

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2022, AT 7.00PM

Members present:

Councillors Mrs L Anderson, 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 Caroline Jenkins, Assistant Clerk, Councillor S Dixon (CBC), 2 Members of public

The Chairman took this opportunity before the meeting to advise that, sadly, Former Town Councillor, Mrs Linda Wilding had recently passed away. There will be a service to be held at St Marys Church, Stotfold. The Mayor will give more details of this when he is notified. A minute silence was observed in respect to Mrs Wilding.

30/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

. There were none as all councillors were present.

31/22 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors S Hayes and J Hyde disclosed interests in the payments to be reimbursed for the Civic Service refreshments. 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.

32/22 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Mayors Civic Attendances February 2022

11th February – Houghton Regis Charity Dinner – Declined

23rd February – Leighton Buzzard Town Charity Meal – Declined

Mayors Civic Attendances March 2022

1st March – Leighton Linslade Mayors catch up - Declined

2nd March – Mayor of Sandy Charity Dinner - Declined

7TH March – Cllr Farzana Kharawala Celebration of International Women's Day - Declined

11th March – Leighton Buzzard Charity Quiz Night - Declined

19th March – Flitwick Town Mayors Charity Murder Mystery Evening – Declined

20th March – Mayor of Biggleswade Civic Service – Accepted

27th March – Mayor of Sandy Civic Service – Accepted

It was noted that the Civic Service collection this year totalled £277.00. This has been split equally between the Mayors Charities, SCOPE and the RNLI.

The Civic Service was again attended by the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Chris Sharwood-Smith, and his wife. The Mayor and councillors thanked him for attending the service and noted his kind words to the members of the uniformed groups in attendance.

33/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

34/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

Extra Council Meeting – 17th March, 7pm – Meeting with Victor Wan, Head of Head of School Organisation & Capital Planning, regarding Stotfold school places.

It was noted that we have recently lost 3 councillors, all with very good teaching experience. Former Councillor Colin Phelps did originally ask for and organise this meeting. The Mayor requested that Mr Phelps be reminded of the meeting, so he can attend as a member of the public.

The usual Commonwealth Day commemoration was cancelled last year due to Covid19, so this year the local junior schools have again been invited to attend the flag raising ceremony.

The Great British Spring Clean is being held from 25th March – 10th April 2022. It was felt that as the school easter holidays fall at the beginning of April, to arrange and publicise this now would be short notice. The Town Council would encourage any residents to carry out their own litter pick in their own area and will look to reinstate the usual Big Tidy Up in September 2022.

Councillors were also asked to respond individually to the London Luton Airport statutory consultation on the proposed expansion. All comments are due by 4th April 2022.

35/22 COUNCIL MINUTES

Members were asked to note and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

36/22 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

Members received an update on activity and event progress and to consider additional items and funding for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Additional items considered were Jubilee bunting for the town, a Flag to be flown at the Greenacre centre, the purchase and installation of Jubilee benches, wild flower seed mixes to be distributed to local schools for planting and signs to be erected on street lamp posts around the town.

Councillors stated they would be happy to purchase Jubilee benches themselves, to enable the Town Council to only have installation fees to cover.

Councillor Steve Dixon (CBC) stated that there could be up to £1500.00 from his ward councillor allowance towards the funding of these items, provided the Town Council could match fund them.

It was noted that the Annual Scarecrow festival would be taking place this year, and while it would not be Jubilee themed, there would be an element of celebration to the festival.

Other ideas discussed were a free of charge Afternoon Tea, to be held in the memorial hall and to display collection of memorabilia donated by residents.

RESOLVED to purchase:

- 1 Large platinum jubilee flag from Mr Flag.com
- 400metres of jubilee bunting and 50 jubilee post signs from the Royal British Legion. Location of bunting and signs to be confirmed.
- 3 jubilee benches with plaques from David Ogilvie.
Benches are to be sited at the Greenacre Centre and Prince Charles Avenue. The third location is still to be confirmed.
Payments to be made from individual councillor donation, use of ward member grant for matched funding 50/50. The third bench is to be paid for by town council from Town Strategy budget.

37/22 ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR TOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Members were asked to elect a new chairman for the Town Plan Implementation group, following the passing of former Councillor Anne Clarey.

RESOLVED that Councillor John Talbot is elected as Chairman of the Town Plan Implementation Group.

38/22 NOMINATE ST MARYS ACADEMY – NEW COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Members were asked to nominate a new community governor for St Marys Academy, following the passing of former Councillor Anne Clarey.

Members noted that the town council currently has 2 vacancies for councillors, and ~~these~~ this could be filled by new councillors ~~if they have an experienced school background.~~

RESOLVED that Councillor Liz Anderson would be nominated for the role of Community Governor short term, for a continuity link between the Town Council and St Marys Academy, until a new nominated member was found once the vacant positions on the Town Council had been filled.

39/22 REPORTS

a) Central Beds Council Ward Member Report

Councillor B Saunders

- Central Bedfordshire Council have now agreed their budget, a rise of 1.95%. £12million placed for next year. This is an increase of 31p on social care and 30p on other services.
- The design guide for the local plan is being updated, comments on this can be made from 1st March – 21 March 2022

Councillor S Dixon

- Budget has been agreed. Conscious of front line services. This is going to be a tough year financially.
- Toucan crossing on Arlesey Road is now working.
- UK Land appeal has now been moved to 3 May 2022.
- Old Roecroft School site – looking at this project along with Councillor Mrs Liz Anderson. The idea of the community orchard project has been met with some resistance from Central Beds Council. It was noted that Central Beds Council would prefer that any project should provide a dual purpose, ie Community Orchard and possible allotment space for schools use.
- LRF countrywide, based in Luton are collecting aid to be sent to Ukraine. The Red Cross also have a campaign for aid, co-ordinator should be contacted to see what items are required.
- The new High Sheriff of Bedfordshire is about to be appointed. Lady Clifton is very keen to highlight The Queens Green Canopy and to provide trees to organisations and individuals. Other ideas are living green walls and more hedging to be installed, something that Prince Charles is keen to promote.
- Assets community Value – to renew and consider.

At this point, Councillor Liz Anderson left the meeting.

b) Stotfold Bowls Club representative report

Councillor Mary Cooper highlighted the recent visit to the celebration evening to award Mollie Jennings with her long service award. Mollie founded the ladies bowls team in 1958.

Mollie has also recently been to Leicester to a Bowls England national event to collect a lifetime achievement award with her family and bowls club members.

The bowls club has recently acquired new members and a new committee and will be resuming their matches from mid-April 2022.

c) Town Plan Implementation Group

There was nothing to report.

d) Green Wheel

It was noted to appoint a new secretary from the membership at the next Green Wheel meeting.

40/22 ACCOUNTS

- a) Members considered the Expenditure Report for approval for March 2022 and the income received during February 2022 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 committee budget report, as at end February 2022.

- c) **RESOLVED** that the monthly committee budget report, as at end February 2022 are noted.

41/22 RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE – 9th FEBRUARY 2022

Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 9th February 2022 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

42/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 23rd FEBRUARY 2022

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 23rd February 2022 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

43/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Resurfacing of the walled garden of rest has now been completed. Sadly, the newly laid surface has since been walked on by a resident and their dog, leaving foot and paw prints, despite the presence of notices and the area being taped off. The contractor will be returning to repair the works.
- It was noted that the side and the surface of the Pix Brook has been worn away behind the properties on the junction of Brook Street and Coppice Mead. Sand bags that had been placed on the flat side of the brook have been eroded away and the brook bed is beginning to wash away. Councillor Dixon was asked if some hard core could be placed on the brook bed to build up the surface. The IDB are to be informed of this and any possible works to be carried out.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.09pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: