

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2019, AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Councillors present:            A Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	Mrs M Cooper
S Dhaliwal	S Hayes
C Phelps	H Pickering
B Saunders (& CBC Cllr)	Ms B Sowinska
J Talbot	

Also present: Central Beds Councillor Steve Dixon and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

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**1/19    MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE**

**Civic attendance**

Attendances

12<sup>th</sup> December    Roecroft Lower School Christmas production – Mayor attended  
16<sup>th</sup>                    Salvation Army Christmas concert – Mayor attended  
20<sup>th</sup>                    Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Christingle Christmas Celebration, Woburn  
                          – Deputy Mayor attending

Future events

25<sup>th</sup>                    Houghton Regis Town Mayor’s Charity Quiz Night - TBC

**2/19    DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

Councillor Dhaliwal declared an interest in an expenditure item, as he had claimed mileage for training which was cancelled but he was not notified.

**3/19    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Hyde.

**4/19    ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

None present.

**5/19    TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record, with the following amendment: minute no. 250/18 to read ...with a 38 week build.

## **6/19 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

### **Clerk's Report**

For information, Members were given a financial summary for the Christmas lights committee, as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. More collection tins will be retrieved and counted this week and a promised £1,000 donation from Saunders Garage is awaited. An invoice for the 2018/19 display erection and dismantle is still to come.

Members were advised that no applications have been received for co-option (deadline 17<sup>th</sup> December), we may therefore leave the vacancy open until the May 2019 elections.

## **7/19 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**

- A thank you letter from St Mary's Church for the Christmas Tree Festival entry (circulated to Members)
- An email from Central Beds Council regarding support for rough sleepers during the forthcoming cold weather
- Email from Central Beds Council inviting attendance at the official launch of the new dial-a-ride service for mid & east Bedfordshire
- Monthly newsletter from Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Bedfordshire Bugle – January 2019 edition, plus information on forthcoming Buckingham Palace Garden Party and nominations for attendance

## **8/19 PIX BROOK FLOOD REPORT UPDATE**

Members noted the previously circulated update from Alys Bishop, Principal Drainage Engineer & Flood Risk Team Leader, Central Beds Council (on file). Members were advised that the FOI request had not been submitted as previously requested, as the update had since been received.

## **9/19 WWI SILENT SILHOUETTE**

Following a successful and moving ceremony at the Beacon on Remembrance Sunday 2019 to commemorate the end of the First World War, Members considered a permanent location for the Silent Silhouette used in the ceremony.

**RESOLVED** that the silent silhouette is placed in the entrance foyer of the Memorial Hall (as this building commemorates those lost in all wars). It is to be fixed to the wall, together with a plaque giving a brief history of the hall, and a list of those lost in the First and Second World Wars – a price for the plaque is to be obtained and wording approved.

The Chairman advised that a Stotfold family has queried why their family member is not listed on the Stotfold war memorial, as they took part and died in the war. A check has been made with the war graves commission and the Royal British Legion, and this name should be added. A price to add the name will be obtained for the Cemetery Management Committee's consideration.

## **10/19 REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD**

Ward Member Steve Dixon gave the following report:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> January Executive meeting will propose and approve the 3 week consultation on the Central Beds Council draft budget. The draft budget will show a 1% increase on Council Tax from Central Beds Council.
- At the 5<sup>th</sup> February Executive meeting will include consideration of 24 items, including foster care teams, set-up of a housing development company, provision of care homes.

Members asked about speedwatch in the town, as it was something Councillor Dixon was going to champion. He advised that the one for Norton Road had been set up and they had carried out speed watch exercises. Other concerns regarding that road have been dealt with, i.e. HGVs parking on the brow of the hill and blocking the road have been spoken to, provision of a bus stop has been investigated, but this is not practical.

A Member referred to the faulty traffic lights at Arlesey Road/Regent Street/Hitchin Road/High Street. He telephoned 4 days ago to report them, and was told they would be fixed. Today he has had to report the fault again as they are still broken. The concern is that tomorrow is the first day back at school and the crossing will be very busy with children on their way to school. Councillor Dixon advised that he would make a call this evening to stress the urgency that the traffic lights and therefore pedestrian crossing lights must be fixed in time for the school run tomorrow morning.

#### **11/19 REPORT FROM MEMBER AND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Talbot advised that he attended a Police Priority Setting meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Anti-social behaviour seems to have moved on to other local towns and villages. The Biggleswade Community Safety Group gave a presentation on their work. It is an umbrella group of various watch schemes, set up 20 years ago. The group works with organisations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Talbot is interested in inviting the group to show what they could do for Stotfold.

The Police Priority Setting meeting stressed that residents must report to the Police any antisocial behaviour, as this highlights a need for Police presence.

#### **12/19 REPORT, COPIES OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOWN PLAN**

As Chairman of the Town Plan Implementation Group, Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that there were no updates since the last meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **13/19 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WORK BY THE YOUTH TEAM**

An email has been received from Nicola King of the youth team to advise that the team are due back in on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January, and will be in touch to update, schedule their work in the community and schools, as well as pick up incidents, referrals and info.

#### **14/19 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE ARLESEY ROAD PROJECT & RELOCATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Chairman advised that we will be receiving several lengths of Armco barrier (minus bolts), free of charge from Saunders Garage, which will be used to prevent unauthorised access and break-ins through the post and rail fencing at the entrance to the Arlesey Road site.

#### **15/19 HALF YEAR 2018/2019 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

Members were asked to note the Internal Auditor's report on the internal audit carried out on half-year accounts (1<sup>st</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018) for financial year 2018/2019. As recommended, a revised set of standing orders, based on the NALC model, will be presented to

the next meeting for adoption. The asset register is being reviewed, as per the External Auditor's recommendations from the last Annual Return.

**RESOLVED** that the Internal Auditor's report for the first half of 2018/2019 financial year are noted.

#### **16/19 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

- i) Members considered the Expenditure Report giving details of payments to be authorised at this January 2019 meeting and the income received during December 2018 in the Income Report.

**RESOLVED** that all payments on the Expenditure Report be paid, and the Income Report be noted.

- ii) Members reviewed the Committee Budget Report and bank balances as at month end December 2018.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee Budget Report and bank balances as at end December 2018 be noted.

#### **17/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the Committee. The minutes were noted by Council.

#### **18/19 RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Cooper asked Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record with the following amendment:

Minute 135 (ii), to be reworded to read '...set fee of say £100 will be made'.

There were no recommendations from the Committee. The minutes were noted by Council, as amended.

#### **19/19 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Establishment Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

Council considered recommendation from minute 44/18:

***Recommended:***

***That the Precept figure of £486,171 for 2019/2020 be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. This figure has taken into account the proposed actions to reduce the figure, which was approved for recommendation.***

The minutes were noted by Council and the **recommendation was resolved.**

**20/19 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

There were none.

**21/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

A Member asked how residents could go about having a defibrillation machine installed at the Astwick Road/Taylors Road end of Stotfold. The Clerk will forward details of Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) who installed the machine at the Greenacre Centre.

Members reported muddy pathways at fallen fences at the development by Aspen Gardens. This will be reported to Central Beds Council, Building Control.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.01pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**