

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2023 AT 7.00PM

Committee Members present:

S Buck - Chairman, L Anderson, T Bhasin, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, A Hall, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, D Matthews, J Smith, H Wightwick (CBC Councillor).

Also present:

Ms Caroline Jenkins – Assistant Clerk, Mrs K Woodfine, Central Beds Council Ward Member.

100/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr B Saunders and J Talbot.

101/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Steve Hayes expressed an interest as he was being reimbursed for Civic Service. 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.

102/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE

These were noted by members.

103/23 PUBLIC SECTION

None present.

104/23 CLERKS REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report

105/23 COUNCIL MINUTES

Members were asked to note and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2023.

- page 4 - Jane Hyde was no longer the church warden, Town Council representative.
- Remove to consider interest from Cllr J Smith for Eleemosynary Charity position.
- Cllr Dhaliwal was noted as present when he was not. Minutes will be amended.

RESOLVED that following these amendments, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2023 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

106/23 2022-2023 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

A copy of the Internal Auditor's report on the internal audit carried out on year-end figures 2022/2023, together with the Annual Internal Audit Report of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 was previously circulated to members.

RESOLVED that the Internal Auditor's report and the Annual Internal Audit Report of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 3 are noted.

107/23 2022/2023 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (SECTION 1)

Members were asked to confirm and approve the statements on the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 3. The Acting Clerk, being Responsible Financial Officer, and Chairman are to sign once approved by Council.

RESOLVED that the statements on the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 3 are approved.

108/23 2022/2023 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT (SECTION 2)

Members were asked to confirm and approve the Accounting Statement (Section 2) of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3. The Acting Clerk, being Responsible Financial Officer, has signed to certify that the Accounting Statement has been prepared following guidance in Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioner’s Guide to Proper Practices and presents fairly the financial position of this authority. The Chairman of the Council is to sign once approved by Council.

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statement (Section 2) of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance & Accountability Return Part 3 are approved.

109/23 2022/2023 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) – EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Following approval of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, the Acting Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, confirmed the commencement date for the exercise of public rights. The Annual Return will be published on the council’s website on Friday 9th June 2023, and the period for public rights will commence on Monday 12th June 2023 for a period of 30 working days.

110/23 GRAND UNION – YOUTH WORK UPDATE, ½ TERM REPORT AND SUMMER PROGRAMME

Councillors were given details of the forthcoming Youth work summer programme from Grand Union Housing. Sessions were also carried out during half term. The summer programme will be advertised by Stotfold Town Council, which includes:

- 3 sessions, 3 times a week to cover Arlesey, Fairfield and Stotfold
- DJ workshops
- Holistic Care
- Sports sessions
- Graffiti art classes

Those young people who attended found it beneficial to improve their confidence and to reduce anxieties. Other future classes will be available.

111/23 REPORTS

- a) Final Central Beds Council Ward Member Report
Councillor Kathryn Woodfine:

- There are many changes at Central Bedfordshire Council

- The Independent group, working together, is now the largest group in the council
- It has no overall control, but does form the executive.
- New councillors are currently going through an Intense Induction period and should be fully trained by August 2023

Details of our 2 Ward members portfolios are as follows:

Councillor Kathryn Woodfine

Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny (vice chair)

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny (sub)

Joint Adoption Panel

Fostering and Permanence Panel

Councillor Helen Wightwick

Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny

Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny

Development Management Committee (sub)

Audit (sub)

Bedfordshire & Ivel internal drainage board

Councillors now have an Intense induction period during June, July and August 2023.

Special training for planning – training for substitutes. All Committees will meet by the end of June 2023.

It was noted that Stotfold doesn't now have a representative on the planning committee. It was stated that all Councillors are able to attend the planning meetings should they wish and raise any concerns.

112/23 ACCOUNTS

- a) Members considered the Expenditure Report for approval for June 2023 and the income received during May 2023 in the Income Report.

It was noted that the reports noted that no income has come in from burials. This would be checked and clarified with the Finance Officer.

It was also noted that the amount for the memorial trees recently purchased by Teasel had come from their yearly budget funded by the council. There was concerns that funds for their usual work would run out later this year. Members discussed and agreed that funds could be found if necessary from other budgets or through grant application by Teasel.

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 May 2023.

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

113/23 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 24TH MAY 2023

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 24th May 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

114/23 RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE – 24TH MAY 2023

Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 24th May 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

115/23 CEMETERY COMMITTEE, 31ST MAY 2023

Members of the Cemetery Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 31st May 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

116/23 BUILDINGS COMMITTEE, 31ST MAY 2023

Members of the Buildings Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 31st May 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

117/23 TOWN STRATEGY COMMITTEE, 31ST MAY 2023

Members of the Town Strategy Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 31st May 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

118/23 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Members noted that the Council are currently advertising for 2 new councillors to fill our vacancies on the Council.

119/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

There were none.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.24pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: