

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Councillors present: B Collier (Chairman)

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

Also present: 6 members of the public, P.C. Ryan, District/County Councillors Saunders and Street and the Clerk

7997. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were reminded that on Sunday 8th November a Remembrance Service will be held at the Cemetery. Those attending are requested to arrive at 2.30pm for a 2.45pm service.

The postponed Gypsy and Traveller Site consultation has now been rescheduled and a briefing session for Councils will take place on November 18th, 2pm at the District Council Offices. Councillor Collier and the Assistant Clerk will attend. The consultation period will be from Monday 17th November 2008 until Wednesday 7th January 2009.

7998. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of Members interest at this time.

7999. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Cooper, Hayes, Mrs Turner and Mrs Wilding.

8000. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Ryan was unable to provide crime figures for this meeting, but advised that over the Halloween period there were two reports of criminal damage, one of which was to the Memorial Hall. There were reports of a group of approximately fifty youths in the town. Police presence was good for the evening – PC Ryan, two PCSOs, 2 Special Constables and the Arlesey PC and PCSO. Bonfire night was very busy but passed without incident.

With regard to the recent reported drugs situation in Hyde Avenue, a person was moved from Vaughan Road to Hyde Avenue due to antisocial behaviour. On 30th October the Police paid the person a visit and he was arrested and charged with intent to supply drugs. Subsequently, the number of reports of antisocial behaviour in the town has gone down

The Police are continuing to seize alcohol from youngsters. Section 59 warnings are being issued to antisocial drivers, and is mainly problems caused by out of town drivers. Section 59 is a warning given to the rider/driver of a vehicle, and the vehicle itself, in cases of antisocial

behaviour. This warning will go on the Police National Computer and if the rider/driver or vehicle is involved in any further incidents of antisocial behaviour then the vehicle will be seized.

PC Ryan has been using the speed gun around the town and has issued three tickets to drivers on Arlesey Road. With regard to parking problems, he continues to give advise to the owners of vehicles, and can issue a ticket if necessary.

PC Ryan will be available to provide a Police escort on Sunday's Remembrance Service Parade.

With regard to a Member's comment that the situation with young drinkers around the Malthouse Lane area is much better, PC Ryan felt that this was because the Police continue to tip away the seized alcohol in front of the youth. With regard to the reported two to three regular groups congregating in Regent Street, these are mostly from Arlesey and some are in fact young men.

PC Ryan was advised that a resident was having difficulty in getting hold of him or the PSCO, he will obtain the resident's details and contact them direct.

Concern was expressed over children in particular cycling on pavements, and Members were advised that the Police either advise the children not to do this, or in some cases he has taken them home to their parents to explain the situation. The Police Schools Liaison Officer is currently working with the schools around the town with regard to cycling programmes.

8001. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Glen Rickwood, Wrayfields

Referred to a CPRE litter pack which has recently become available to Parish Councils, which the Clerk advised she was now in receipt of. He is very concerned about the amount of litter on the streets around the town and referred to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which allows Parish Councils to take action against littering. He was advised that this would mean the Town Council would have to take on a street cleaner or officer to issue fixed penalties. The principle streets around the town should be litter picked by the District Council fortnightly, and they will be reminded of this fact and advised of the current litter levels.

8002. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2008

The non-confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 3rd October 2008 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

8003. To receive a report on the progress of the Community Leisure Centre Project (see minute 7981)

A Member referred to the request that the architects for the project visit the rifle range at the St Ivo Centre and queried whether they had visited. The Clerk will chase this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

8004. Stotfold Methodist Church – Quiz Night

An invitation has been received to enter a team of 4 to 6 people at the Quiz Night taking place on Friday 21st November, 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Entrance is £4 per person and includes supper. As the questions will be the same as a recently attended quiz night, where the Council team were the winners, it was felt inappropriate for a team to be entered in this quiz.

8005. Sandy Town Council – Christmas Gala Day

An invitation has been received for the above event taking place on Sunday 7th December 2008 in the Market Square from 2pm. A hot buffet will be held at 2.45pm in the lounge at the Queen's Head public house. Tickets are £6 each and funds raised will go to the MacMillan Cancer Support. Any Member wishing to attend is to advise the Clerk.

8006. Fairfield Players – ‘The Great Santa Kidnap’

Two complimentary tickets have been received for the above production. Tickets are valid for one of the following dates: Friday 21st November 7pm, Saturday 22nd November 1.30pm, Saturday 22nd November 5pm, Sunday 23rd November 1.30pm. Any Member wishing to attend is to advise the Clerk.

8007. CPRE Countryside & Design Awards Presentation

An invitation has been received for the above event taking place on Saturday 6th December, 6pm – 8pm at Howbury Hall, Renhold, Bedford. Tickets are £5 and any Member wishing to attend is to advise the Clerk.

8008. St John Ambulance – County Carol Service

An invitation has been received for the Chairman to attend the above event taking place on Wednesday 17th December at St Andrews Church, Bedford, from 7.30pm followed by refreshments. The Chairman is unable to attend as he will be Chairing the Establishment Committee meeting that evening. Any other Member wishing to attend is to advise the Clerk.

8009. Ampthill Town Council – Civic Service

An invitation has been received for the Chairman to attend the above event taking place on Sunday 15th February 2009 at St Andrew's Church, Ampthill, at 3pm followed by a reception in the Chapter House. The Chairman will attend this event.

8010. Central Bedfordshire Authority – Stakeholders Update

A copy of the above newsletter, together with information about their Management Team and Heads of Service, was circulated to Members at the meeting.

8011. Howard Cottage – Estate Walkabout

An invitation was received for a Member of this Council to join the Housing Officer for Howard Cottage on a walkabout of their properties in Stotfold, which took place on Wednesday 22nd October. This invitation was received between Council meetings and therefore Councillor Mrs Bundock agreed to attend on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Mrs Bundock reported that the Howard Cottage estate annual walkabouts were a visual inspection of the outside of their properties and they noted things that needed doing.

They don't usually knock unless they find an excess of rubbish outside the property. They now have 1400 properties from Ware to Ampthill. Some are low budget housing and some are listed buildings. The Government has recently advised them of a new forthcoming rental system whereby they must advertise a property and ask for the highest bid for the rent, rather than the usual advertising of the property and amount of rent payable. Howard Cottage are very interested in the Land South of Stotfold development and are hoping to have some 20 properties on site.

8012. The following correspondence can be obtained from the Clerk

- Direct Information Service – Issues 694 & 695
- Local Council Review – Volume 60, No 4, November 2008

8013. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

District Councillor Saunders gave the following report:

- The Central Beds Shadow Authority is now up and running, although there are a couple of areas where things are not quite up to speed as they should be.
- A meeting was held yesterday regarding gypsy and traveller sites and was attended by Councillor Street. There is a good chance that the Arlesey Road site will be removed from the site suggestions, however the question is, if we had to have a site, where would it be. West Drive, Arlesey will also probably be removed and the other two sites for Arlesey are currently on appeal.

District Councillor Street gave the following report:

- With regard to the gypsy and traveller sites a decision was taken yesterday that two proposed sites have been withdrawn. An article in the forthcoming Stotfold News will be inserted to this effect. Hundreds of hours have been spent on this matter over the last six months by the District Councillors, and they feel they have won a big battle. The Government has said that we must integrate gypsy and traveller sites into the community, providing them with shops, schools, doctors, and must not consider siting them outside of town. It has been suggested by the District Councillors that the Boundary Farm area on the A507 might be suitable for a site, however the Environmental Team and Noise Abatement Team have visited the area and have given many reasons why this site would not be suitable, e.g. it is isolated, there would be pollution from nearby A1M traffic and also noise pollution.

Councillor Mrs Lewin declared an interest in the following, and advised that whenever gypsy and travellers are in the A507 area, the allotments suffer.

The Government and District Council have said that we have to take a gypsy and traveller site in our area and we must find a piece of land that is available. Bedfordshire County Council were asked for details of land they own which might be suitable, however there is very little land owned by the County Council that is not in Mid Bedfordshire.

- With regard to a question to District Councillor Mrs Turner at a previous meeting about the free swimming arrangements for the over 60's, a further question was raised about whether there will be arrangements to use non-Council owned pool facilities, such as the one at Fairfield. Councillor Street will investigate.

- The Meat and Livestock Commission submitted an application a few months ago for the site opposite Fairfield for mostly industrial buildings and the provision for five dwellings, which was granted. This week an application has been submitted to remove some of the conditions attached to the permission: Condition 13 'None of the buildings associated with B1, B2 and B8 uses hereby approved shall exceed 8 metres in height', Condition 14 'The replacement dwellings hereby permitted shall not exceed two storey in height and no habitable accommodation shall be provided within their roof area' and Condition 15 'There shall be no net increase in the number of bedrooms at the site within the new dwellings hereby permitted'. He has requested that should the Planners be minded to grant the above application for removal of conditions, it should be taken to the Development Control Committee meeting for decision. These applications will be discussed at the Town Council Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday.

8014. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

County Councillor Street reported on the following:

- Regent Street will be resurfaced next week and Fen End will be resurfaced either this Sunday or next. Apparently the bus company Arriva are not aware of the road closure for Regent Street and subsequently do not have an alternative route and alternative bus stops for the duration of the work, which will be for a maximum of three days.
- With regard to the County Council Community Leaders Fund, they still have some money available for groups and associations within the town who are seeking a small grant. Forms are available and the only criteria to be met are that the organisation has to have a bank account and the funds must be for something tangible.
- St Mary's School Ofsted Inspection has taken place and has been rated outstanding, in almost every area inspected.

Resolved that a letter of congratulations be sent to Colin Phelps, Headteacher at St Mary's School for an outstanding Ofsted Inspection rating.

8015. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Member representatives.

8016. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT

There have been no Project Board meetings since the last Council meeting, however the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th November.

8017. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP

Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that the last meeting of the Town Plan Steering Group took place on Monday 6th October, copies of the minutes were circulated to Members. The meeting finalised the details for the delivery and collection of the Town Plan Questionnaire.

Many people have helped with the collection and delivery, including Council Members. The Group is extremely grateful to all residents, friends and neighbours who undertook this part of

the final consultation. All questionnaires should be in by 18th November, a final call will appear in the December Stotfold News with appeals coming in both The Comet and the Biggleswade Chronicle over the next two weeks.

The number of returns look encouraging but more information will be available in December. As well as bagging up and delivering questionnaires, four members of the Environment Focus Group attended the Green Infrastructure Plan Workshop at The Mill on 21st October.

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on Thursday 27th November at 7.30pm in The Simpson Centre.

8018. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MRS HYDE ON THE STOTFOLD GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN WORKSHOP HELD ON 21ST OCTOBER 2008

As part of the new Local Development Framework, the District Council in partnership with a wide range of environmental organisations is producing a Green Infrastructure Plan for the District. This Plan will set out the investment needed to improve the local environment for both people and wildlife over the next 20 years. In addition, the District Council are also funding the production of a number of community level Green Infrastructure Plans, including one for Stotfold. These local plans will be more detailed and will have a greater level of community input, support and involvement in implementation.

The Stakeholder Workshop was held on 21st October at The Mill, and was very well organised by Cliff Andrews of BRCC. Attendees at the workshop were divided into groups with a map of Stotfold and asked to mark new access routes, existing routes needing upgrading, green space provision to be open to the public – new or existing, sites not accessible but where it is required to be, and areas with views. They were also actively looking at circular routes for walks around Stotfold. The maps also showed allotments, children's play spaces, woodlands, cemeteries, waterways, etc.

The next public consultation will be held on Thursday 13th November from 12pm until 8pm at The Mill, and there will be another stakeholder meeting on 11th December.

8019. TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS RECORDS FOR OCTOBER 2008

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

8020. TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR END OCTOBER 2008, TOGETHER WITH THE BANK BALANCES AS AT END OCTOBER 2008

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

A comment was made regarding the security of money following the recent incidents with money held in Icelandic accounts and the Clerk agreed to check the situation regarding security of Council's money.

8021. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Savill declared an interest in minute numbers 2728 and 2729 in planning items relating to an application for 2 Hitchin Road.

8th October 2008

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

These were then carried.

22nd October 2008

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

These were then carried.

8022. 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 8th October 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 8th October 2008.

These were then carried.

8023. 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 15th October 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 15th October 2008.

These were then carried.

8024. 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 15th October 2008.

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 15th October 2008.

These were then carried.

8025. TOWN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Town Enhancement Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2008.

The minutes were carried with the following amendment:

Minute 256 bullet point 5 to be reworded to include reference to the town centre as per the document being considered, to make the minute clearer.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Enhancement Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2008.

These were then carried as amended.

Councillor Smith requested that his name be recorded as voting against adopting these minutes.

8026. QUESTIONS FOR ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were no questions from electors.

8027. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk will be writing a letter to Victoria Pendleton to congratulate her on her recent three gold medal wins in Manchester.

8028. THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING, THAT:

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

This was passed by Members.

8029. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2008

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Council to receive and approve the confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 3rd October 2008.

These were carried.

8030. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2008

Councillor Mrs Cooper asked Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee to receive, confirm and approve the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Mrs Cooper then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the confidential minutes of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008.

These were then carried.

8031. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2008

Councillor Mrs Bundock asked Members of the Buildings Management Committee to receive, confirm and approve the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Mrs Bundock then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the confidential minutes of the Buildings Management Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2008.

These were then carried.

The Clerk confirmed that she would ensure that in all future minutes in addition to the new confirmed hourly rate, the previous hourly rate for salaries will also be shown.

There being no further relevant business the meeting was declared closed at 9.26pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED