

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2019 AT 7.00PM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Members present: A Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	Mrs M Cooper
S Dhaliwal	S Hayes
Mrs J Hyde	D Matthews
C Phelps	H Pickering
G Russell	B Saunders (& CBC Cllr)
J Talbot	

Also present: 3 members of the public, Nicola King – Grand Union Housing, Councillor Nicola Harris – Central Beds Council and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

146/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Mayors Civic Attendances June 2019

8th June – Football Club presentations - attended
9th June – Football Club presentations - attended
12th June – Women's Institute talk
14th June – Stotfold Library Crafts - attended
14th June – An evening of Christian Music – attended
15th June – Charity Line Dancing – attended
17th June – Short Mat Bowls open afternoon – attended
17th June – Fun Quiz Memorial Hall - attended
18th June – Salvation Army Brass Band – attended
19th June – Stotfold and Arlesey Children's Centre.
20th June – Filming Stotfold FC –attended
20th June - Stotfold Library Crafts – attended
21st June – Fairfield Players performance Memorial Hall – attended
22nd June – Stotfold Festival Fete – attended
23rd June – Public Art Mosaic Making Day – attended
23rd June – Churches Together Songs of Praise - attended
29th June – Houghton Regis Coffee and Doughnut morning - declined

Mayors Civic Attendances July 2019

12th July – Keech Hospice Quiz Stotfold Conservative Club -Agreed
12th July – Mayor of Sandy's Quiz Night – Declined

147/19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

The following Councillors declared an interest in the Income list, as they had settled invoices for the Annual Town Council Dinner: Collier, Saunders, Mrs Cooper, Pickering. 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.

148/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Hyde, and Central Beds Councillor Dixon. Councillor Russell had indicated that he would be arriving late.

149/19 TO FILL CO-OPTION VACANCY

Members were previously provided with a copy of an application letter from Steven (Steve) Buck for the current Councillor vacancy. His form for eligibility has been received by the Clerk. Mr Buck was given an opportunity to introduce himself and explain why he had applied for co-option and what he feels he can bring to the Council. As per Standing Orders, voting on the co-option vacancy was by secret ballot.

RESOLVED that Steven (Steve) Buck is co-opted as Town Council Member for Stotfold.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed at the earliest opportunity after this meeting, and induction training will be given by the Clerk. He is to receive further induction training by Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils when possible.

150/19 UPDATE FROM YOUTH PARTICIPATION TEAM – NICOLA KING, GRAND UNION HOUSING

Nicola advised that she and her team have completed 221 hours of youth work since March, and 49 hours were volunteering. They have carried out community mentoring, school work, detached work and activities during the half term. They have received endless referrals, and currently have 88 live cases between the three person team.

Esme has been dealing with parental substance misuse, parental mental health and risk of re-offending. Graeme has been carrying out team work at Etonbury Academy to reach more young people and has produced a programme of work for the summer. The whole team meets groups of young people in Stotfold and are regularly called out on top of their weekly schedules.

With regard to current issues at the Nature Reserve's hide area, the team will continually reinforce the message to young people congregating there, not to do it and to move along. Information has been passed on to the Central Beds Community Safety team, who will work alongside Nicola and her team to do more detached work.

The summer programme over 6 weeks will involve 9 sessions for Stotfold at the Roecroft Centre and the Methodist Church, together with work in the parks – fitness, art, music.

Grand Union Housing has applied for youth crime funding to 'support families through crime'. The sum applied for is £12,000 and the Stotfold area is part of the area the money would cover.

The team have been attending training, school assemblies and carrying out detached work. They have recently been working with a group of 40 young people who have been identified as at risk of crime and exploitation.

They have been working with the St Giles Trust, regarding youth crime and violence. Emphasis has been on supporting families, with sibling issues.

An application is also being submitted for Police & Crime Commissioner funding. This will be to support detached work – the more outdoor work carried out the better – go to where the young people ‘hang out’.

The team has been joined by Emma, a sessional worker for 3-4 hours a week. She is paid from the Grand Union Housing budget.

Members drew Nicola’s attention to a group of young people who hang around Riverside Playing Field – she is aware of this group. There is also an older man, possibly in a car, who appears to be dealing with the group in the youth shelter. She was also advised of a group of young people who congregate at the garages in Princes Street.

Nicola was thanked for her update report, and she left the meeting.

151/19 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Not at this point.

152/19 TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2019

Councillor Pickering expressed his concern to there being no record of his abstention in a vote during the 5th June meeting, and was advised by the Chairman that abstentions are not recorded unless it is requested by the Member at the time. He requested that his abstention in the vote of the 5th June meeting be noted in the minutes of this 3rd July meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

153/19 CLERK’S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk’s Report

For information, the following Central Beds Council consultations are open:

Current consultations

Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy – consultation closes 15th September 2019

Looked-after children strategy – consultation closes 5pm, 18th August 2019

Licensing policy – consultation closes 1st September 2019

Westlands older persons’ home – consultation closes 30th August 2019

Funding for special educational needs and disabilities – consultation closes 3rd July 2019

With regard to the consultation on the older persons’ home, this is situated in Leighton Buzzard, and Members felt that such a facility should be provided in this area. A letter is to be sent to Central Beds Council to request an older persons’ home for the Stotfold area, as opposed to privately operated care homes. A request is to be made for such a provision to be included in Section 106/CIL agreements.

With regard to the consultation on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as the consultation closes today, Members requested an extension to be able to respond – it is felt that the focus should be for special needs provision to be provided in special needs schools. A request will be made.

154/19 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

A copy of the July 2019 edition of the Bedfordshire Bugle was circulated to Members. Attention was drawn to the article regarding applying for a dispensation when a councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter.

155/19 FUTURE OF FESTIVAL WEEK FETE

Members were previously provided with a copy of correspondence from the organiser of the Festival Week Fete, who advise that St Mary's Academy took on the organisation of Festival Week some 17 years ago, and the Fete 15 years ago. The Fete has been organised on a voluntary basis by a couple of staff at the Academy, and despite asking for help or ideas in the Stotfold News, etc, this has not been forthcoming, and this year the Fete was not being supported by a number of groups within Stotfold. As such, they have decided that whilst they are happy to continue to coordinate the week's events, they will not be organising another Fete. Their own school association wishes to focus on their own event – Winter Wonderland, and they have asked Roecroft Lower School's PTA if they would like to take it on. Roecroft PTA's AGM takes place on 8th July and it is hoped that they will receive a positive response.

Members gave this matter due consideration and discussions were around the original purpose of the Festival Fete, which was to promote and highlight organisations within the town, not necessarily to be used as a fund-raising event. Since the fete was relocated to the St Mary's Academy site, comments have been made in the town that it feels more like a school fete than a community event, and a community location might work better than a school site. Opinions varied as to whether the Town Council should take it on, or whether it should be a community 'consortium', led by the Council.

It was agreed to wait until to hear the outcome of Roecroft Lower School's PTA AGM and their decision on whether they will take on the organising of the fete for future years.

Councillor Russell arrived during this item (7.42pm)

156/19 VE DAY 75

Members were provided with information from the Pageantmaster and VE Day 2020 organisers and considered our participation in the VE Day 75 celebrations over the weekend of Friday 8th (Fri is now a bank holiday) to Sunday 10th May 2020.

Planned activities over the weekend, across the country, include:

- The playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years – Fri 8th, 3pm, pipers playing
- The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2 – Fri 8th, 3pm, raising a glass in pubs
- The Cry for Peace, around the world – Fri 8th, 6.55pm, Town Criers announcing
- Churches and cathedrals Ringing Out for Peace – Fri 8th, 7pm, bells in churches and cathedrals
- Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, hotels, on town and village greens and in halls, etc – Fri 8th, 7pm onwards and through Sat 9th, parties, fireworks, etc
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post – Sun 10th, 10.30am, church services

Members discussed whether to organise a party-type event, and possible locations – to aid organising, a picnic type event was mooted rather than a sit-down party. Members were keen to take part in the church events on the Sunday, with the involvement of the Royal British Legion.

157/19 'ARLESEY ROAD SUB-COMMITTEE'

Members had previously been provided with a draft set of terms of reference for a sub-committee to deal with the Arlesey Road project. It's head-committees would be Buildings Management and Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting. However, further guidance from BATPC was that this may prove difficult to manage, in terms of budgets and reporting, and therefore a revised draft set of terms of reference for the Arlesey Road Project Delivery Committee was circulated and considered by Members. This new Project Delivery Committee will deal solely with the Arlesey Road project and will disband once the project is complete. It will have delegated powers to make decisions to see the project through and will consist of the members of the Arlesey Road working party. The new committee will have delegated powers to spend as required in order to see the project through, with funds being vired from the Buildings Management and Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee budgets as appropriate. All expenditure and decisions taken must be reported to the next available Council meeting.

RESOLVED that a new project delivery committee is set up – the 'Arlesey Road Project Delivery Committee' and its Terms of Reference are approved. Its membership shall be that of the former Arlesey Road working group. The committee shall have delegated powers to spend and make decisions in order to see the Arlesey Road project through to completion. All expenditure and decisions taken are to be reported to Council.

158/19 REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Ward Member, Councillor Saunders gave the following report:

- The Central Beds Council organised Xplorer Challenge takes place during summer. There are 12 free family fun challenges across 12 parks. The nearest one is at the Pendleton Centre on Thursday 1st August, 11am to 1pm.
- Patching and line marking of Hitchin Road will take place on 7th and 8th July.

A Member asked when we would be receiving the Flood Prevention Report from Central Beds Council's Flood team, and was advised that a meeting is being arranged with the Principal Drainage Engineer and Flood Risk Team Leader, together with her technical colleagues, in order that the report can be presented and any questions answered. Once a date is set, Members will be advised.

159/19 REPORTS FROM MEMBER AND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

As Community Governor for Etonbury Academy, Councillor Phelps gave the following report:

- I chaired a meeting of the Finance Committee recently. An important item was the future of Etonbury Farm
- I was involved in meeting an assessor for Governor Mark. Initial feedback was very positive
- Sports Days for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3/4 are being held this week
- Etonbury Dance Show was held last week, BEST Arts Festival is this week and Etonbury Summer Concert will be held next week
- Year 10 parent consultations are being held today
- Year 6 have an end of year visit to Wicksteed Park and Year 9 and 10 drama students seeing a performance of 'Woman in Black' in London next week
- Year 11 students will be receiving their GCSE results in August

As Community Governor for Roecroft Lower School, Councillor Mrs Bundock gave the following report:

- On Monday we held our annual meeting to review the past year and plan our schedule of meetings for the coming year and the focus for each meeting
- The current number of pupils on roll is 424, with fewer coming into reception classes now that building in the immediate area is completed, but this may well change as over developments are completed
- A handwriting competition was held in June across all classes, and the children in Year 4 had a first aid training session. Clubs include karate, art, cookery, choir and ever popular Lego
- A new trim trail and outdoor gym equipment has been installed, with more outdoor equipment for the early years playground to follow in the summer
- I am meeting with the Eco Council next week for an update on progress on the work towards the renewal of the Eco School Green Flag Award for the third year

As Member Representative for Bedfordshire Police Priority Setting Meetings, Councillor Talbot gave the following report:

- I recently attended the Police Priority Setting Meeting on 26th June
- The meeting began with a Police Constable giving a presentation concerning a spate of crimes in Stewartby. The PC told us how following reports, he began by collating as much information as possible by talking to residents, Police intelligence and by holding town meetings. All this was in part to help the PC pass his NVQ qualification, but also to prevent further crimes being conducted. Once all this information had been collated, actions were then taken by other Police Officers including the PC himself in stepping up patrols in and around Stewartby to the extent that the crimes have diminished
- The second presentation was concerning how a 'Search Warrant' was conducted from the very beginning, where enough evidence is collected by various means including talking to local residents, police intelligence and other agencies, was enough to put before a Magistrate to authorise a search warrant. Once the warrant was granted, it then went on to planning the 'raid' on the property and the actions that would be needed once the warrant had been executed, also the manpower needed to undertake the search. Resources needed included: MOE (Method of Entry) officers, specialist search officers, officers to surround the building – to prevent 'escape out the back door', containment officers of suspects, dog handler, senior officer to 'authorise' securing of building whilst search/investigation took place to prevent access by homeowner/tenant. In all, about 20 officers were involved in just this one search operation
- During the evening, I took the opportunity of having a long conversation with our new Police Constable, James Hunt, who has replaced PC Sally Bonham who has now moved onto dealing with volume and serious crime investigations for North Bedfordshire
- I have also applied to out with a fast response unit, with Councillor Mrs Clarey who had previously expressed an interest

As Community Governor for St Mary's Academy, Councillor Mrs Clarey gave the following report:

- The summer term is always busy and it is impossible to give an account of all that happens over a few weeks
- I attended a full governors meeting last week, where among other things, pupil progress was discussed. The SPQM submission was made and we have to wait until September to find out whether we have achieved the award

- The Reverend Bill has organised a Pentecost and a Trinity service where pupils take part. A service for the year 4 leavers is planned in the final week of term
- The Festival Concert – Summer Holiday was enjoyed by all. The Fete was a great success and the choir performed at the Songs of Praise. Monies from the concert, £486 and the £870 raised at the Fete will largely be donated to local charities
- A visit to Stanwick Lakes for Year 1 and RAF Hendon Museum for Year 2 completes the list of places that pupils have explored this year
- Reports are out, the Annual PSHCE Day has taken place and Sports Day will feature next week
- I will be joining artist, Tim Ward tomorrow who has taken Year 2 artwork and transformed it into designs that will form part of the sundial/compass installations at the back of the Greenacre Centre. I envisage being part of the mosaic cutting team!
- Transition Day for the Year 4s is on Friday this week, and other pupils spending time with their teachers for the next academic year
- In a little over two weeks, the school breaks for the summer holidays

160/19 REPORT, COPIES OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

As Chairman of the Town Plan Implementation Group, Councillor Mrs Clarey gave the following report:

- Copies of minutes of the last IG meeting held on 11th June 2019 have been circulated – terms of reference need updating
- Under ‘matters arising’ Councillor Saunders and I have communicated over the Old Brewery Footpath being recognised as a public right of way
- You will have noted that we have made the decision to meet 4 times a year, hopefully being able to choose an early to mid-month date so that minutes are ready for the first meeting of the month
- The next meeting is on 10th September, 2pm at the Greenacre Centre

With regard to minute 3 – former Roecroft Lower School playing field, the Council Chairman advised that this matter is ongoing. The Head of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire, situated adjacent to the field, is pursuing an extension to their school lease to include the field. Ward Member Councillor Saunders confirmed that there is a plan put together for the use of the field, and this has now gone to Assets for consideration.

161/19 UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE ARLESEY ROAD PROJECT & RELOCATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB

The Chairman advised that the project is well on track to complete the build of the new facility for the October period, there will then be some formalities to complete before handover. Pitch work and irrigation is underway, with good progress being made.

162/19 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

- i) Members considered the Expenditure Report giving details of payments to be authorised at this July 2019 meeting and the income received during June 2019 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 June 2019.

RESOLVED that the Committee Budget Report, bank balances and budget variances report as at end June 2019 be noted.

163/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

12th June 2019

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record, with the following amendment:

Apologies of Councillor D Matthews to be added.

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

26th June 2019

Councillor Cooper asked Members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 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.

164/19 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 12th June 2019 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.

165/19 TOWN STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked Members of the Town Strategy Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 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.

166/19 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none.

167/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

A Member queried who has priority over the junction at Grange Drive/Valerian Way, as there are no road markings. This may be picked up when the developers ask Highways to adopt the roads.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED