

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Councillors present: B Collier (Vice-Chairman)

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

Also present: 1 member of the public and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

1/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Mayors Civic Attendances December 2019

4th December – Roecroft School Christmas production – Deputy Mayor Attended
7th December – Houghton Regis Carol Concert – Attended
10th December – Roecroft School Christmas production – Attended
15th December – Elstow Abbey Church Carol Concert - Declined
15th December – Salvation Army Stotfold Christmas Concert – Deputy Mayor Attended
18th December – Etonbury Academy Christmas Concert – Declined
18th December – Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Christmas Celebration - Declined
21st December – Sandy Town Council Carols by Candlelight – Deputy Mayor to attend

Mayors Civic Attendances January 2020

11th January – Mayor of Ampthill Mayors Lunch – TBC
15th January – Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor Charity meal – Declined
25th January – Mayor of Houghton Regis Burns Night Supper – Accepted

2/20 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.

3/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper, Mrs J Hyde, J Talbot and Central Beds Councillor S Dixon. Councillors Saunders and Russell would be late to the meeting.

4/20 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

There were none.

5/20 TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2019 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters arising for information

Minute 250/19 – following our letter of concern to Anglian Water regarding water extraction in the local area and 'drought' concerns, a response has been received. A copy will be forwarded to members, but in summary outlines their voluntary reduction in abstractions relating to sustainability reductions, their general river restoration programmes, long term strategic supply and information on their recently launched #WhyNotWater Campaign.

7/20 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

Members were provided with a copy of the Bedfordshire Bugle January edition and the Police & Crime Commissioner's newsletter December edition.

8/20 SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Members considered submitting a response from this Council to the Schools for the Future consultation. Consultation documents were previously provided to members. Deadline 5pm 20th January 2020.

Members discussed the proposal, and felt that a general response was required, rather than completing the individual questions in the consultation document.

A response will be sent to express our view that all schools involved in this proposal should change at the same time, question how they will meet the proposal targets as there will be considerable building and money required to complete each on time. Express our view that any changes must not be at the expense and welfare of pupils. If building takes place on current school grounds, open space for children's learning and play will be compromised.

Councillor Saunders arrived during this item.

9/20 STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS – NALC/HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION

Members considered submitting a response to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) consultation on police powers in relation to unauthorised encampments. Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils (BATPC) will be feeding any comments made by Councils in our area to NALC – deadline for BATPC comments 20th January 2020 (NALC deadline 19th February). Copy of survey previously provided to members.

Members went through the consultation questions and made appropriate responses to be forwarded to BATPC/NALC.

Councillor Russell arrived during this item.

10/20 REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Ward Member B Saunders gave the following report:

- Central Beds Council's budget is out for consultation, which will see a 1.95% increase in the CBC portion of Council Tax
- Member Grants – Ward Members are meeting tomorrow to receive an update on grants schemes for next year. It should be the same as this year's Member Grants, and he will

question whether unspent funds from this year can be rolled-over to the next grant period. One application for a Member Grant has been received so far, and 3 (1 Langford, 2 Stotfold) for the Community Grant Scheme, which has a pot of £182,000 matched funding for larger projects.

- Full Council meetings are proving a challenge due to the format of the new Council, with multiple opposition parties in place
- He has attended 30 events since becoming Council Chairman, which include awards to young people, civic services, a charity cricket match
- An event coming up is the Chairman's Brass Band Concert, taking place on 29th February at the Greenacre Centre. Tickets are £10 per person, with funds raised for The Need Project. Tickets are available to purchase from the Town Council office and the Need Project offices
- The Chairman's Civic Service will take place Sunday 15th March at St Mary's Church, Stotfold

A member asked for our Highways Area Steward to be chased for a promised night-time scout of streetlights, as lights reported at the November Council meeting on Hitchin Road leading passed Fairfield have still not been repaired.

11/20 REPORTS FROM MEMBER AND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports to present.

12/20 REPORT, MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

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

- You have the minutes of our last meeting on 3rd December on the table tonight
- As an addition to the Patient Participation Group (PPG) report contained within the minutes, the Larksfield News (January 2020 edition) reports that on 2nd December 2019, the Partners of Stanmore Medical Group, Stevenage, joined the Larksfield Partnership. It states "We believe the practice will now be stronger, more resilient and in a better position to attract and retain new staff, across a wider range of specialities"
- Our next meeting will be held at the Greenacre Centre, Tuesday 3rd March, 1.30pm

Councillor Pickering, as a member of the PPG, advised that the Group meets tomorrow evening and Stanmore Medical Group is expected to be there. The reason for the new partnership is because it became unmanageable to run Larksfield Surgery with 1 ½ partners. Users of the surgery shouldn't see a difference.

13/20 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

- i) Members considered the Expenditure Report giving details of payments to be authorised at this January 2020 meeting and the income received during December 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 December 2019.

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

14/20 ARLESEY ROAD PROJECT & RELOCATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB

The Clerk gave the following report on the project:

Practical completion of the football facility took place on Monday 16th December. This means that although the purchase of Roker Park aspect of the agreement has not yet completed, the Town Council now owns the new football facility.

We still have a delay on the relocation of the telecommunication mast from Roker Park. As members will be aware, before Christmas we received pre-application consultation plans from Clarke-Telecom (for Cornerstone and Telefonica) for a relocated site on the High Street. Our comments have been forwarded to them, and they advise that a planning application is likely to be submitted during this month.

Once the mast is relocated, or we have an absolute date by which the mast will have been removed, the Roker Park transaction can be completed.

With regard to the new facility, 24/7 site security was continued over the Christmas period, at a cost to the Council. This ended on Monday of this week, and the CCTV and intruder alarm systems are now up and running.

The football club have been given permission to carry out required works, such as laying the flooring for the main room in the clubhouse, fitting shelving and hooks to the changing rooms and adding further internal cameras to the CCTV system to increase security of the facility.

An order has been placed for two sets of security fencing and gates for the unsecured recreation field side of the building, these are likely to be installed third or fourth week in January.

I still carry out regular visits to the site to ensure that works carried out by the football club are on track and to a satisfactory standard – all contractors working on site are required to provide me with a copy of appropriate insurance cover. The builders, Borrás Construction, are still completing minor outstanding works, such as fitting privacy film to the changing room windows. During my visits, I also inspect for defects, and receive defects reports from the football club, which are passed on to the project administrators working for the developers, settle.

To enable all parties to continue their work on site, keys have been issued and logged out to specific members of the football club, and Borrás.

All parties' legal teams are currently in discussion about amending the overarching agreement, which required completion of the purchase of Roker Park to take place 5 days following practical completion. Because the mast situation is still ongoing, vacant possession of Roker Park is not possible and therefore completion cannot take place at the moment. Agreement is being sought on an extended period for completion.

15/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE

11th December 2019

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

18th December 2019

Councillor Collier asked members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 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.

16/20 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 December 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.

17/20 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Collier asked members of the Establishment Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2019 and confirm as a correct record. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

Members considered the recommendation from minute 56/19:

That the Precept figure of £509,651 for 2020/2021 be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council.

The minutes were noted by council, and the **recommendation resolved**.

18/20 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none.

19/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Councillor Pickering advised that at the 8th December Rotary/Town Council collection at the Co-op, £240 was raised. He will find out how this will be apportioned with the Town Council and gave his thanks to those who assisted during the day.

As a Trustee of the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field, Councillor Hayes advised that 17 plots had been broken into at Common Road Allotments on Christmas Eve. The Police attended. The Charity has now been asked to consider increasing security on the site at their meeting on 23rd January.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.12pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED