessary and calls on the Government to:
 - (a) end the branch closure programme;
 - (b) remove the Royal Mail restrictions on Post Offices to open up further business opportunities for the network;
 - (c) stop removing Government business from Post Offices;
 - (d) carry out a review of which additional Government functions could be carried out through Post Offices; and
 - (e) invest in the Post Office network
4. welcomes the decision of the Government to withdraw its previous proposals to scrap completely the Post Office Card Account, but calls on Ministers to ensure that any replacement Post Office Card Account should be open freely to all pensioners and benefit recipients who wants one;
5. calls on the Government to avoid putting pressure on current and future Post Office Card Account users to switch to having benefits and pensions paid directly into bank accounts;
6. calls on both MPs for Milton Keynes to lobby Ministers to save the Post Office from gradual demolition and to protect this vital service for the people; and
7. further calls on the MPs to report back to this Council on their actions.”

6. Policy Development Committees and Scrutiny Panels Annual Report

To receive the annual report from the Council’s Policy Development Committees / Scrutiny Panels **(to be circulated as a separate document)**.

7. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.3, to note that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, were not used in the period December 2006 to February 2007.

Contact Officer: John Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services) -
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Background Papers: None