

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD ON FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.30PM**

Councillors present:

B Collier (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
A Cooper	Mrs M Cooper
Mrs D Haslett-Saunders	Mrs J Hyde
B Saunders	D Savill
M Smith	L Stoter
Mrs C Turner	

Also present:

17 members of the public, District/County Councillors Street and Saunders, and the Clerk

8032. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks were given to Councillor Mrs Bundock for the mince pies enjoyed before the meeting.

Congratulations were given to the Assistant Clerk, Sharon, and Ian Summerfield for raising £110.05 for Children in Need.

The Chairman advised Members that as there was a full agenda for this meeting, to do the subject of the gypsy and traveller site consultation justice, a full evening has been allocated to devote to the matter – Town Enhancement Committee meeting, Monday 8th December. All Council Members can attend, and also members of the public. Half an hour will be permitted for public comments, and then the Committee will consider a draft response which will be sent in as soon as possible. Public comments have to be in to Vision 21/District Council by the 7th January, however the Town Council has been given written special dispensation to send the confirmed comments in by the 9th. Therefore those present were asked to not discuss the gypsy and traveller site at this meeting.

8033. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee meeting minute 5744 regarding a replacement fence at the Riverside Playing Field, and advised that she would leave the room if a discussion took place.

8034. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Wilding, Hayes, Mrs Lewin and P.C. Ryan.

8035. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

P.C. Ryan was not able to attend this meeting, and had not provided copies of the crime report for the last month. If any Member has a specific question, they are to contact P.C. Ryan direct.

8036. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Mr Clarke from Littlebury Close spoke regarding the proposed gypsy and traveller site consultation. He advised that he had written to all Stotfold Town and District Councillors and had received five replies. He felt the consultation period provided by the District Council was very short, but felt that this Council should not have sought an extension to return their comments.

The Chairman advised that we have followed the same policy on other consultations and that this is very acceptable to the District Council. We are gathering advice and information from the County and District Councils and other sources to make sure that we produce a comprehensive response.

A motion was put on behalf of Councillor Mrs Lewin, who was unable to attend the meeting, which was seconded and it was:

Resolved that a Special Council meeting is held before the next scheduled Council meeting in January, to adopt a response for the Gypsy and Traveller site consultation before the deadline of 7th January 2008.

8037. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 7th November 2008 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

8038. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 2008 having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

8039. To receive a report on the progress of the Community Leisure Centre Project (see minute 8003)

The architects for the Leisure Centre Project have advised that until a decision is made on the phasing options, they have held off visiting the rifle range at the St Ivo Centre for the time being.

8040. To receive a report from a County Councillor on matters pertaining to Stotfold (see minute 8014)

A letter of congratulations has been sent to the Head of St Mary's School following the outstanding Oftsted inspection rating.

CORRESPONDENCE

8041. The following items of correspondence can be obtained from the Clerk

- Direction Information Service – Issues 696 & 697
- Bedfordshire Bugle – Issue 6 November 2008

8042. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

As District Councillor Street had not arrived at this point, the Chairman advised Members of a report from him.

He has made enquiries following last month's query over swimming for the over 60's in pools not owned/run by local authorities. As of the 1st April (when Central Bedfordshire Authority comes into effect) over 60's and under 16's will have free use of their swimming pools. This only applies to local authority pools, and not privately owned/operated.

District Councillor Mrs Turner reported on the following:

- Visited the Co-op wind farm in Coldham, Near March in Cambridgeshire. A planning application is due to go in for 17 wind turbines in Langford off the A1M.
- She attended the appeal for the application for 2 Hitchin Road which was recently refused by the District Council. The Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal.
- There are currently many meetings at the District Council regarding the transition to unitary authority.
- At the recent Gypsy and Traveller site open event organised by Vision 21, over three hundred residents attended and signed the forms.
- She visited a waste disposal plant in Sheffield, which was very impressive. It was hoped that something similar would be built in Bedfordshire, however Covanta have applied to Central Government to build a power station on the site where the District Council were looking to provide a waste disposal plant at Rookery Park near Marsden. Buckinghamshire waste may be incinerated here.

8043. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

County Councillor Saunders reported on the following:

- Advised that he was trying to get the hedges cut around the Cemetery and Mill areas for pedestrian and vehicle road safety.
- He was asked to get the road drains on Arlesey Bridge unblocked and cleared of weeds, as they are very overgrown.
- With regard to the recently cut hedgerow on the shared cycle/footway on Hitchin Road near Fairfield Park, he will chase Highways to clear the undergrowth and debris left behind.

Congratulations were passed to the County Councillors and Salvation Army for producing the Christmas CD.

8044. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Member representatives on outside bodies.

8045. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th November were previously circulated to Members. Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that the delivery and collection process has taken place and an unofficial estimate of returns is around 41%. They are still waiting for a small number to come from Fairfield Hall. Late returns are still welcome and they have issued instructions through the December Stotfold News and the Town and Around columns of The Comet and Biggleswade Chronicle.

Part of the meeting was given to Jemma McLean from the BRCC and Larry Stoter who has volunteers to 'head up' the analysis of the questionnaire. Six members of the Steering Group have agreed to assist Larry.

The January edition of the Stotfold News carries an appeal to the residents asking for anyone with a little time, a computer and a basic knowledge of Excel to volunteer to help.

The Group are preparing a statement to be sent to Mid Beds District Council before the deadline, regarding the proposed gypsy and traveller site. Information will be drawn from responses to the questionnaire.

Councillor Mrs Clarey referred to an article in the recent edition of The Bugle about the Rave Bus which the Group was unable to use during the school holidays due to technical problems, but may well feature in Stotfold at a later point in time, possibly with a youth worker to assist.

8046. TO APPROVE THE VIREMENT OF REQUIRED FUNDS WITHIN THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND ELECTION COSTS FROM THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO ENABLE URGENT SECURITY MEASURES TO BE PURCHASED FOR THE SIMPSON CENTRE

Members were advised that the office has suffered another break-in and theft of computer equipment. The equipment has now been replaced in order to resume normal office functions, however immediate action is now required to prevent a further break-in over the Christmas period, and quotations have been sought for an alarm system for the office. In the longer term the Buildings Management Committee will want to be looking at other measures to protect the building.

Resolved that approval is given to viring required funds within the office equipment and election costs from this year's budget to the Buildings Management Committee to enable urgent security measures to be purchased for the Simpson Centre.

It was

Further resolved that the Clerk be given executive powers to seek three quotations for an alarm system, and to instruct a security company to install an alarm system in the Council offices.

8047. TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS RECORDS FOR NOVEMBER 2008

Members were provided with copies of the payments and receipts records at the meeting and it was:

Resolved that all monies on the payments list be paid, and the receipts list be noted.

8048. TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR END NOVEMBER 2008, TOGETHER WITH THE BANK BALANCES AS AT END NOVEMBER 2008

Members were previously provided with a copy of the bank balances, and were provided with copies of the income and expenditure record at the meeting.

Resolved that the income and expenditure record for end November 2008, together with the bank balances as at end November 2008 be noted.

8049. PLANNING COMMITTEE

12th November 2008

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Cooper then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2008.

These were then carried.

26th November 2008

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

The minutes were carried, with the following amendment:

Minute 2758 add the words: *Councillor Mrs Cooper requested that her name be recorded as voting against items C and D.*

Councillor Cooper then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

These were then carried as amended.

8050. RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cooper asked Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Mrs Cooper then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2008.

These were then carried.

8051. BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bundock asked Members of the Buildings Management Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Mrs Bundock then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Buildings Management Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2008.

These were then carried.

8052. CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Hyde asked Members of the Cemetery Management Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2008.

The minutes were carried, with the following amendments:

Minute 2094 should read '*.... from a resident pointing out that her mother's Memorial*'.
Resolution of minute 2099 should read '*Councillor Cooper will assist in obtaining ...*'

Minute 3004, the second part of the recommendation should be deleted as this was not what took place at the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Hyde then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Cemetery Management Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2008.

These were then carried as amended.

8053. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Establishment Committee to receive, confirm and approve the non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the non-confidential minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

These were then carried.

8054. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Glen Rickwood of Wrayfields asked for a list of streets that the District Council clean, and how often this is done. This will be provided to him once it is obtained from Environmental Services at the District Council.

Mr Haskell requested that a public meeting be held with regard to the gypsy and traveller site consultation as soon as possible, and that notification of the event be displayed as prominently as possible.

Following this request, it was proposed that a public meeting regarding the gypsy and traveller site consultation is held, and it was:

Resolved that a public meeting regarding the gypsy and traveller site consultation is held on Friday 19th December at 7.30pm, in either the Memorial Hall, or at Etonbury due to the larger accommodation available. The event will be well publicised.

8055. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT

Members were previously circulated copies of the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th November 2008.

A query was raised regarding who would be paying the compensation to the tenant farmer on the land at Arlesey Road, if it became due. It would be paid through the funds available in the project.

There was also a query regarding the drainage mentioned in minute number 79, where it refers to drainage being run from the site to Pix Brook. The natural flow and fall is the opposite way, and runs towards the River Ivel.

With regard to a query over what the replacement of floodlights and other equipment at the Football Club has to do with the Town Council, Members were advised that the longer this matter goes on, the more the Football Association will require improvement works to be carried out at the Football Club.

8056. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

There were no items for information only.

8057. THE CHAIRMAN THEN PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING

That it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded whilst matters pertaining to staff and financial issues are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting

This was passed by Members.

8058. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Establishment Committee to receive, confirm and approve the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the confidential minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008.

These were then carried.

8059. TO CONSIDER AND MAKE A DECISION ON THE OPTIONS FOR THE PHASING OF THE COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE

Confidential minute 8059 is appended for Members only.

There being no further relevant business the meeting was declared closed at 10.35pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED