Minutes of the meeting of Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council held on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.30 pm at Great Holm Community Centre, Kensington Drive, Great Holm

Minutes

Councillors Present: Tripp (Chair), Dyer, Heinemann, Pointer, Fortune, Hoyle, Briggs and Hanneck.

Members of the Public Present: 27

Staff Present: Paula Milford (Parish Clerk)

Chair for this meeting: It was resolved that Cllr Tripp be appointed Chair for this meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair

FC81/26 Election of Chair: Cllr Lee was elected as the Chair for the 2026 – 2027 year. He will sign the acceptance of officer form prior to the next meeting.

FC82/26 Election of Vice-Chair: Cllr Eaton was elected as the Vice Chair for the 2026 – 2027 year. He will sign the acceptance of officer form prior to the next meeting.

FC83/26 Apologies: Apologies received from Cllrs Lee and Eaton.

FC84/26 Councillor Vacancy–Co-Option: The following resident was co-opted onto the Parish Council. He has signed the declaration of Office form, and joined the meeting from this item onwards

- Ernst-Uwe Hanneck

FC85/26 Declarations of interest: No interests declared.

FC86/26 Public participation: A resident spoke on behalf of a group called "Friends of Redland Drive Park" stating there has been an increase in rubbish in this area, a decline of the shrub beds in and around this park and the excessive use of herbicide in this park making it an increasingly neglected part of Loughton. Both Watling Ward Councillors Amanda Marlow and Leo Montague have asked the resident to contact them regarding this for support.

A resident spoke about the Shurgard self-storage unit along Watling Street. The landscaping plan was recently refused, and we await the next steps. There has been significant press coverage regarding this site. Signage was installed and subsequently removed. There have recently been current issues involving overnight working and this has been reported to environmental health. The resident asked the Parish Council to consider asking MKCC for an article 4 direction which would remove permitted development rights and would mean a formal planning application would need to be submitted for all future amendments and work at this site.

FC87/26 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 20th April 2026 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chair of this meeting.

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FC88/26 May Payment Schedule: The May 2026 payment schedule was noted and approved. Cllr Tripp to authorise this month's payments.

FC89/26 Income and Expenditure: The income and expenditure against budget costs up to 30th April 2026 were noted.

FC90/26 Internal Auditor Report: The final year end internal auditor report for the 2025 – 2026 financial year was noted. It was noted that some sections of the report state "no issues identified" and other sections state "no significant issues identified" The Council has asked for clarity on this wording. The Clerk will email the auditor for this clarification.

FC91/26 Annual Return (AGAR): Full Council approved the annual governance statement and annual return. The Chair signed the forms for Clerk to submit to external auditors PKF Littlejohn.

FC92/26 IT Policy: The new IT policy as recommended by the Internal Auditor was approved.

FC93/26 Committee and Working Group Review: Review and agree the appointment of members to existing committees and working groups for 2026-2027 year:

1) Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee – Cllrs Lee, Eaton, Pointer, Tripp, Briggs and Hanneck.
2) Planning Working Group – Cllrs Dyer, Heinemann and Hoyle.
3) Environment Working Group – Cllrs Heinemann, Lee, Eaton and Fortune.

FC94/26 Review and agree Parish Council representation on external bodies for the council year 2026-2027, or to discontinue representation, for the following:

1) Jubilee Graveyard committee – Cllrs Heinemann and Briggs.
2) Milton Keynes Parish forum – Cllr Heinemann
3) Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils – Cllr Heinemann and Hoyle
4) Hugh Parke Charitable Trust – Cllrs Lee and Hanneck
5) Shenley Leisure Centre – Cllrs Hoyle and Pointer

FC95/26 Policy Review and Approval: The following Parish Council Policies were re-approved.

a) Standing Orders – approved
b) Code of Conduct – approved
c) Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee Terms of Reference – approved
d) Planning Working Group Terms of Reference – approved
e) Environment Working Group Terms of Reference – approved
f) Councillor Co-Option Policy – approved

FC96/26 Shurgard development, Watling Street (Crownhill): The formal complaint we made to MKCC regarding this building has not been upheld. Full Council resolved to:

a) Contact the CEO of Shurgard requesting a meeting about this Watling Street site
b) To follow up on the email sent to the site manager and Shurgard contact at the Watling Street site asking for a meeting and collaboration regarding this building.
c) Contact Emily Darlington to see how she can help with this site and the issues around it.
d) Contact the ward Councillors to see how they can help with this site and the issues around it
e) Contact Micheal Bracey (Chief Executive) at MKCC to discuss the planning process and how we can make it clearer for Parish Councils to understand their options when presented with a potentially contentious planning application.
f) To request an article 4 direction from the Head of Planning at MKCC.

FC97/26 Grant Request: The grant request from Loughton Scout Group for £400 was approved. This will be paid alongside our May payment schedule.

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FC98/26 Grant Request: The grant request from The Toybox Charity for £500 was not approved. The Parish Council must ensure that grants provide clear value for money for our residents and demonstrate a direct benefit to our community. As the event is not being held within the parish Council felt the application did not sufficiently meet these criteria.

FC99/26 Planning Applications: To discuss and consider a response (if any) to the following Planning Applications.

a) **Application Number:** PLN/2026/0864
Location: OLD SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE, LOUGHTON, MILTON KEYNES, MK5 8AT
Proposal: Approval of details required by condition 4 (replacement tree and hedge planting) of permission ref. 23/01007/HOU
Outcome: No Comment

b) **Application Number:** PLN/2026/0173
Location: 54 ASHPOLE FURLONG, LOUGHTON, MILTON KEYNES, MK5 8EF
Proposal: The replacement of pitched roof dormer with flat roof dormer inclusive of first floor front extension
Outcome: No Comment

FC100/26 Residents Coach Trip 2026. The following items in relation to the over 60's residents coach trip were approved.

a) Destination: Kew Gardens
b) Date: Monday 14th September 2026
c) Costs. Coach Cost for a 53-seater coach: £795, Entrance £21.50 per person. Coffee and cake voucher per person £9. TOTAL COST = £2,411.50
d) To charge each resident a non-refundable fee of £21.50. This is the entrance cost, and the Parish Council would subside the coach and the refreshment voucher.

FC101/26 Watling Street / London Road: The Clerk stated that MKCC have yet again confirmed that there will be no replanting along Watling Street. Cllr Heinemann will continue to communicate with MKCC over the summer months regarding this issue, with a view to assessing this area again in the Autumn.

FC102/26 MKCC Spraying of Pesticides: Cllr Heinemann updated the Council on the communication sent to MKCC regarding the use of pesticides in Loughton. The landscaping team have stated that they are happy that the majority of the spraying has been in line with their new pesticide policy but there are some examples of over spraying which will be discussed directly with the contractors. Communication will be ongoing with MKCC regarding spraying in Loughton.

FC103/26 Leys Road New Build House: It was resolved to submit a planning enforcement breach to MKCC regarding the new build property on Leys Road due to the following potential breaches:

- On the Leys Road boundary a single line of hornbeam has been planted instead of the approved double staggered row of hawthorn hedging described in the application documents. Hawthorn has significantly more value to wildlife than hornbeam.
- A mature cherry tree visible from Whitworth Lane may have been felled in April.
- A line of evergreen trees has been planted along the western boundary, potentially inconsistent with the approved landscaping scheme and ecological objectives.
- We have grave concerns that there may have been a significant loss of biodiversity and habitat value compared with the approved scheme.
- Numerous off-site cherry plum trees on the southern Whitworth Lane boundary were felled by persons unknown last summer. This incident was reported at the time to MKCC.

FC104/26 External Reports: Cllr Hoyle attended a meeting at Shenley Leisure Centre and the notes from this meeting will be circulated to Council via email in due course.

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FC105/26 Items for the next agenda: To note that all members must notify the Clerk of any items for the agenda in accordance with the Parish Council's standing orders.

Details of Next Meeting: Monday 15th June 2026, 7.30pm at Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton

101/26 - add wording

"The Milton Keynes City Council has agreed that if the registration does not regrow by September they will revisit their decision not to replant".

15/06/26