

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023, AT 7.00PM

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## Committee Members present:

S Buck – Chairman, L Anderson, T Bhasin B Collier, A Cooper, M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, S Hayes, J Hyde, D Matthews, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, H Wightwick

## Also present:

Town Clerk – K Elliott-Turner, and a staff member attending virtually

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### **16/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell.

### **17/23 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interests or 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.

### **18/23 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE**

7th January – Restoring the River Ivel – Attended

26th January – Larksfield PPG Meeting -Attended

31st January - Leighton-Linslade Charity Meal - Attended

5th February – Ampthill Civic Service

18th February – Charity Night in aid of NEED project and Motor Neuron Disease Association

19th February – Stotfold Town Council Civic Service

21st February – Ampthill Town Mayor Charity Night – Accepted

24th February – Flitwick Town Mayor Charity Quiz Night – Accepted

26th February – Leighton-Linslade Civic Service – Accepted

### **19/23 PUBLIC SECTION**

None present.

### **20/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

#### Correspondence

A candidates and agents meeting will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 6pm, Priory House, Chicksands. This is for those interested in standing at Town and Parish Council elections and Central Bedfordshire Council elections in May. They will be distributing nomination papers after the meeting. Election timetable: notice of election will be published on 13<sup>th</sup> March, which is when Purdah period starts, submission of nomination forms from 14<sup>th</sup> March, deadline to get nomination forms for election is 4<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm, publication of notice of poll will be 25<sup>th</sup> April, elections are on 4<sup>th</sup> May, results are published on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Councillor Collier advised that having served on the council for many years, he will not be standing at the elections this May. He was thanked by all members for his great work as a councillor, not just for the town, but also further afield.

### **21/23 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **22/23 DRAFT DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY**

**RESOLVED** that the Dignity at Work Policy is adopted, and will replace the existing Bullying and Harassment Policy.

### **23/23 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**

**RESOLVED** that this council signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, agreeing to treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.

### **24/23 COMMUNITY GOVERNOR – ROECROFT LOWER SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Buck is the town council's nominated Community Governor for Roecroft Lower School.

### **25/23 UPDATE FROM CORONATION COMMUNITY STAND WORKING PARTY**

Chairman of the Working Party, Councillor Hayes gave the following report:

- It was felt that the term 'band stand' has an old-fashioned connotation, and will be calling it a Coronation Community Stand
- This will be an extension of the existing outdoor performance area – granite sundial spaces which was put in as part of the Greenacre Centre/Greenacre Park development
- A consultation document has been put together to send to groups in the town, to get some feedback on what they feel about it being a covered performance area
- The results will then inform a public consultation
- Some initial investigations have been made into costs – in the region of £60k to £80k
- It is likely that any band stand wouldn't be in place until the autumn of this year, but the emphasis is that it should be in place during the coronation year, not necessarily in time for the coronation in May

### **26/23 CONFIRM GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT**

**RESOLVED** that following full tender process, the Grounds Maintenance & Grass Cutting Contractor for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 is Countrywide Grounds Maintenance.

### **27/23 REPORTS**

#### Central Bedfordshire Council

Ward Member B Saunders gave the following report:

- Voter ID – voters now need to have a form of ID when going into the polling station – passport, driving licence including provisional, blue badge, certain concessionary

travel cards, identity card with a passmark, biometric document, defence ID card and certain national identity cards. If you don't have any of those, or you have an old photo which may be questioned, you can apply for a voter ID document

- There is uncertainty around postal votes, but it is believed that at this stage, you will only be asked for a fresh signature on the form
- Street party road closures for the coronation – anyone wanting to close a road for a street party will need to apply to Central Beds Council by 20<sup>th</sup> March

### **28/23 ACCOUNTS**

- a) Members considered the Expenditure Report for approval for February 2023 payment run, and the income received during January 2023 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 and bank balances as at end January 2023.

**RESOLVED** that the monthly committee budget reports and bank balances for month end January 2023 are noted.

### **29/23 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Members noted the minutes of the following committee meetings:

- Planning Committee – 11th January 2023
- Planning Committee – 25th January 2023
- Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee – 11th January 2023
- Establishment Committee – 25th January 2023

### **30/23 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

None.

### **31/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

Members were given an update on the recent Larksfield Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting which was attended by Richard Fuller MP, also attended by the Chairman. A new phone system will be installed this week, and a new doctors will start in March and July. MKGP have not taken over the surgery, only HR and finance. They are amalgamating receptionist service with Arlesey surgery. A further meeting will be held in 3 months time, with an informal meeting taking place in 6 weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.29pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**