

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2019
AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Members present: A Cooper (Chairman)

S Buck	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: 1 member of the public, Central Beds Councillor S Dixon and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

196/19 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mayors Civic Attendances September 2019

13th September – Houghton Regis Town Council Charity Curry Night – Deputy Mayor attended
14th September – The Big Tidy Up – Attended
14th September – Quiz Night for Stotfold Christmas Lights - Attended
15th September – Potton Civic Service – Attended
17th September – Stotfold Scouts Annual General Meeting – Attended
21st September – St Marys Church Quiz Night – Attended
22nd September – Annual Justice Service Bedford –Attended
26th September – Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Annual Awards Service – Accepted

Mayors Civic Attendances October 2019

1st October – Police & Crime Commissioner AGM - Attended
5th October – Leighton – Linslade Living History Day – Declined
6th October – ABF The Soldiers Charity Lunch – Deputy Mayor to attend
11th October – Methodist Church Quiz – Accepted
12th October – Pride of Houghton Awards – Declined
13th October – Flitwick Town Council Annual Civic Service – Accepted
15th October – Houghton Regis Town Council ‘Trip to the Circus’ – Declined
25th October – Amptill Town Council ‘The Man behind the Masquerade’ – Accepted
25th October – Leighton – Linslade Barn Dance / Ceilidh – Declined
27th October – Amptill Town Council Civic Service - Accepted

197/19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none. 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.

198/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none, as all members were present.

199/19 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Not at this time.

200/19 TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2019 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record, with the following amendment:

Minute 183/19 has omitted Councillor Dixon from those who visited Riverside Playing Field, and should therefore read 'She, Councillor Saunders and Councillor Dixon visited the site, ...'

201/19 TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2019 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

202/19 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

Notification of a current Central Beds Council consultation on changes to Public Space Protection Orders. Deadline for responses 2nd December 2019. Copies of the consultation supporting paper, CBC Executive report and questionnaire are provided for Members. Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available in the library and in the council offices.

The council office Macmillan Cancer Care Coffee Morning last week raised a fantastic £100. Thanks to all who baked, ate cake and donated!

The recently held Christmas Lights Support Quiz raised a total of £437, which will go towards keeping the town Christmas Lights displays going. Thanks to all who took part in the quiz, the quizmasters and those who volunteered.

Matters Arising

Minute 173/19 – The Friends of Roecroft Lower School have confirmed that they would be delighted to host the Stotfold Festival Week Fete in June 2020. They are only able to confirm for next year at the moment, as they cannot commit the September 2020 committee (who may not be the same people) to an event without their agreement. The Clerk has offered support to help promote the event for the community.

203/19 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

A copy of the Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner's August 2019 Newsletter is provided for Members.

The Chairman advised that he had recently attended the Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Conference, where the meeting was advised that 200 new PCs promised, will be employed progressively, at around 17 a year and will be put on special duties in 4 hotspot

areas in Bedfordshire. Proportionately, in 9 years' time, we will be back to where we were 10 years ago in terms of Police numbers.

204/19 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Members considered the Draft Corporate Strategic Plan, as produced by the Town Strategy Committee. The draft is now open for consultation with the public. Comments and amendments were invited from council members.

There were no amendments or comments, other than thanks to the Town Strategy Committee and the Town Clerk for their work on the document.

205/19 REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Ward Member B Saunders gave the following report:

- Central Beds Council's Trading Standards is backing a national campaign 'Friends Against Scams', which is a community effort against scams and cons circulating throughout the area.
- A new community grant scheme has been launched – the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme enables each Central Beds Councillor to allocate a pot of £2,000 funding to local clubs and organisations, as a one-off grant for project capital costs. This will be 50% matched funding.

Ward Member S Dixon gave the following report:

- A major consultation has been launched 'CentralBedfordshire2050' to seek the views of residents, businesses and organisations on what Central Bedfordshire will be like in 30 years time. Roadshows and pop-up events will be organised.
- Following complaints about significant amounts of mud on Arlesey Road from one of the two current developments – Pix Brook Academy or Linden Homes housing development, he and Councillor Saunders will be taking this up with the developers. They will also be addressing complaints regarding hours of work on the Linden Homes development.
- Central Beds Council considered a motion in July on climate change. They are looking to launch a plan for the beginning of next financial year, which will see them lead by example. They will then use this to influence others.
- With regard to climate change issues, the Town Council carries out twice yearly litter picks of the town, and one of the complaints received from those taking part is that the plastic tabards are not suitable. From a safety point of view, people should be visible, and hi-viz tabards are now preferred. The Big Beds Clean Up can help with supplies of equipment for litter picks – the Clerk will be put in contact with the appropriate person in the team.

206/19 REPORT FROM MEMBER AND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

As Council representative on Police Priority Setting Meetings, Councillor Talbot referred to the previously circulated presentation on licensing (copy available on file) and advised that council should consider licences we currently hold, and any which might be suitable in the future.

In terms of priorities for this area, Stotfold falls within Group 1, with Biggleswade, Shefford and Sandy. The meeting discussed concerns and what each town is doing alongside the work of the Police. Police resources are stretched, and they are asking people to report an incident, even if felt not significant, so they can build up a picture and direct resources efficiently to the appropriate areas.

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

- I attended a Governors Day recently. We agreed roles and responsibilities for this academic year, in my case Chair of the Finance Committee and Link Governor for Teaching and Learning. We also met the school council, had a tour of the school, particularly the refurbished junior block, and discussed the School Development Plan.
- An impressive range of extra-curricular sports events has begun.
- 'Meet the Tutor' meetings take place next week.
- An Open Evening for Year 8 students and parent to discuss subject options will be held on 17th October.
- A Careers Fair for years 8, 9 and 10 takes place on 30th October.
- The annual BEST Governance conference will be held on Saturday. The event will include the presentation of the Governor Mark award, a discussion about BEST's and individual schools' Ethos, Vision and Values, and a performance by the BEST choir.
- In common with other local schools, Etonbury are involved in the consultation for 'Schools For the Future'. Members queried how the 2 tier proposals would work, under the 'Schools For the Future' – it will be phased. Currently the schools who want to go to 2 tier do not necessarily have the capacity to do this in one go. A 12 week consultation will begin shortly.

Councillor Russell joined the meeting at 7.53pm

207/19 REPORT, COPIES OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Copies of minutes of the Town Plan Implementation Group meeting held on 10th September 2019 were previously circulated to members.

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

- Green Wheel monies are allowing Councillor Mrs Cooper to plant native daffodil bulbs. I say Councillor Mrs Cooper because she has planted most of the daffodils on the verges we see around Stotfold in the spring. We might need help this year.
- The Good Neighbour Group Volunteers, together with staff and students of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire held a coffee morning for the Macmillan Cancer charity in the church last Friday. It was really successful, with approximately 60 residents attending. Over £344 was raised.
- Lastly, but possibly more importantly, I am asking our Central Bedfordshire Councillors what has happened to the proposal to build accommodation for the elderly of Stotfold. When Hallworth House closed, Members of the Town Council went to the HQ of Aragon Housing in Ampthill to be shown plans for superb new residential accommodation. The suggested site was, I believe, at the back of Larksfild surgery. How many years have passed where nothing has been forthcoming. We have at least 209 elderly people in Stotfold who feel they need help, closely followed by another 34. I have had the pleasure of visiting Baycroft at Fairfield Gardens – a privately run nursing home, but I imagine out of the price range of many people in our community. I believe this is a real need.

Members discussed the need to meet with the appropriate person at Central Beds Council to discuss our elderly person accommodation needs for Stotfold – this will be arranged.

208/19 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED that the Committee Budget Report and bank balances as at end September 2019 be noted.

209/19 ARLESEY ROAD PROJECT & RELOCATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB

Minutes of the Arlesey Road project Delivery Committee meeting held on 25th September were previously circulated to Members.

Council considered the recommendation from minute 9/19:

That the Town Council will pay for the alarm link to the Police at £195 for the first year. Should the Football Club wish to continue this link thereafter, it will be at their cost. The alarm and link should remain in the Club's name as they will need to supply emergency call out details, and the Town Council can reimburse for the 1st year's fees. These costs will come from the Buildings Management Committee budget – Buildings General – Maintenance and Repairs.

The recommendation was **RESOLVED** and the minutes were noted.

210/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

11th September 2019

Councillor Cooper asked members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 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.

25th September 2019

Councillor Cooper asked members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 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.

211/19 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 11th September 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.

212/19 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked members of the Cemetery Management Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 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.

213/19 BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Hayes asked members of the Buildings Management Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 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.

214/19 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Cooper asked members of the Establishment Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

Council considered the recommendation from minute 34/19:

That the following grants are approved:

Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Keech Hospice Care	Music and art therapy sessions	£500
Stotfold Bowls Club	New water heater	£150
Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust	To provide an educational and interactive bee trail at the Mill Nature Reserve	£1,000
Stotfold Football Club	Set of goal posts and nets	£1,900
Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath to lay on behalf of the community	£200
Roecroft Centre Charitable Trust	Purchase chairs	£619.20

The recommendation was **RESOLVED** and the minutes were noted.

215/19 TOWN STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked members of the Town Strategy Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record, with the following amendment:

Councillor Collier chaired the meeting, and Councillor Cooper should be noted as in attendance, not as chairman.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council, as amended.

216/19 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS EVENINGS MEETING

There were none.

217/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

A member referred to a previous request he had made to councillors for suggested locations to site a defibrillator being donated by Baldock Rotary. Only one suggestion had been received – to be sited on the Brook Street toilet unit. Members then discussed a suggestion from a former councillor of another location in the town. A formal request for a location will be included on the November council agenda.

The member then advised that Baldock Rotary have booked with the Co-op store to site their Christmas sleigh outside the store for their annual Christmas collection. They are looking for volunteers to help between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Rotary will give ½ the proceeds from the collection to Stotfold, which could be put towards the Christmas lights, if we can assist with volunteers.

The Clerk advised members of a recent benchmarking survey carried out on behalf of Central Beds Council by People and Places. The survey looks into use of town centres and consulted shoppers and businesses. 11 towns in Central Beds have been included in the survey. A report on the survey findings for Stotfold has been received and presentation will be given to Councillors, businesses and organisations in due course.

A member advised that he had seen contractors installing bollards on the roadside by the Pix Brook Play Area. This is part of the final work required by developers prior to adoption of the Greenacres development. 15 benches will also be installed around the development, together with wild planting and litter bins.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED