



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 04 November 2024
at 7.00pm at the Heelands Meeting Place on Glovers Lane in Heelands,
MK13 7LW.**

Councillors Present: Brant (in the Chair), Bradburn, Exon, Gilpin, Godfrey, Kendrick and Stuchbury.

Staff Present: Philip Farquharson (Clerk)

Members of the public: 8

FC80/24 Apologies: Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Evans. The reason for the apology was voted on which met with unanimously approval and it was therefore resolved to accept the apology.

FC81/24 Declaration of interests: Councillors Exon and Kendrick declared interests in that they were on planning committees at MKCC and would refrain from voting on planning matters. Councillor Godfrey declared an interest in agenda item FC90/24, (where the Milton Keynes Play Association was on the agenda). Councillors Brant and Stuchbury declared interests with reference to item FC105/24, where a grant to the the Bradwell Common Pre-School was on the agenda, and those two Councillors left the Meeting for that agenda item.

FC82/24 Public participation: It was on the agenda for any resident of the parish to raise any issue, petition, question or concern. The following matters were raised:

- A resident was present to bring to the Council's attention the importance of the gates at Bradwell Memorial Hall, in that they were designed by the artist (renowned for stained-glass windows), Harry Stammers, who lived in Bradwell 1962-69. Discussion focussed on the application process for the gates to be formally registered as a heritage item with the relevant body.
- Diane Sutton formally presented to the Parish Council the book on the Homeworld 1981 exhibit in Bradwell Common.
- The remaining residents were present in support of their grant applications:
- FC101/24, the goal nets for Heelands Rangers.
- FC102/24, the ice machine and dishwasher for the Bradwell Sports and Social Club.
- FC104/24, the chipper hire charge for the Heelands Allotment Association.
- FC105/24, the shed for the Bradwell Common Pre-school.

FC83/24 Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting:

Action: A motion was proposed to approve the draft Minutes as accurate and the vote was unanimously in favour. It was resolved therefore to approve the Minutes as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting held on 07 October 2024. These were signed by the Chair for the Council's records.

FC84/24 Finance and Staffing Meeting: The Council noted Minutes and resolutions contained, in particular the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Gilpin, highlighted the newly adopted policy, on anti-bullying and harassment.

FC85/24 Payments: The Council noted the bank balance of £106,928 and savings account balance of £15,111 (as at 25 October 2024), and approved the monthly schedule of payments.

FC86/24 Harry Stammers Gates at the Bradwell Memorial Hall:

A motion was proposed to consider applying to Historic England to have them Listed.

Action: The motion Carried with unanimous support and the Clerk and Dianne Sutton would apply.

FC87/24 Financial Regulations: it was on the agenda to consider model draft financial regulations and tailor them to the Parish Council's requirements for adoption.

Action: The item was deferred.

FC88/24 Bowls Club lease and support for 2025-26: It was on the agenda to consider draft lease and contribution of £4,000 towards Green Maintenance.

A motion was proposed to approve the draft lease with a Parish Council contribution to Green Maintenance of 50% of the cost, with the insertion of a clause to the effect that the Parish Council chose the Green Maintenance provider.

Those in favour: 4

Those against: 2

Those who abstained from voting: 1

Action: The draft lease was approved with a Parish Council contribution to Green Maintenance of 50% of the cost, with the insertion of a clause to the effect that the Parish Council chose the Green Maintenance provider.

A second motion was proposed to contribute to the Green Maintenance for 2025-2026 up to £4,000:

Those in favour: 4

Those against: 2

Those who abstained from voting: 1

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would liaise with the Green Maintenance Provider.

FC89/24 Cricket nets improvement: It was on the agenda to consider the request to improve the cricket nets.

No meeting had happened on site, which was the Council's request at the October Full Parish Council Meeting, and so the item was deferred.

FC90/24 Summer sessions reports MKPA and 5onit:

Action: The Council noted the reports provided from the summer sessions.

FC91/24 Replacement trees:

A motion was proposed to replace the trees broken by vandals on Heelands South Fields (at cost of £540).

Those in favour: 6

Those against: 0

Those who abstained from voting: 1

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would instigate the replacement of trees with thicker stakes, in order to deter vandalism by people driving over them.

FC92/24 Fee estimates for Suffolk Punch modular-units type building: It was on the agenda to consider fee estimates and whether or not to proceed with the community centre. Fee estimates and information as to the feasibility of the project had been provided by architects, designers and surveyors, all qualified professionals. The rate of borrowing £350,000 from the public works loan board had been provided in the paperwork, (it was 5.4% on a eir basis over 25 years).

A motion was proposed not to proceed with building a Community Centre, because the construction of a new hall, even a modular-units type design, would be prohibitively expensive, noting also the cost of borrowing had increased, alongside professional fees since the project was last considered in December 2022:

Those Councillors in favour: Bradburn, Brant, Exon, Godfrey, Kendrick and Stuchbury.

Those Councillors against: Gilpin.

Those who abstained from voting: 0

The vote was recorded.

Action: The motion Carried and the Parish Council therefore resolved not to build a Community Centre, on the grounds that it would be prohibitively expensive.

FC94/24 Road Safety Improvements.

A motion was proposed as per the agenda item, to engage with local residents in Bradwell Common, Heelands and Bradwell Village to establish the appetite for introducing 20mph zones with a view to applying to MKCC if support could be demonstrated (with the Clerk and Cllr Brant nominated to determine how best to carry out that engagement):

Those in favour: 7
Those against: 0
Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: the motion Carried, and the feedback would be provided to Full Council at a later date.

FC95/24 Bradwell Parish Heritage Trail.

A motion was proposed to allocate funding of £5,000 to support the creation of a self-guided heritage trail covering Bradwell Parish.

Those in favour: 6
Those against: 0
Those who abstained from voting: 1

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would amend the draft budget accordingly.

FC96/24 Bradwell Common S106 Funding. It was on the agenda to consider applying to MKCC for release of £31,630 S106 monies from the Hampstead Gate development in Bradwell Common earmarked for "the enhancement and maintenance of the playing field provision at Heelands and/or Bradwell Village".

A motion was proposed, to instruct the Clerk to apply for section 106 moneys generally:

Those in favour: 7
Those against: 0
Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would apply to MKCC for available S106 moneys.

FC97/24 Public Realm Improvements: it was on the agenda to consider allocating funding for the 2025/26 financial year to develop earmarked reserves (EMRs) for capital investment in improvements in Bradwell Common (£10,000) and Heelands (£10,000).

A motion was proposed as above:

Those in favour: 7
Those against: 0
Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: The motion carried and the EMRs would be amended accordingly.

FC98/24 Budget and precept requirement for 2025-26: To consider the draft budget as recommended by the Finance and Staffing Committee for adoption and set a precept requirement level for 2025-26.

Changes to the draft budget were:

- Increase in expenditure of £5,000 for the heritage trail
- Increase the expenditure line for staffing (of £3,000) as:
- Parish Councils would be hit by the reduction in the threshold at which employer's National Insurance was payable.
- This is because the threshold would fall from £9,100 to £5,000 from 6 April 2025. And the employer NI rate would increase from 13.8% to 15% at the same time. Whilst SLCC, NALC and Bucks and MK ALC (Association of Local Councils) would be challenging the NI increase to employers as stipulated in the autumn 2024 budget, the increase would, for the time being, have to be paid for.
- To offset the abovementioned expenditures and with an aim not to incur higher taxes on residents the expenditure line for ad-hoc projects was reduced to £4,130 (from £10,000).

The precept requirement then for 2025-26 was: **£219,415**, equivalent to £77.34 per band D house. This was a decrease of 0.01% from last year's precept requirement. There would be an extra £2,784 of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme or LCTRS money, a 30% reduction from the previous year.

A motion was proposed to adopt the budget and precept requirement as above:

Those in favour: 7

Those against: 0

Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: The budget and precept requirement was approved.

FC101/24 Grant application from Heelands Rangers: It was on the agenda to consider whether to approve the requested £502.91 for 4 pairs of goal nets.

Those in favour: 7

Those against: 0

Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would transfer the money.

FC102/24 Grant application from Bradwell Sports and Social Club (BSSC): The BSSC had requested £2,200 for an ice machine and commercial dishwasher.

A motion was proposed to pay for the items requested, the items being an improvement to the Parish Council's premises.

Those in favour: 7

Those against: 0

Those who abstained from voting: 0

Action: The Parish Council would pay for the dishwasher and ice machine.

FC103/24 Grant application from Christmas for the Elderly: It was on the agenda to consider the application for £800 for the Christmas Party.

The application had been withdrawn on the day of the Meeting.

FC104/24 Grant application from the Heelands Allotment Association: The Association had applied for £500 for chipping work to be done on the site.

A motion was proposed to pay for the chipper:

Those in favour: 6

Those against: 0

Those who abstained from voting: 1

Action: The motion Carried and the Clerk would make the payment.

FC105/24 Grant application Bradwell Common pre-school: The pre-school requested £3,100 for a new shed, and their accounts had been provided in the paperwork alongside quotes for the shed and installation.

Councillors Brant and Stuchbury left the Meeting for this item, with declared interests, and Councillor Gilpin assumed the Chair, in his position of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

A motion was proposed to grant the amount requested. The motion Carried as everyone was in favour.

Action: The Clerk would transfer the funds.

Councillor Brant returned after this item.

FSC99/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public were temporarily excluded.

FC100/24 Complaint over a hall-hire deposit return: It was on the agenda to consider a report from the Chair, however the Chair had not yet completed his investigations and so this would likely be on the December 2024 agenda.

FC93/24 Staff annual increment NALC for 2024-25:

The Council noted the 67pence/hour increase for all staff members on NALC contracts and a motion was proposed to implement the same for other staff members, effective 01 November 2024.

Action: The motion carried.

FC106/24 Application: To consider the application of The Scrap Eater, 10 Hasgill Court, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7LR

There were no objections.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 02 December 2024 at 7:00pm at the Heelands Meeting Place.

The Meeting was declared **closed** at 9:25pm.

DRAFT