

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.45PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

S Hayes (Chairman), B Collier, A Cooper, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, J Talbot

Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner, Councillors Mrs L Anderson and Mrs J Hyde, and six members of the public

22/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Clarey. Councillor Matthews was absent without apologies.

23/21 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no disclosures of members interests or requests for dispensation. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

24/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Three members of the public spoke for up to three minutes each, with comments and questions as follows:

Member of public 1

- noted that the Greenacre Centre has F2 planning use, and a change of use application would need to be submitted if it were to become a library
- asked if planning permission has been applied for
- asked why the need to stop use of the Oak Hall from January 2022
- advised that there were currently 600 signatures in a petition
- felt that the council was removing the largest available facility
- felt that inequalities should be considered – football is heavily male dominated and dance is primarily for girls
- asked if an impact assessment has been carried out for girls sports

Member of public 2

- wanted to understand the project
- asked why discussed confidentially when there is a material change
- noted that 15th September meeting says an Extra meeting would be held – no reference to this taking place
- asked why it has taken so long for the public consultation to be announced
- felt that the wording in the council's statement that a proof of concept exercise has been carried out is at odds
- asked for the current status of the council's letter of intent
- asked if for information on lease negotiations and break clause
- asked if an economic impact assessment had been carried out
- noted that the council's 1 Year Action Plan for this year states to promote the Greenacre Centre, and there is no mention of the library

- asked how many pre-covid hirers have actively been asked to return and increase their hire use

Member of public 3

- Section 106 Agreement, sections 18 and 19 has legal implications not to use the property other than for the purposes of a community hall. This challenges the proposal of a library

The members of public were thanked for their contributions, and the Chairman read out the following statement:

“An initial project proposal and subsequent proof of concept exercise has been conducted regarding the future of Stotfold Library. In the coming months, you will have an opportunity to make comment on the proposal, as part of a public consultation exercise”

I can add the earliest the public consultation can take place is mid-December. The consultation period will be for a minimum of four weeks but if it opens before Christmas it is likely to be extended to take account of the Christmas/New Year break. As soon as the consultation becomes live Stotfold Town Council will publish a link/signpost on both their website and Facebook page to ensure all interested parties can see the documents concerning the project proposal and how views and comments can be made.

Since this matter is now progressing to public consultation Stotfold Town Council will not be making any further announcements concerning the matter as to do so could be prejudicial to the consultation progress.”

25/21 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

26/21 CHARGES FOR 2022/2023

Members considered the previously circulated copy of current charges and proposed charges for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED that the 2022/2023 charges for hire of the Memorial Hall and Greenacre Centre are not increased, and therefore remain at the 2021/2022 rates.

27/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The Chairman proposed that under section 3d of Standing Orders, the press and public are temporarily excluded whilst matters pertaining to staff are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting for the following agenda item only. **RESOLVED** by members.

28/21 SALARIES 2022/2023 – BUILDINGS KEYHOLDERS

Members considered a Confidential report regarding 2022/2023 salaries for keyholders at the Memorial Hall and Greenacre Centre.

RESOLVED that the following is awarded for 2022/2023:

The hourly wage used to calculate the base rate for the three keyholder positions is at the minimum National Living Wage in place as of 1st April 2022.

Members of the press and public were permitted re-admittance at the conclusion of this item.

29/21 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Members considered and noted a report from the Clerk on committee budgets in the current financial year, highlighting points of note and explanation (copy available on file).

30/21 COMMITTEE BUDGET SETTING 2022/2023

Members were previously provided with a copy of the figures for the first six months of the current financial year and undertook an appraisal before the estimates of the general running costs for the committee were considered.

Estimate figures for 2022/2023

Estimated running costs:	£116,700
Less estimated income:	£ 24,465
Total	£ 92,235

Earmarked Reserves

GAC sinking fund	£20,000
Handyman role	£ 7,500
Total	£27,500

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The sum of £92,235 is submitted as this committee's budget request for 2022/2023.
- ii) The sum of £27,500 is submitted as this committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2022/2023.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for collation with other committee requests, in order to produce a draft council budget and precept request for approval by full council.

31/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.14pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: