

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, ON WEDNESDAY 5th JANUARY 2022, AT 7.00PM

Members present:

Councillors Mrs L Anderson, Mrs T Bhasin, S Buck, B Collier, A Cooper (Chairman), Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, D Matthews, G Russell, B Saunders (& CBC Cllr) and J Talbot

Also present:

Ms C Jenkins – Assistant Clerk, 1 member of the public

The Chairman took this opportunity before the meeting to advise that, sadly, Councillor Mrs Anne Clarey passed away suddenly on Friday 24th December 2021. A minute silence was observed in respect to Councillor Mrs Anne Clarey.

The Chairman also explained that the Agenda for this evening had been shortened due to the covid restrictions. He requested that items were reinstated to the Agenda. All members were in agreement of this.

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Town Clerk and Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members S Dixon and N Harris.

2/22 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors S Hayes and Mrs J Hyde declared an interest for the accounts income (item 5) as both are representatives of the Eleemosynary charity. There were no other disclosures of interests, and there were no requests for dispensations. 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.

3/22 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE

The Mayor recently attended the following engagements:

The chair based exercise class on 3rd December 2021.

The Silver Birch Avenue Christmas Lights on 5th December 2021.

The Santa Sleigh Run on 18th December 2021.

He also had the pleasure of presenting Mrs Margaret Clark with a certificate on 22nd December, who has retired after nearly 50 years of service as Memorial Hall caretaker.

4/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There was none.

5/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

- For information, a report from Central Bedfordshire Councillor Nicola Harris was received today. This will be circulated to all members.
- An invitation has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council to attend a virtual

session for town and parish councils with regard to the Queens Green canopy and Tree Planting on Wednesday 12th January at 6pm – 7pm via Zoom. Sadly this date and time coincides with committee meetings. Our apologies will be sent, with a request to receive the link to view the recorded session.

Councillors asked whether the town council are taking part in the Queens Green canopy and tree planting and whether an application for trees had been submitted. It was stated that an application has not yet been submitted, as it is unclear as to where the trees could be planted. Much of the open spaces are still in the ownership of developers. A tree planting scheme is already in place on the Arlesey Road playing field.

Councillors asked for this item to be kept on hold, as areas such as the Queen Street and Greenacre developments are both near to being transferred to the Town Council.

6/22 COUNCIL MINUTES

Members were asked to note and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2021, Extra Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 and the Extra Council meeting held on Monday 20th December 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2021, Extra Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 and the Extra Council meeting held on Monday 20th December 2021 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

7/22 REPORTS

a) Central Beds Council Ward Member Report

Councillor B Saunders

- Any applications for vehicle access are now on hold, due to a large backlog with the contractor.
- Consultation for Community and village halls; deadline for comments is 1 March 2022.
- Parents are applying for lower and middle school places; deadline is 15 January 2022.
- Grants for local businesses affected by the pandemic are still available from Central Bedfordshire Council. The Government has 5.3 million pounds available from the covid fund.
- Consultation on budget proposal – closes 31 January 2022
- Covid cases on 29th December – Stotfold and Langford were the 3rd highest in the Central Bedfordshire. In the last 7 days there have been 211 cases in the ward. Positive tests are up by 26.9%. Doses are down by 1000 on the previous week.

8/22 ACCOUNTS

- a) Members considered the Expenditure Report for approval for January 2022 and the income received during December 2021 in the Income Report.

RESOLVED that all payments on the Expenditure Report are approved and are to be paid, and the Income Report be noted.

- b) Members considered the monthly bank balances as at end December 2021.

RESOLVED that the monthly bank balances for month end December 2021 are noted.

9/22 RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE – 8th DECEMBER 2021

Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8TH December 2021 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

10/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 8th DECEMBER 2021

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8th December 2021 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

11/22 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none.

12/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Library Public Consultation – we have received notice from Central Bedfordshire Council that the consultation that was due in January 2022 has now been put back until at least April 2022. There are 4 consultations being carried out, prior to this one. The consultation itself will last 12 weeks. Councillors expressed their sadness and frustration at this news, but acknowledged that we are now lead by Central Bedfordshire Councils timescales on this project. Stotfold Town Council will publicise this news on our website and Facebook pages.

Councillors also noted that UK Land have submitted an appeal for the development off Arlesey Road, backing onto Hitchin Road. The planning inspector is to decide to accept the appeal or not.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.38pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: