

MINUTES OF THE STOTFOLD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE OAK HALL, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD ON THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Councillors present: Meeting Chaired by Councillor B Collier (Deputy Mayor)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
Mrs M Cooper	Mr S Dhaliwal
Mr S Hayes	Mrs J Hyde
S Jackson	D Matthews
C Phelps	B Saunders (& CBC)
J Talbot	E Wearmouth

In attendance: Mrs K Elliott-Turner (Town Clerk) Ms Caroline Jenkins (Assistant Clerk)

26 electors who recorded their names

Councillor Collier welcomed everyone to the 2017 meeting, and introduced the Town Councillors present, and Central Bedfordshire Councillors S Dixon, B Saunders and J Saunders. He then asked electors to clearly state their name and where they live before speaking.

714. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper and H Pickering.

715. TO ADOPT MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 were circulated to electors prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The minutes were taken as read prior to them being confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

716. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Nothing to report – some items are covered in the Mayor’s Report.

717. TOWN MAYOR’S REPORT ON THE COUNCIL’S ACTIVITIES DURING 2016/2017

Councillor Collier read out the Annual Report by Councillor Cooper in his absence:

I must begin as ever, by thanking our Councillors, staff and contractors for the work they have done for the town, sometimes under difficult conditions, over the last year.

Likewise, our gratitude goes to the many voluntary groups and individuals who work with and are supported by the Council in their efforts to maintain and enhance our surroundings.

I have personally been privileged to represent Stotfold in attending many events locally and in other surrounding towns where I have seen how much community involvement is still actively supporting people of all ages and abilities. Where I have been unable to attend then Councillor Brian Collier, the Deputy Mayor, or other Councillors have deputised.

We recently received the sad news that Mavis, more generally known as ‘May’ Stevens (who was for some time our ‘Loo Attendant’ at the High Street conveniences) had passed away just short of her 90th birthday. The Town Council sent their condolences to her family and I attended her funeral service on their behalf on Tuesday of this week. She was a real old village character who many will remember in her duffel coat and pushing her bicycle around the town, she will be missed.

Residents were able to enjoy our second year of Christmas lights, with more shops along the High Street taking part and street lamp displays linking down through Grange Drive to the new Greenacre Community Centre in Valerian Way. Our first ever Christmas tree was suitably lit and on display outside the building around which Santa was swamped by hordes of children eager to empty his bucket of sweets.

This is a joint effort between the Town Council and Stotfold branch of the Baldock Rotary Club with additional financial support from local businesses and organisations whom we thank. Further donations, from any source would be welcome, to see the Christmas Lights continue in future years. The Christmas celebrations were intentionally centred at the new community building so that residents could have the opportunity to look around this new facility for the town. Many of you will be aware that the Town Council were expecting to move in to the Greenacre Centre in July/August 2016, but due to delays in legal transfer from the developers we have not been able to do so. This has caused much difficulty and frustration to both our staff and residents.

The very good news, at last, is that transfer documents for handing over of the building were received yesterday (Wednesday) and so the full use of the building, including access to the car park, will be available very soon now.

Coupled with the news of the new building transfer, is an update on the play areas on the Land South of Stotfold development. One area (a LEAP/NEAP, MUGA combination) off Valerian Way, near the Pix Brook, has been completed for some time. A further similar enclosed area is due to be constructed to the rear of the new building. The area beyond this, down towards the bypass, is to become an open grassland, park type, recreation area. The developer's agent has informed us that they hope to start work on that area by summer of this year and then pass over both enclosed MUGA areas and the open grassland to the Town Council once work is complete.

Last year saw the Central Bedfordshire 'Call for Sites' consultation lead to many local land owners and developers submitting their sites for potential residential development. This will soon be passing on to the appraisal stage, where 'preferred' sites are identified.

The 'Local Plan' is in preparation by Central Bedfordshire Council, along with any local 'Community Plans' being prepared for individual towns and villages, this will form Central Bedfordshire Council strategy over the next few years up to 2035 for our area. Our town has been put together with Arlesey, Fairfield and Astwick as one of the 15 areas of consideration which cover the whole of Central Bedfordshire.

There was a public consultation presentation held by Central Bedfordshire Council in Stotfold on 9th February, where many of our residents went along to give their views on local needs under the main headings of – Environment & Homes, Growth & Infrastructure, Local Character and Jobs & Business.

Pressure on our town from further planning applications for residential developments will continue throughout 2017 and beyond, this will be fuelled by both Local and Central Government pressures on housing targets. All residents are encouraged to be vigilant and make their views on applications known to Central Bedfordshire Council whether directly consulted or not – please copy your responses to the Town Council so they can consider local feelings in their responses also.

The long-awaited relocation of Stotfold Football Club from Roker Park to the new club and community building at the Arlesey Road site continues to progress with planning applications being approved some time ago. Preparation of the several leases and other legal documentation between Central Bedfordshire Council, Stotfold Town Council, Stotfold Football Club, Vodafone and the Roker Park developers, is now all but complete. If the proposed schedules are met, then matches should begin at the Arlesey Road site during 2018, housing development at Roker Park will follow that.

718. REPORT ON TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018

A copy of the report, appended to these minutes (appendix A) was provided to those present. There were no questions from the public.

719. REPORT ON THE ELEEMOSYNARY CHARITY OF WILLIAM FIELD

A copy of the financial report of the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field was available to those present, and is appended to these minutes (appendix B). As Chairman of the Charity, Councillor Mrs J Hyde gave the following report:

In Stotfold, we are fortunate that in the past, people such as William Field, Octavius Roe and Jane Brooks left money and land for the benefit of the residents of Stotfold. Originally, these were administered by the Vicar and Church Wardens, but with the establishment of Parish Councils, some of the responsibilities were then shared by the Town Council and therefore they are answerable to the electors of Stotfold, which is why these accounts are presented to you tonight, as representatives of your community.

The Trustees of this Charity are 2 appointees from the Town Council, the Vicar and the two Church Wardens. The Town Council appoints their two Trustees who then serve a 4 year term. The Vicar and Church Wardens serve for as long as they hold that office. In the last year as I took up the post of Church Warden, I resigned as a Town Council Appointee, and Councillor Humphrey Pickering has taken my place.

The Eleemosynary Charity is made up of a number of smaller Charities, which over the last 20 years or so have been amalgamated, that is still an on-going process. We are looking in the future to merge the Roes Education Charity with this one.

At present the Charity is made up of 8 acres of land down Common Road. 3 acres have been returned to allotment land. The other 5 acres are currently being farmed for us. The allotments have seen much improvement with water laid on, a car park and now work done to mitigate the flooding problem. Ditches dug and with the help of Teasel, willows planted. Two Saturdays ago a group of volunteers got together to plant a community orchard. The trees chosen all originated from around this area. We are hoping to plant more hedges around the whole site. We are grateful for the work that Suzanne and the Town Council does on our behalf to administer the allotments for us.

Our main source of income was derived from the sale of the old Brook Street Allotments, where the new houses now stand. £390,000 was invested with CCLA, an investment company that specialises in investing for Charities and Churches. That capital sum has now grown to £514,244.58.

Over the years we have distributed in excess of £50,000.

Money has been distributed this year to young people to help them with their education. St Mary's School Association for play equipment, The Need Project that distributes food parcels, Stotfold Library, Christmas Lights for the town, The Roecroft Centre and to help to buy equipment for one of our toddler groups. We also gave money to the Roes Education Charity to enable them to make grants.

Grants are made half yearly, with the deadline for applications being the end of June and the end of December. Application forms are available from the Town Council offices. If you know of any individual or organisation which might benefit from some funding for a project or a need, then please encourage them to apply.

Similarly, if you wish to leave money to the Charity, perhaps in your Will, this is always welcome. It should be noted, that if you leave money to a charity, this will come off your inheritance tax bill!

720. ANNUAL POLICE REPORT FROM BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Apologies had been received from Bedfordshire Police that they were unable to attend this meeting, and had not forwarded a report for presentation.

721. REPORT FROM A CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO STOTFOLD

Central Beds Councillor Dixon gave the following report:

It often feels like the majority of the last 12 months has been preoccupied with nothing else but the Government's Housing White Paper. It has taken considerably longer to arrive than we were anticipating, and when it did arrive, it has had a mixed reception. On the advice of DCLG, Central Beds Council to put on hold our Local Plan, but this document remains focussed on publication towards the end of this year. The White Paper did little to abate the continuous onslaught of rogue planning applications outside settlement envelopes, but we have been successful in refusing many such applications and continuously look to squaring the 5-year land supply issue, which is the cause of many an assault. Indeed, applications for development of sites at Astwick Road and the old Motorola site have both been refused, as they were deemed inappropriate developments.

It feels like Central Beds is the focus of all developer hunger for permissions, but we are suffering along similar lines to all authorities locally as this part of the world continues to be highly attractive to a wide range of buyers. It was saddening to hear last year of the proposed closure of RAF Henlow. The base has had a significant impact on a great many residents of Central Beds and will be sadly missed when it closes in 2020. The potential scale of development on the site, with a possible 6000 dwellings, could have a wide-ranging impact on the surrounding area and we will be liaising closely with Ward Members to resist the natural temptation to concrete over the whole of the base.

While the last of the houses have recently been completed on the Greenacres development, the completion of the road surfacing, their adoption and the transfer of assets such as the community centre and play areas, are finally underway. These issues are generally the last matters to be resolved and could well take 12 months to complete. The expectation that they will be delivered far sooner is unreasonable as road surfacing can only be completed after construction work has been finished. The commitments undertaken by the developers in the Section 106 Agreement will not be forgotten and those benefits will be delivered.

Across Central Bedfordshire, the focus on improving the delivery of services remains a key priority. The development of an improved on-line service appears to be working well, with the use of our website and the sign up to social media channels rising very rapidly in the last year. Transformation programmes in core directorates are starting to produce significant improvements in the service offered and the outcomes sought. This improvement culture stretches to areas such as overhead cost and a new programme of how we utilise office space is leading to a reduction in the amount of space we occupy.

The budget for Central Bedfordshire Council has now been set, with a 1 ½% increase on the General Fund, 3% ringfenced for social care.

The final Community Plan workshop is due this month. Feedback will be given on a drip basis rather than one complete bundle. Officers have been particularly impressed with the quality of input and have found the information offered to be helpful in formulating their thinking behind an infrastructure led Local Plan. The turnout across the whole of the authority has been excellent.

If you lived in the Clophill and Maulden area, last year's major gas outage wouldn't have been welcomed, but it did allow the Council's disaster planning programme to be utilised. The system has been developed to cope in such an emergency and provides an action plan for such occupancies. This planning was the subject of a recent Town and Parish Council Conference, which was well received and hopefully will provide plans should such an event occur in our Ward. The flash flooding

last year in Pix Brook is the type of disaster that such planning can be focussed on and it is good to see that following that event, a Pix Brook wide survey is being commissioned to help avoid another such occurrence.

With regard to the smell nuisance emanating from the Letchworth Sewage treatment works, this has been down to a change of treatment processor. Central Beds has taken this up and has served an abatement notice to Anglian Water to resolve the situation, with a deadline of 31st March.

The relocation of Stotfold Football Club to Arlesey Road looks to be finally drawing close to a start on site. Issues relating to access at Roker Park and agreements with the senior and junior clubs and the Town Council have been agreed, as have the last details with Central Beds Council. The new site will provide a fantastic facility for Stotfold residents to enjoy for a wide range of leisure and sporting activities.

One final observation relates again to development in some respects. It is usually cited at application stage from locals that development shouldn't be permitted because of speeding close to a proposed site. However, this is rarely backed up with any evidence, and can often then work against an objection, particularly on the edge of settlement sites. Speedwatch is a particularly good way of providing such evidence and clearly helping to reduce speeding. It only takes 6 volunteers to set up a group. Details of how to start can be found via your Town Clerk.

As ever, we will continue to work for the best interests of Stotfold residents.

722. STATEMENT FROM LAND SOUTH OF STOTFOLD DEVELOPERS

Following numerous recent complaints regarding the condition of the roads through the new development, the developer's agent has provided the following statement:

The programme for final surfacing of the highways is dependent on the prior adoption of the surface water sewers by Anglian Water. Anglian Water will not take part of a sewer in isolation. It has to run from the head of that section to a final outfall or already adopted sewer. All the surface water sewers on this development run to Pix Brook or the East West corridor at the bottom of the school, so we are having to negotiate sewers from the spine road, through individual parcels or phases to the outfall and this is not without its difficulties. A phased approach has been agreed over 5 different areas, starting at either end (Valerian Way done, Tansy Avenue is next) going back to Valerian Way by the play area and working through. The programme extends over 18 months but that time scale may be affected by the condition of the surface water sewers and the amount of work discovered/required by CCTV and cleaning, so the programme of necessity is quite fluid.

723. GUEST SPEAKER: 'THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING YOUR SAY IN THE PLANNING PROCESS' - CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

The Chairman introduced Mike Stonnell, Vice-Chairman of CPRE Bedfordshire to give a presentation on the importance of having your say in the planning process.

He advised that CPRE provide help and support in making comments on planning applications. The Bedfordshire branch provides support throughout Central Bedfordshire and also the Beds Borough and Luton Borough Council areas. The Patron of the CPRE is The Queen, the President is Emma Bridgewater, and past Presidents have included Andrew Motion and Bill Bryson.

The major concerns of CPRE are to protect the landscape, promote better farming and food production and housing and planning.

Landscape

For example, in Bedfordshire, campaigning to protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Luton and Toddington, north Chilterns and ensuring better access to these amenities. They also focus on housing developments, in particular historical buildings and sites, and those of special significant

interest. They are very concerned about the local impact of developments, and campaign for tranquillity to help planners understand where the quieter areas are.

Recent rural environmental issues are 'darker skies', i.e. larger developments and the use of street lighting means you can't see the stars. They have made representation to Councils within Bedfordshire regarding design and layout of developments to reduce excessive lighting.

Farming & Food

Focusing on sustainable farming and livestock production and conservation of natural habitats. They are keen on reducing the amount of food miles in food production.

In Central Bedfordshire, development of rural communities is celebrated through the CPRE Charter Mark. Design of new buildings which are sympathetic of the environment in which they sit are celebrated, such as Jordan's Mill which was awarded the Charter Mark on the basis of the sympathetic nature of development and design of the visitor centre.

Housing & Planning

Housing affects the environment and landscape and connectivity between traffic, housing and landscape. The countryside is everyone's backyard and so everyone should have their say. CPRE is not against building houses, but there should be a plan-led development system – not a building free for all. The local plan is there to determine where development should go.

CPRE are supporters of local communities who want to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Planning Aid have run seminars to help communities understand what is needed to produce such a plan.

The term Greenbelt is the principle mechanism for CPRE to make representations on planning applications. Greenbelt is a designation contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and is a significant part of enabling protection of the countryside.

How do CPRE support local communities?

It is very important to respond to planning applications and planning appeals. As Central Beds Council doesn't have a current adopted Local Plan, at the moment planning is a bit of a free for all and there is no overall single approach to development.

CPRE helps residents to respond to housing applications, through their knowledge of cases in planning, framework and governance guidance.

How would CPRE help – residents to respond to housing application knowledge cases in planning, National Planning Policy Framework and government guidance on Planning Practice Guidance. You need to support your response to an application with evidence within the context of the frameworks.

Residents are encouraged to participate in consultations on the Local Plan, when in draft form. Central Beds Council is holding back final submission of their draft Local Plan as they need to understand the implications of the Housing White Paper.

Beds Borough Council is producing their Local Plan. Luton Borough Council's Local Plan has gone through the three stages of examination and they are waiting for a response from the Inspector. Milton Keynes want to move into Central Beds as they can't meet its housing target. With regard to the Oxford/Cambridge arc – improvements are being considered to the A421 and M1 link, particularly at the Black Cat roundabout, and then extending the east/west rail-link. Plans are also being considered to upgrade the A1

Questions from the public

Mr P Clarey, Coppice Mead – pointed out that rural England does not just mean the countryside, it also means rural skills and crafts. Does CPRE support these skills? CPRE does promote the rural way

of life and promotes it as a place to live and work, with recreational opportunities. They make awards to local crafts people, such as a Bedfordshire thatcher.

David Osborne, Trinity Road – felt that it is a knee jerk reaction to object to applications. Taylor Wimpey is donating outside public space, so development is not always a bad thing.

712. PRESENTATION OF THE CITIZENS AWARDS BY THE MAYOR

Each year we ask for nominations for Citizens Awards, presented to individuals who have been nominated by others for their contribution to the community of Stotfold.

Brenda Saunders

The first of tonight's awards goes to a person who has lived in Stotfold for over 40 years. For several years acted as Vice-Chairman of the Stotfold Womens' Fellowship; has been a helper at the Methodist Toddlers Group. Whilst her children were at Roecroft Lower School, she was an active member of the Parent Teachers Association, became Snowy Owl in the 1st Stotfold Brownies, organising the weekly meetings, badge work, camping and fundraising. She has the role of Treasurer of the Mossman Centre, the building where the Guides and Brownies meet. Having retired from being a Brownie leader, began to lead a group of Rainbows. Such is retirement for volunteers. But if that wasn't enough, she has also been a longstanding member of Stotfold Football Club on its Committee and Treasurer of its Fundraising Committee, organises match refreshments on Saturdays and in the same vein has headed up a team at Randall's Tea Room in Stotfold Mill on Sundays.

During all this time, she was also involved in the Carnival Committee, the Arts and Crafts Exhibition as a judge, helps on some Quiz Nights at the Methodist Church and volunteered to help the Town Plan Steering Group in the production of the Town Plan.

Christine Smith

The next award goes to someone who, just the right time, started to consider how to help the community. Her work experience was ideal to be applied as a volunteer within Stotfold. She came forward and discussed with another leading volunteer, before becoming committed, and has now been working for 15 years on the project suggested. This project does invaluable work, involves many other volunteers and is the Stotfold Steam Fair and Country Show, the largest 2-day event that Stotfold has seen. She has been involved in other areas of the Mill's work including the October Working Steam event. Also having knowledge of publishing was an author and editor of the locally produced book Stotfold Reflections. Without her work and leadership, Stotfold Mill's continued existence would have been in doubt.

Lyn Hayes

The next recipient has lived in Stotfold for over 35 years, over a period of 16 years helped with a playgroup becoming its leader until Poppies was founded, has been a Governor of St Mary's School including being the Chairman of Governors for 10 years, has been a Brownie Leader, Tawny Owl for 22 years and is now President of the Guides, also a member of the Trefoil Guild and helps out from time to time with the Brownies and Rainbows. She became involved with setting quizzes originally for Fearnhill School Association, then St Mary's Church, a Sunday School teacher, a Social Fundraising Committee member and helper with the Little Angels toddler group.

Kevin Balderstone

This award goes to a person who has lived in Stotfold for over 35 years, having two children he became involved with their schools, helping out with fundraising and other events at Roecroft Lower School, Etonbury Middle School and becoming a School Governor. He served in this capacity for 14 years at Etonbury School. For Samuel Whitbread School he volunteered, over several years, to take students into his business for work experience, which is a most valuable part of their practical education. He has been a parent helper with the Cubs and Scouts including at camps and being a specialist badge teacher and assessor. With Teasel he has been a labourer, erector of gates in the

Mill Meadows and elsewhere. He has been very heavily involved with the Mill from its early days until now, including events organising, safety organisation and in his own field the Mill's computer and camera system.

713. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Mr Francis – High Street

Mr Francis asked which artists were asked to design the murals on the outside of the Greenacre Centre, was the Town Council consulted and how much did they cost?

The Deputy Mayor advised that there were two amounts of money allocated by the developer of the site that were to be used specifically on public art. Central Beds Council's public art team, together with the Town Council, assessed artist submissions for designs, and a contract was subsequently awarded by Central Beds Council. At a closer inspection of the artwork, you are able to make out names of people from Stotfold. A smaller version of the artwork is yet to be commissioned for the foyer area of the building. Translucent blinds are to be installed in the Oak Hall for privacy.

Paula Francis – Stables Court

Complained regarding the large number of trailers and equipment stored in the field opposite the Cemetery on Mill Lane. She wanted to know who owns the field, and whether permission had been given for them to be there, as it looks like travellers have moved in?

Councillor John Saunders confirmed that the land belonged to Michael Dilley and the machinery belonged to Councillor Saunders and was in place to prevent unauthorised access to the field. Councillor Steve Dixon confirmed that following concerns expressed to Central Beds Council, as the landlord, discussions had taken place with Mr Dilley and the machinery is to be removed very soon.

David Osborne – Trinity Road

Had sent an email 7 months ago to Stotfold Town Councillors and Central Beds Councillors. In early September he received one response from a Town Councillor. He attended a subsequent meeting of the Town Plan Implementation Group to highlight his concerns in his email, which were in regard to access on footpaths for disabled, pushchairs and those using mobility scooters. He explained that nothing seemed to have been done to address his highlighted problem areas, raised ironworks in footpaths are still there, barrier access to Riverside Playing Field and Hitchin Road Recreation Ground remain the same. He felt that many footpaths in Stotfold do not comply with DDA regulations, and was advised that this was a matter for Central Beds Council. He was advised that his concerns regarding barriers in footways has been reported to Central Beds Council as the Highways authority. Central Beds Councillor Steve Dixon confirmed with Mr Osborne that he had spoken to him about various matters before tonight's meeting and any other details should be given to him and he will look to solve further problems.

In regard to the accounts, Mr Osborne queried as to why the Christmas Tree outside the Greenacre Centre has cost £6,000. The Chairman and Clerk confirmed that this figure is misleading, and the tree actually cost £100. All Christmas Lights expenditure is shown under the one budget line, and therefore the £6,000 expenditure includes the Christmas Tree, but also purchase of lights and the contract with Terry Seymour Electrical Contractor for erection of the town Christmas Lights and external shop lighting displays.

Referring back to highways matters, Mr Osborne complained about parking on grass verges and the damage this causes. Councillor Dixon explained that many people park on verges to ease traffic congestion. Parking on yellow lines is a traffic warden issue, and Central Beds Council is now unable to use the CCTV camera vehicle. If parking is on a footpath, it is a Police matter. It is important that you gather evidence to show that this is occurring. If a byelaw is in place making something illegal, then this is also a Police matter.

Mrs Balderstone, Marschefield

The white road markings on Hitchin road have now faded, especially in the left turning lane. She asked for a request to Highways to re-line the markings. Central Beds Councillor Brian Saunders confirmed that there are works to be carried out very soon on the A507. The gas and electrical works had been completed and patching work needed to be completed first before white lines were again re-painted.

Paula Francis – Stables Court

Queried whether A-board signs on the pavements in the town should be allowed as there seemed to be more than usual lately. Councillor Steve Dixon confirmed that these are permitted but must not obstruct the pathways for pedestrians, pushchairs etc, and any photographs of obstructions should be forwarded to Councillor Dixon and he will pass on to the relevant body.

Councillor John Talbot raised the area of the Brook Street/Hitchin Road roundabout and how dangerous the junction had now become. Since the roundabout had been installed traffic safety through this area has worsened as drivers ignore the 20mph speed limit and drive straight over the top of the road level roundabout. Together with a blind bend and oncoming traffic from the left and right, it is now becoming a hot-spot in the town for accidents. One such accident in December 2016 resulted in the car being written off. He asked if it would be possible to re-instate the T-junction and leave the yellow lines in Brook Street.

Ray Kilby – Brook Street

Noted that whether a roundabout or the former t-junction, the Brook Street junction with Hitchin Road has always been a traffic safety issue, and felt that the main problem is speeding. He asked whether speed reducing measures could be introduced such as cameras, speed indication devices or speed humps. Central Beds Councillor Dixon advised that Councillor Ian Dalgarno is now Chairman of Central Beds Council's Traffic Management Meeting and so this will be put to him for a response.

Councillor Colin Phelps – Astwick Road

Pointed out that there are other areas in Stotfold which are speeding problem areas, such as Astwick Road and Regent Street, where there are blind bends and narrow roads. He asked for installation of a roundabout at the junction of these two roads.

Councillor Emily Wearmouth – Baldock Road

Also pointed out that the Baldock Road turn onto Norton Road is dangerous. All these problem areas will be forwarded to Councillor Dalgarno.

Pat Clarey – Hazel Grove

Noted that the Police had been asked to attend this meeting, and was sad to note that no police report was available. He has seen a report to say that Bedfordshire Police is the worst in the country. The Police say that their engagement with the public is better than it has been for many years. Central Beds Councillor Dixon did not personally agree with the Police and Crime Commissioner's position regarding public engagement. He explained that Beds Police is a tiny force and has many challenges, it is underfunded and has many issues and resources required, such as at Luton airport.

Val Balderstone – Marschefield

Complained that during a recent litter pick of Mill Meadows, drug bags have been found. She felt that there is a serious drug use issue in Stotfold and wanted something done about it.

Bill Cutler – Hyde Avenue

Asked if a map has been produced of the road layout of the new Greenacre site. No official plan has been produced as yet, but the Town Council office has their own map of area which is not to scale, but residents are welcome to have a copy.

Val Balderstone – Marschefield

Last year, she asked about the future of the Old Roecroft Lower School Playing Field, but has not heard any updates since. Central Beds Councillor Dixon advised that the Academy of Central Bedfordshire has expressed an interest in the site, but there is no further movement.

Paul Francis – High Street

Asked what provision was being made for older residents in regard to nursing homes. Central Beds Councillor Dixon advised that a 70 bed care home and 15 age conditioned apartments are being provided at Fairfield on the old Pig Unit. Across Central Bedfordshire, care provision has become top of the agenda. Dunstable has recently seen the completion of Priory View, an independent living unit, which is very impressive.

Also stated that the Greenacre Centre has a great hall and is a good venue for the town, and asked if there were other rooms available to hire out in the building. He was advised that hiring details for rooms within the building are available at the display by the exit, which include room specification and prices.

There being no further questions the Deputy Mayor thanked all present for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

APPENDIX A

FINANCIAL REPORT - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 2016

The Precept is set each year by a Parish/Town Council as part of its annual budgeting process, and is collected on the Parish/Town Council's behalf by Central Bedfordshire Council. The level of Precept depends on the nature and scope of the Town/Parish Council's activities.

2016/2017 COMMITTEE BUDGETS BREAKDOWN

	REVENUE BUDGET	ADDITION TO RESERVES	TOTAL
Cemetery Management	24,648	3,000	27,648
Buildings Management (a)	83,285	10,000	93,285
Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting	98,712	24,700	123,412
Town Enhancement	2,000	0	2,000
Administration/Establishment (b)	188,400	2,500	190,900
Funds to increase General Reserves (c)		0	0
	397,045	40,200	437,245

COMPARISON WITH 2015/2016

	REVENUE BUDGET	ADDITION TO RESERVES	TOTAL
	19,958	5,000	24,958
	69,275	12,500	81,775
	91,104	10,000	101,104
	2,000	0	2,000
	183,750	10,000	193,750
		35,000	
	366,087	72,500	438,587

Again this year we have conducted a budget review, taking into account running costs of new assets to be transferred to the Council. The resulting increase in Precept is due to funds required to operate being met by a reduced number of properties as a result of the Government's reform of the welfare system, the addition of new Town Council assets, continuation of services on behalf of other authorities, together with taking on new services and responsibilities usually covered by other authorities

PRECEPT COMPARISON

2016/2017	£441,814
2015/2016	£409,218

BAND D CHARGE COMPARISON

per year	per day
£139.51	0.38 p
£138.22	0.37 p

Therefore, the Town Council part of Council Tax for a Band D property in Stotfold for 2016/17 will be £139.51 per year, which is 38p a day. This is a 1p per day increase on last year

NOTES

- (a) increase in revenue expenditure due to relocation to new community building during 2016/17
- (b) increase in reserves to contribute towards relocation exp to new community building ('Land South of Stotfold' development)
- (c) under advice of Auditor to increase General Reserves

(Residents are welcome to see the full budget figures. Please telephone 01462 730064 to make an appointment)

APPENDIX B

ELEEMSOYNARY CHARITY OF WILLIAM FIELD

(254219)

1st JANUARY 15--- 31st DECEMBER 15

INCOME

Investment Income Account	b/f	32846.25
Current Account	b/f	5282.55
Investment income		18061.83
Investment (a)		28
Rents (b)		285
Rent (c)		1740

(58243.63)

EXPENDITURE

Grants	12280
Insurance	176.86
Expenses (d)	
Common Rd Allotments	1675.75
5 acre site	1065.38
Investment Income Account cf	35658.08
Current Account cf	7387.56

(58243.63)

Notes

- a Share income
- b Jane Brooks rent
- c Allotment rent
- d Photo copying, correspondents expenses

Fixed Assets

Deposit account. This money invested in a CCLA Income Fund (38045.9 units £469284.76, Dec 31 2015) PERMANENT ENDOWMENT
 £10000 from interest invested in a CCLA Accumulate fund (118.77units £14196.57 , Dec 31 2015)
 Poores Land 5 acres
 Poores Allotment 3 Acres
 350,060 shares BlackRock Common Investment
 Part share in land managed by Biggieswade Charities

Trustees

Mrs J Hyde, Rev W Britt, Mr R Billson, Mr M Charsley & Mr S Hayes

Expenditure

Common Road allotments	Management charge	500	5 Acre	Survey	528
	Water	231.84		Tenancy	537.38
	David Brown	800			
	teasel	24.91			
	handy man	50			
	grass seed	69			
	total =	1675.75			total

Trustees

Mrs J Hyde, Rev W Britt, Mr R Billson, Mr M Charsley & Mr S Hayes