

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Councillors present: B Collier (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	A Cooper
Mrs M Cooper	S Hayes
Mrs J Hyde	B Saunders
L Stoter	Mrs C Turner

Also present: One member of the public, District/County Councillors Saunders and Street, PC Paul Ryan and PCSO Mark Pearson

In the absence of the Clerk, Councillor Mrs Cooper took the minutes for the meeting.

8094. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members that he had recently attended the Comet Sports Awards presentation ceremony on behalf of Victoria Pendleton who is currently training in Australia for a future competition. He read an email from her, thanking the Comet newspaper for her award.

Due to the extremely bad weather, the Clerk was unable to get to work, so the agendas for the planned meetings on Wednesday 11th have not been produced for distribution. These meetings are expected to take place on Wednesday 18th February instead.

8095. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Bundock declared an interest in a payment concerning Stotfold Parents Association. Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee minute 5777 regarding a replacement fence at the Riverside Playing Field.

8096. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Clarey, Savill, Smith, Mrs Haslett-Saunders, Mrs Lewin and Mrs Wilding.

8097. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

P.C. Ryan had a report of crimes for the past month, a copy can be provided by the Clerk if requested. With regard to the armed raid at the Co-op Post Office counter in December, it has been investigated by Officers from C.I.D. and the victim has been updated with the investigation so far. Goods stolen from the One-Stop shop resulted in these goods being confiscated and a period of detention for the offender. A youth from Arlesey has been given a nine month custodial sentence for offences carried out in the area, including Stotfold. Following a Beds/Herts police operation, a substantial amount of drugs and cash were found and this will have a significant impact on the supply of drugs in the local area.

P.C. Ryan had issued seven tickets to motorists, all from Stotfold, when he had mounted a speed limit check on Arlesey Road recently. He is pleased that the long awaited road safety measures near to Etonbury School should be in operation by April 2009. He has been closely involved and

consulted on these and feels the area will become much safer for the pupils. Measures will include an area of new rubberised road surface, a reduced speed limit at the beginning and end of the school day, and an enforceable “No Parking Zone” near the school entrance. He has also asked the Highway Authority to consider the provision of a Pelican Crossing.

Some Councillors asked if it would be possible for the nine year olds to cycle to school as at present they have to be at least eleven, and passed the cycling proficiency test. Councillor Mrs Hyde felt that from her personal experience of cycling with her grandson on occasions, she felt that the eleven year old rule was appropriate, regarding their maturity.

P.C. Ryan and P.C.S.O. Pearson were thanked for their attendance and then left the meeting.

8098. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

A member of the public asked if details regarding street cleaning frequency were available yet. He was informed that as far as this evening’s meeting was concerned we did not have the details, but would continue to pursue the matter.

8099. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 9th January 2009 were previously circulated to Members. A discussion ensued regarding minute 8074 and a request was made to amend the wording to make the meaning of the sentence clearer.

The minutes were taken as read, and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, with the following amendment:

Minute 8074 is to read ‘...*there were suggestions that gypsy and traveller sites in Hertfordshire have been turned down...*’

8100. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Monday 5th January 2009, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

8101. To consider the comments from residents at the public meeting regarding the Gypsy and Traveller site consultation, and to amend and approve the Town Council’s response accordingly (see minute 8063)

In response to our query, the District Council have advised that they request payment for Council Tax from Gypsy and Traveller sites, but with regard to Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) it would only be requested if they had a business set up on the site. This wouldn’t cover someone running an electrical contractor or road surfacing business, for example, as is the situation with the settled community running a similar business from their home.

The amended response to the consultation was submitted before the deadline. The updated caravan count figures were received after the deadline date but Vision 21 and the District Council were happy to receive an updated sheet showing these figures.

For Members' records, a copy of the final document submitted by this Council was previously circulated.

8102. To receive a report from a County Councillor on matters pertaining to Stotfold (see minute 8074)

A letter has been sent to the Schools Admissions at County Hall regarding children not being able to gain a place at St Mary's School due to oversubscription. Councillor Street gave an update on this matter in his County Councillor report.

8103. To receive a report from Member representatives on outside bodies (see minute 8075)

A letter of congratulations has been sent to Roecroft School for their outstanding Ofsted Inspection rating.

8104. To nominate a Town Council Member to serve on the Central Bedfordshire Council Standards Committee (see minute 8079)

Councillor Saunders had put himself forward to serve on the Committee, however we have been advised that he was unfortunately unsuccessful on this occasion.

CORRESPONDENCE

8105. Bedfordshire County Council – Farewell Reception for Town & Parish Councils

An invitation has been received for a representative of this Council to attend the above event taking place on Tuesday 10th March 2009 from 7.00pm in the Council Suite, County Hall, Bedford. Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are unable to attend. Any Member wishing to represent the Council at this event is to advise the Clerk.

8106. Friends of St Mary's Church – Quiz

An invitation to enter a team of up to 6 people in the above quiz taking place on 28th February 2009 at 7pm has been received. Tickets will be £4.50 for members and £5.00 for non-members, which includes a light supper. Councillor Cooper will organise a team for the quiz.

8107. Bedfordshire County Council – Thanksgiving Service

An invitation has been received for the Chairman to attend the above event taking place on Sunday 29th March 2009 at 3.00pm in the Parish Church of St Paul, Bedford followed by refreshments at County Hall, and Beating Retreat at 5.15pm. The Chairman is able to attend this event.

8108. Mid Beds District Council - Chairman's Civic Reception

An invitation has been received for the Chairman to attend the above event taking place on Friday 20th February 2009 at 7.00pm at the Council Offices, Chicksands. The Chairman is able to attend this event.

8109. The following items of correspondence can be obtained from the Clerk

- Direct Information Service Issue No.s 699, 700 & 701
- Bedfordshire Bugle January 2009 edition (circulated to Members)

With regard to the Bedfordshire Bugle, the Clerk will be asked to note the contents of the last paragraph of the item regarding compulsory retirement age, on page 4.

8110. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

- District Councillor Mrs Turner informed Members that the District Council had sent out letters of apology to residents regarding some remarks that had been 'disallowed' on the previous gypsy and traveller consultation. The Council had conceded they may have been over zealous in the judgement of the nature of the comments submitted.
- Councillor Mrs Turner was pleased she had been able to help access funding for additional security measures (CCTV) at the Simpson Centre, from the Confident Communities Fund.
- At present, all Stotfold District Councillors are urging the District Council to reappraise the whole gypsy and traveller site issue, regarding Stotfold. Vision 21, contracted by the District Council to run the consultation on the site proposed in the area, received approximately 1500 responses from Stotfold residents regarding the proposed site in/off Baldock Road.
- Regarding the heavy snowfalls this week and poor road conditions in residential roads, the refuse collection service is on catch-up. The District Council website had a message saying the service would hope to collect Stotfold refuse on Monday 9th February if possible. Otherwise a double collection of refuse will take place – recyclables and non-recyclables on Friday 13th February. A Member asked if new information regarding recyclable materials could be put in the Horizon (or its successor) magazine as not everyone received Beds on Sunday which distributed details on the improved and expanded service of refuse collections.
- The District Council information magazine, Horizon, delivered to all homes in the area will be replaced by a new publication after the changeover to Central Beds Authority in April 2009. The authority is asking for suggestions regarding a new name for it. Members of the public may submit suggestions – see the Council's website for details.
- At present all Council Members and employees of the District Council are working hard towards a smooth 'changeover' to Central Beds Authority in April 2009.

8111. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

- County Councillor Saunders informed Members present that the Fire Authority on which he is a representative had this week set its budget at £27million for 2009/2010 which was a slight increase on last year. The Chief Fire Officer for Bedfordshire has been seconded to Warwickshire. This will also allow for career progression of our own fire service employees as they take on other duties. There is still some concern regarding 'emergency cover situations' as there are now no 'Green Goddess' fire engines available from military authorities as in the past. It is hoped the events could be covered by the retained fire crews, but work is still required on this matter.
- The County Council have been using approximately 325 tons of gritting salt per night during the recent bad weather. They currently have 4 to 5 days stock for use at these rates. There had been a complaint of speeding gritting lorries in the town. Councillor Saunders replied that a greater vehicle speed meant the load of salt would be spread more sparingly and was therefore an economy measure, if deemed safe at the time.
- A Member asked if the County Councillors would see if funding could be made available in the future for the provision of a fire station in Stotfold and Arlesey, as we seem to be the only large conurbation in the area not to have one.
- County Councillor Street reported that the Chicksands building is only able to accommodate 300 people so those working presently at County Hall will continue to be based there until

suitable premises are found to hopefully have everyone from one site for the new authority. This problem has been caused by the Government's decision to create the new authorities to take over the running of the County of Bedfordshire from April 2009 – those being Bedford Borough and Central Beds Authority.

- County Councillor Street reported that a member of the County Education Department had visited St Mary's School in Stotfold regarding the lack of places for new reception children. He had himself been present at this meeting. As a result of the meeting the admissions number for St Mary's has been increased to 55 reception children, an increase of 10 pupils. At present the situation regarding individual children seems to be resolved with parents obtaining places at a school of their choice. A Member felt that there was still a problem if parents wanted a place for their child at a Church (Voluntary Aided) School. Councillor Street said he would follow this up.
- A Member asked if the new Roecroft School building programme was likely to be delayed because of the recession and downturn in the building industry and housing market. Councillor Street replied that the funding for the school was there already and it would be open in September 2010 as planned.

8112. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Member representatives.

8113. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT

The Chairman reported that the District Valuer has valued Roker Park and the valuation is greater than that previously indicated by Levitts. Gibson Hamilton and Press and Starkey have been notified of this higher figure, to be incorporated into the projected funding total for the project.

8114. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP

Members were advised that the last meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Councillor Stoter, who has been coordinating the team of people inputting data from the questionnaire into a computer spread sheet programme ready for analysis, reported few problems. He did ask that extra volunteers would help to speed up the process as so much information was sought and needs to be ultimately analysed.

8115. TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD DURING MARCH AND APRIL 2009

Resolved that the proposed schedule of meetings for the period during March and April 2009, as previously circulated, be approved.

Councillor Mrs Turner advised that she would be unable to attend the 3rd April Council meeting as she would be on holiday.

8116. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AS WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2009

Resolved that the Annual Town Meeting be held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 in the Memorial Hall, Stotfold.

8117. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE STATUTORY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AS FRIDAY 1ST MAY 2009

Resolved that the Statutory Town Council meeting be held on Friday 1st May 2009.

8118. TO CONSIDER HOLDING A CIVIC SERVICE IN 2009

It was agreed to hold a Civic Service in 2009. Dates suggested by Chairman in association with Reverend Pat Quint of St Mary's Church were discussed. Clashes of events in neighbouring towns or churches were to be avoided wherever possible. It was decided to opt for either a date in mid September or around 18th October if this fits with Reverend Quint's work arrangements.

A Member suggested it would be desirable to hold the Civic Service at a different venue than St Mary's Church this year, perhaps at a hall or school at Fairfield Park. This would encourage residents of Fairfield Park to feel part of the larger community of Stotfold. Whilst the venue might be smaller so some aspects like the 'Colours Ceremony' of the local Scout and Guide Associations could not be presented, or perhaps the Salvation Army Band not accommodated, she did not feel that this was detrimental to the overall ethos for just one year. There is an All Age Worship service held at Fairfield Park on the first Sunday of the month and it might be able to incorporate/combine the two events. Certainly we should be looking to include Fairfield Park residents in town issues on as many occasions as is possible, and to make it easy for them to participate wherever possible.

Reverend Pat Quint will be asked to consider if the Fairfield Park venue might be workable this year or next.

8119. TO CONSIDER HOLDING A TOWN COUNCIL DINNER IN 2009

It was agreed that we should have a Town Council Dinner this year. Suggested date is Saturday 25th April 2009. The Clerk is to contact local hostleries regarding availability and menus. Venues to include: The Jester – Ashwell, Bushel & Strike – Ashwell, Tudor Oaks – Stotfold, The Chequers – Stotfold, The Stag – Stotfold (some venues in Stotfold are experiencing a change in ownership at present).

8120. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE TO VARY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EACH COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL, FORMING PART OF THE STANDING ORDERS

Resolved that the recommendation from the Establishment Committee to vary the Terms of Reference for each Committee of the Council, and forming part of the Council's Standing Orders, be received and approved, and stand adjourned until the March meeting of this Council.

8121. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM FAIRFIELD BOWLS CLUB FOR A GRANT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISC PROVISIONS – RECREATIONAL FACILITIES) ACT 1976 TO COMPLETE WORKS TO A NEW BOWLS CLUB PAVILION, FROM NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR'S BUDGET

Fairfield Bowls Club have submitted a request for a grant from this Council to assist them in completing works to a new Bowls Club pavilion at Fairfield Park. The existing Fairfield hospital is Grade 2 listed and therefore a section 106 agreement requires the developers to upgrade the cricket

pavilion and also to provide a new pavilion for the Bowls Club (the current one is very dilapidated). They are expecting the building of the pavilion to start almost immediately, but the Bowls Club are required to complete the internal finishes and possibly some of the external works involving paving and boundary fences. They have put together a very detailed application pack for funding which has also been sent to Mid Beds and WREN for financial assistance. They are looking for somewhere in the region of £500 - £700 if possible. If approved the grant would be from next financial year's budget, but for their own project budgeting purposes they would like to know as soon as possible whether they have been successful or not. Extracts from their application pack was previously circulated to Members for information.

Resolved that a grant of £700 be granted to Fairfield Bowls Club from next financial year's budget.

It was further:

Resolved that a letter be sent to Mid Beds District Council asking them to closely check the provisions of the Section 106 Agreement for Fairfield Park as Members believed that a replacement bowls pavilion was to have been provided which included all the interior fittings and heating, by the developers PJ Livesey.

8122. TO CONSIDER SENDING MEMBERS AND THE CLERK TO THE SLCC CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL COUNCILS TAKING PLACE ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2009 AT THE RUFUS CENTRE, FLITWICK (£30 FOR CLERK, £40 PER MEMBER)

The draft programme for this event was previously circulated to Members. The Clerk wishes to attend the conference, and if any Councillor wishes to attend as the Chairman will be unavailable they should advise the Clerk. Councillor Mrs Turner expressed an interest in attending.

Resolved that the Clerk attend the SLCC Conference for Local Councils taking place on Monday 9th March 2009 at a cost of £30, and any other Member wishing to attend at a cost of £40 per Member.

8123. TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS RECORDS FOR JANUARY 2009

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

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

8124. TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR END JANUARY 2009, TOGETHER WITH THE BANK BALANCES AS AT END JANUARY 2009

Members were previously provided with copies of the income and expenditure record and the bank balance for end of January 2009.

Resolved that the income and expenditure record for end January together with the bank balances as at end January 2009 be noted.

8125. PLANNING COMMITTEE

9th January 2009

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2009.

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 9th January 2009.

These were then carried.

28th January 2009

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2009.

These were then carried.

Councillor Cooper then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2009.

These were then carried.

8126. 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 14th January 2009.

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 14th January 2009.

These were then carried.

8127. 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 21st January 2009.

The minutes were carried.

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 21st January 2009.

These were then carried.

8128. 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 21st January 2009.

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 21st January 2009.

These were then carried.

8129. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Establishment Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2009.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2009.

These were then carried.

8130. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were no questions from electors.

8131. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

There were no items for information purposes only.

There being no further relevant business the meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED