

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD ON FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM**

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Councillors present:

B Collier (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
A Cooper	Mrs M Cooper
Mrs D Haslett-Saunders	Mrs J Hyde
S Hayes	Mrs L Wilding
B Saunders	
Mrs C Turner	

Also present:

Three members of the public, District/County Councillor Street, one member of the press and the Assistant Clerk

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**8068. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised members that Victoria Pendleton had recently been awarded an MBE, a letter of congratulations will be sent to her on behalf of the Town Council.

**8069. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Bundock declared an interest in agenda item 14 regarding approval for a grant to the Stotfold Parents Association. Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee meeting minute 5759 regarding a replacement fence at the Riverside Playing Field.

**8070. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Lewin, Savill, Smith, Stoter and P.C. Ryan.

**8071. REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

P.C. Ryan was not able to attend this meeting, however copies of the crime report for the last month had been provided for information.

**8072. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

There were no oral questions from electors.

**8073. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

The non confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **8074. Bedfordshire & Luton Fire and Rescue Service – Official Opening of Dunstable Fire Station**

An invitation has been received for the Chairman to attend the above event taking place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 12 noon. The official opening will be carried out by The Princess Royal. The Chairman will be attending.

### **8075. The following items of correspondence can be obtained from the Clerk**

- Direction Information Service – Issue 698
- Local Council Review – Volume 60 January 2009

### **8076. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD**

District Councillor Mrs Turner reported that due to the Christmas period there was not much to report at this meeting, she had however noticed at a meeting that she had previously attended posters regarding vehicles and parking entitled POLITE NOTICE. Councillor Mrs Turner advised that they were being given to PSCO's to hand out and that she had also requested for some to be sent direct to her.

It was also reported that Alistair Burt had sent a letter to Mid Beds District Council backing up the Town Council's response to the proposed Gypsy and Traveller site at Baldock Road. Alistair also complimented the letter the Town Council sent and advised that he is behind us with our objections to the proposed gypsy and traveller site.

### **8077. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD**

#### *Baldock Road Gypsy and Traveller Site*

County Councillor Street reported that he had recently attended a meeting with the Chief Executive and Portfolio holders at Mid Beds District Council with regards to the Baldock Road Gypsy and Traveller site. They are fully behind our objections to the site proposed at Baldock Road. County Councillor Street also explained that there had been a misunderstanding by Mr J Clarke on the Town Enhancement Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 minute 262 where Mr Clarke makes reference to Councillor Street's comments in the Biggleswade Chronicle that 2 proposed sites have been withdrawn, and that it was misleading, however this was in reference to the Arlesey Road Sites not the Baldock Road Site. A letter was passed to the press to clarify this misunderstanding.

#### *School Admissions*

It was reported that St Mary's School is currently oversubscribed for September's intake by 21, the normal figure for admission is 45 which totals 66 children wanting to enrol in total. Six or seven families have now received letters from County Hall offering them a place in Biggleswade which is completely unacceptable. County Councillor Street and Colin Phelps, Head Teacher of St Mary's school had attended a meeting with the Admissions Officer on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 08 and expressed their feelings on this matter. They are hoping for a response within 10-14 days. County Councillor Street advised that he would do all he can to see this does not happen.

#### *Potholes*

A lot of resurfacing works have been carried out recently around the Town including some on Trinity Road. County Councillor Street is really pleased with the works done and will keep pushing for resurfacing works to be done in Kingsway. Regent Street has also now been complete. There are 5/6 potholes outside the Chequers which need to be repaired in an area which is under dispute with the Developers. After a phone call to Highways this has now been complete and Councillor Street urges people to phone Highways as they are very good and will carry out works where they are needed.

### *Recycling*

Bedfordshire County Council will launch an improved recycling programme commencing on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Residents will be able to recycle the following additional items within their green bins and orange sacks:

- Paper, Cardboard and Cartons
- All plastic food packaging
- Metal Packaging
- Worn out textiles

An information leaflet will be enclosed in the Beds on Sunday which will give a more extensive list of items you can now recycle.

With regard to School Admissions members felt that it would be helpful for the Town Council to write a letter to the County Hall expressing that we are appalled that a number of Stotfold parents cannot enrol their children into St Marys School and that they may have to travel outside the community to get to another school.

**Resolved** that a letter be sent to School Admissions at County Hall to advise that we are appalled that local children cannot gain a place at St Mary's School due to over subscription and at the idea of sending them to schools in Biggleswade. Suggest that while we don't like to see temporary classrooms within school grounds this would be preferable to sending young children to school outside the community. Remind them that when the School at Fairfield was built we commented that it wasn't big enough and that we need to plan for the future now due more houses being built in Stotfold.

A member raised a point that in the press there were suggestions that gypsy and traveller sites in Hertfordshire have been turned down with the idea that they will be coming to Mid Beds instead. Councillor Street informed members that the allocation for Hertfordshire had not changed, this is just a rumour and our allocations do not take into account Hertfordshire.

- 8078. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**  
Councillor Mrs Bundock gave a report as a member of the Roecroft School Governors. Members were advised that there was no further news on the relocation of the School and were informed that Roecroft School has been rated outstanding following a recent Ofsted inspection.

**Resolved** that a letter of congratulations be sent to Roecroft School for their outstanding Ofsted Inspection rating.

- 8079. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY LESIURE PROJECT**

The Chairman reported that there was no further progress since the last meeting.

- 8080. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP**

The minutes of the Town Plan Steering Group held yesterday evening were distributed to members during this meeting. Councillor Mrs Clarey made the following amendments:

- Minute 92 delete TO BE from the header

- Insert LS against Minute 93 in the actions column and delete LS and AC from the column
- Amend Questionnaire in Minute 93 to read Questionnaire

The group welcomed 4 (and there is a 5<sup>th</sup>) volunteer data analysts who answered appeals in the Stotfold News and local papers.

It was confirmed that all the questionnaires have been returned including 2 out of 3 from the outlying properties that did not receive questionnaires initially.

Councillor Mrs Clarey informed members that the group did submit a response to Vision 21 regarding the proposed Gypsy and traveller site at Baldock Road before Christmas. The response was drawn from the environmental and traffic priorities raised by residents who took part in the early consultations and subsequently influenced the questionnaire.

The group received a presentation led by Councillor Stoter and Jemma McLean, BRCC on the Excel Easy Question Master package that will be used for data analysis. Many questions were asked and dealt with and most of the group left the meeting with 40 questionnaires to trial as soon as the spreadsheet becomes available.

Alongside the analysis of the questionnaires a second group start work next Tuesday to discuss the presentation of the Town Plan in terms of documents.

**8081. TO APPROVE A GRANT TO STOTFOLD PARENTS ASSOCIATION UNDER LGA 1972 SECTION 145 PROVISION OF ENTERTAINMENTS, IN THE SUM OF £21.60 WHICH IS THE SHORTFALL FROM THEIR ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION**

**Resolved** that the sum of £21.60 be granted to Stotfold Parents Association under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**8082. TO NOMINATE A TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER, WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL, TO SERVE ON THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE. THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE UNTIL 2011 IN THE FIRST INSTANCE**

The Chairman advised members that information and nomination form for the above appointment had been received from Louise Ashmore BRCC and that if anyone was interested in nominating themselves for this appointment then the forms are available from the Clerk.

**8083. TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF THE CHAIRMAN TO ATTEND THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY BEING HELD IN JULY 2009. THE DATE IS STILL TO BE CONFIRMED. ALL QUALIFYING NOMINATIONS WILL BE PLACED IN A "HAT" AND DRAWN AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE BAPTC COMMITTEE.**

**Resolved** that the Chairman be nominated to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to be held in July 2009.

**8084. TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS RECORDS FOR DECEMBER 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.

**8085. TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR END DECEMBER 2008, TOGETHER WITH THE BANK BALANCES AS AT END DECEMBER 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 December 2008, together with the bank balances as at end December 2008 be noted.

**8086. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

These were then carried.

17<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

These were then carried.

**8087. 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

These were then carried.

**8088. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Establishment Committee to receive, confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

These were then carried.

**8089. 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

The minutes were carried.

Councillor Collier then asked Members of the Town Council to receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Enhancement Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

These were then carried.

**8090. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

Mr G Rickwood asked if any further information has yet been received regarding the litter and fly tipping issues reported on Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee meeting minute 5768. No further information has been received to date.

**8091. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

Councillor Mrs Cooper informed members that she had received a letter of thanks from St Mary's Church regarding the Christmas tree festival and confirmed that £1210.71 was raised, proving a very successful event.

**8092. 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 financial issues are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting**

This was passed by Members.

**8093. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Council to receive, confirm and approve the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

The minutes were carried with the following amendment:

Minute 8059-Morris Jones be amended 3 times within the paragraph to the correct spelling of Maurice Jones.

There being no further relevant business the meeting was declared closed at 8.22 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**