

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Members present: A Cooper (Mayor)

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: Central Beds Councillors S Dixon and Ms N Harris, 1 member of the public and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

20/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Mayors Civic Attendances January 2020

11th January – Mayor of Ampthill Mayors Lunch – Declined
15th January – Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor Charity meal – Declined
19th January – North Herts District Council Civic Service – Attended
25th January – Mayor of Houghton Regis Burns Night Supper – Attended
29th January – Defibrillator Unit donation Event Baptist Church Stotfold – Attended
30th January -Stotfold Town Council, Stotfold Football Club and settle Opening Event – Attended

Mayors Civic Attendances February 2020

7th February – Leighton Linslade Charity Quiz Night – Declined
8th February – Houghton Regis Bingo Afternoon – Declined
9th February – Stotfold Civic Service – Accepted
23rd February – Leighton Linslade Civic Service – Accepted
25th February – Houghton Regis Pancake Race – Declined
29th February – Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Charity Concert – TBA

21/20 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Dhaliwal declared an interest in the Income report, as he has made a payment to the Council. 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.

22/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Russell will arrive late.

23/20 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Not at this point.

24/20 TO NOTE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

25/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report as at production of agenda.

26/20 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report as at production of agenda.

27/20 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE REPORT

Members considered a report from Councillors Buck and Pickering on the recently attended Town & Parish Council Conference. Topics covered included the Schools for the Future proposals, Central Bedfordshire 2050 – Embracing our Future, Local Plan update. A copy of the report is available on file, and presentations from the conference are available on Central Beds Council's website.

28/20 AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS DECISION – VE DAY 75

(standing order 9a applies – a resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice of at least 5 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer)

After receiving written notice by Councillor Cooper, and the required number of councillor signatures, members considered the following motion:

To amend minute 179/19, to read -

“, and the Town Council will organise the suggested exhibition at the Memorial Hall. Any costs to be met through the Civic Allowance.”

To consider in addition – should there be insufficient volunteers to man both the exhibition and the gazebo surgery at the mill event then preference should be given to the VE Day commemoration for this year.

Members agreed that the previous idea of holding an exhibition in the Greenacre Centre may be difficult to achieve in such a large space, and that the Memorial Hall would be a much more appropriate venue.

RESOLVED that minute 179/19 is rescinded, and that the motion to move the exhibition to the Memorial Hall on Saturday 9th May 2020 and to prioritise the VE Day 75 exhibition over the Mill event, should a lack of manpower require it, is agreed.

An exhibition will now be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 9th May 2020, 12pm to 5pm. It is to include information on VJ Day (15th August), as it was noted that fighting was still going on in Burma and Japan after VE Day. The Stotfold Reflections book has information and photos on VE Day, St Mary's Academy has log books from that era which we may be able to exhibit, and local groups and the Royal British Legion are being asked if they have any photos, information, or items they wish to exhibit. The WI is being asked if they would be willing to run a 'NAAFI' from the kitchen, serving teas and coffees.

29/20 REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Ward Member B Saunders gave the following report:

- Central Beds Council's budget was approved by Executive on Tuesday, and will be considered by full Council on Thursday 20th February
- The consultation on CCTV in taxis is still open. Use of the cameras is proposed to be on a voluntary basis initially, with a view to making it mandatory next year
- With regard to the Ward Councillor Grant, some of it has already been awarded, but there is more available
- So far, nothing has yet been approved for the Community Grants, any money left over at the end of this financial year, can be rolled over to the next Community Grant period
- The Boundary Commission's Electoral Review started in October. The original closing date of 13th January has now been extended until 24th February
- Current consultation: Changes to adult social care charges. Deadline 20th April 2020

Ward Member S Dixon gave the following report:

- An area-wide review of Highways and the infrastructure required for large developments along the A507 is underway. This will inform traffic plans for future developments, and will continue until the end of April
- The Schools for the Future consultation has seen very strong support for the 2-tier school system. A good response rate for the Stotfold and Shefford cluster has been received
- With regard to recent complaints about lorries stacking up on Arlesey Road in relation to the ongoing development on Arlesey Road, he has spoken with the developers, and officers also visit the area daily
- If current progress within the Greenacre development continues at this pace, adoption of the roads is likely early summer
- Following complaints about Buttercup Road – parking issues and pedestrian safety in this area during school drop-off and collection times, an officer has visited the area. In cases where it is considered that there is a real danger on private roads, Central Beds Council can step in.
- Central Beds Council will be converting its electricity supply in its offices and schools to 'go green', and trying to reduce its consumption

30/20 REPORTS FROM MEMBER AND NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- I made a Governor Visit this week. In line with current Ofsted practice, I focused on a subject, namely Maths, across the school. I met with the Vice Principal, the Head of Department, visited several classrooms and looked at Curriculum plans and students' books. It was a very informative visit
- A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils are taking part in the "Young Voices" event at Wembley Arena this Friday
- Year 6 SATs Booster Club is running weekly
- An Information Evening for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is taking place for interested Year 8 students tonight
- A GCSE Options Information Evening for Year 9 students and their parents takes place next week
- Career talks for Year 10 and 11 students are being held on Monday lunchtimes
- Mock interviews for Year 11 students are taking place for the next two weeks

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

- I recently attended the safeguarding meeting, held once each term, with two governors, to keep up to date with any problems
- I also attended a values meeting with the lead teacher to hear of future plans of how the school will continue to encourage all children in their attitude to all others
- The school held a Viking Day, both interesting and exciting, and some of the children have been busy in the cookery room making, and enjoying, pizzas and muffins
- Trips have been planned for the year which will include Stotfold Mill, Hazard Alley and Knebworth House for a Science Workshop

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

- On 6th January, I attended an Inset Day where all staff (teachers, TAs, kitchen and cleaners) received the latest updates on Safeguarding and GDPR
- I have also chaired a Standards Meeting where we reviewed pupil progress and attainment using autumn term final tracking data and spring term tracking data indications. We reviewed the School Development Plan and Policies under the review schedule
- On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th January we welcomed an Ofsted Inspector. We were inspected under the new procedure introduced at the end of 2019, known as Section 8. This sets out to confirm the existing judgement of a good school. As a school with between 150 and 600 pupils we were allocated one inspector for two days. As a Governor, I am delighted to say the inspector confirmed, in uncertain terms, that St Mary's is a good school. The report is available on the school and Ofsted websites
- Lessons continue as normal, the Reverend Bill Britt has conducted two services – Epiphany and Candlemas with the assistance of pupils
- Teams from Year 4 took part in a sporting festival organised by the Redborne Sports Partnership. They are also practising for the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena tomorrow evening, where they will join thousands of other young people and be given the opportunity to sing along with popular artists
- Clubs this half term include gymnastics, football, karate, tennis, Spanish craft and choir. Homework club is very popular as well. I am looking forward to the Creative Arts Week, starting on Monday

A letter of congratulations will be sent to St Mary's Academy for their 'Good School' Ofsted report.

31/20 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:

- Minutes for the meeting held on 3rd December 2019 were reported to full Town Council on Wednesday 8th January 2020
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at the Greenacre Centre at a new time of 1.30pm

32/20 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

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

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

The Income Report is to be amended as follows: receipt nos. 14729 and 14736 should have individuals' names removed and replaced with Co-op/Days Bakery Christmas Lights Collections and Baldock Rotary Christmas Lights Donation, respectively.

- ii) Members reviewed the Committee Budget Report and bank balances as at month end January 2020.

RESOLVED that the Committee Budget Report and bank balances as at end January 2020 be noted.

33/20 ARLESEY ROAD PROJECT & RELOCATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB

The Clerk advised that on Monday 3rd February, completion on the Arlesey Road/Roker Park purchase took place. Roker Park is now in the ownership of settle, and the Football Club's lease of Arlesey Road has started.

Security of the site has now been improved, with mesh fencing and lockable gate installed to the front/side of the clubhouse and palisade to the rear. This prevents unauthorised access to the side of the building, and the palisade includes a lockable gate for access from the recreation area to the community use changing rooms. A swing height barrier is on order and should be installed in 3 to 4 weeks. The Project Delivery Committee has agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of supply and installation of two roller shutters for the front entrance of the clubhouse building, with the remaining windows/doors being funded by the football club. The Clerk has offered to submit the required planning application for all of the shutters, which will be in the name of the Town Council, benefiting from reduced planning fees (50%). The football club will pay 50% of those reduced fees.

The Clerk has discussed the front boundary of the site with Arlesey Road, along the length of the car park, and the possibility of removing the untidy shrubs/trees within the boundary and replacing with a lowered and maintained thorn hedge or similar. By removing the shrubs, this will open up the space and improve visibility of the clubhouse and car park, and therefore improve security. Planting along the boundary would reduce the frequent damage to the post and rail fence caused by people climbing over, rather than using the car park entrance or two sets of kissing gates.

The Arlesey Road Project Delivery Committee will have one last meeting to finalise outstanding matters and agree costs to be settled for additional items previously agreed. A final report will be issued to Council at a forthcoming meeting.

Thanks were given to the Clerk for her hard work on this project.

Members felt that some of plaque or notice should be displayed in the clubhouse to indicate how this facility came about. The Clerk will discuss with representatives of settle, Central Beds Council and the Football Club and put a proposal to them.

A request was made for further consideration to be given to security of the whole site. Until the height barrier is installed, the entrance gates will be locked when no one is occupying the

clubhouse, but once installed, they will be left open 24/7 to allow for public access to the recreation ground. Members were reminded that because the rest of the Arlesey Road site is public park land, we are obliged to allow the public to use the open space. We will ask the Police to carry out regular patrols, and as we have already increased security of the site, this will be monitored and reviewed if necessary.

34/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Cooper asked members of the Planning Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 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.

35/20 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 15th January 2020 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.

36/20 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Cooper asked members of the Establishment Committee to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 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.

37/20 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none.

38/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Chairman reminded Members that the Mayor's Civic Service will be held on Sunday 8th February at St Mary's Church, invitations have been sent. Commonwealth Day is Monday 9th March, with a flag raising ceremony at the Greenacre Centre. The Annual Town Meeting is Thursday 5th March at the Greenacre Centre.

A Member noted that the kissing gate on the Kingfisher Way at Riverside Playing Field which was down due to a rotten post, has now been repaired by Teasel, although reported to Central Beds Public Rights of Way Team. Thanks were expressed for their quick work to reinstate the gate.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED