



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 19:30 AT GREENACRE CENTRE, VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD, SG5 4HG

Present:

Cllr Steve Buck (Mayor), Cllr Steve Hayes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Liz Anderson, Cllr Janice Bendell, Cllr Mary Cooper, Cllr Satinderjit Dhaliwal, Cllr Jos Headington, Cllr Jane Hyde, Cllr Danny Matthews, Cllr Lisa Miller, Cllr Brian Saunders, Cllr Jon Smith, Cllr Nigel Venneear, Cllr Bryony Woods.

Also Present:

Cllr Kathryn Woodfine – CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr Helen Wightwick – CBC Ward Councillor

In attendance

E Payne, Town Clerk

The Meeting started with a presentation from Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr John Tizard.

327 / 2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

328 / 2024 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest

Standing Orders were suspended whilst the Public Section was opened.

329 / 2024 PUBLIC SECTION

There were no members of the public present.

330 / 2024 MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr Woodfine presented an update on CBC activities including a flood update, travel consultation feedback and other current consultations.

Standing Orders were reinstated

331 / 2024 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2024 were received.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9 October 2024 as a true record of the meeting

332 / 2024 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Members received a report with the Mayor's Civic attendance.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.



333 / 2024 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION

There was nothing to report.

334 / 2024 COMMITTEE MINUTES

334.1 / 2024 Planning Committee – 2nd October 2024

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2024 were received.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

334.2 / 2024 Public Realm Committee – 16th October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2024 were received. Cllr Hayes pointed out that there was an error in the Minutes of this Committee in relation to the tree survey. This would be amended prior to the minutes being approved by the next Committee meeting.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following recommendations:

- *The Open Space Hiring Policy is adopted.*
- *The Memorials Policy is adopted.*
- *The Memorial Tree and Bench Policy is adopted.*
- *The Exhumation Policy and Procedure is adopted.*
- *The Beekeeping Policy for Norton Road is adopted.*

334.3 / 2024 Governance & Resources Committee – 23rd October 2024

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2024 were received.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following recommendations:

- *Code of Conduct is re-adopted.*
- *Member and Officer Protocol is adopted.*

335 / 2024 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

Members received the reports outlined on the agenda.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure as outlined in the report.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to note the income received.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to note the year-to-date income and expenditure report and Earmarked Reserves.

Cllr Cooper left the meeting 20:33 due to ill health

336 / 2024 REPORTS

336.1 / 2024 S106 vs Community Infrastructure Levy



Members received a report on the benefits of S106 vs Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). S106 is the model adopted by CBC. Members considered that CIL was a more useful resource than S106 as it was not as prescriptive. Members considered whether it could be worthwhile lobbying CBC to change their model.

A lot of S106 funding allocated to leisure resources at Biggleswade. Cllr Woodfine reported that the two applications being considered for Greenacre Park should be considered now for S106 contributions. Members considered a more proactive approach to how to deal with S106 developer contributions.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to:

a) ***Approach CBC to allocate future S106 developer contributions to the following:***

- ***Refurbishment of The Green and Riverside Play Areas;***
- ***Skate Park;***
- ***Improvements to Arlesey Road cycle path – possible low-level lighting or make existing columns double headed; lifting the tree canopy to improve lighting;***
- ***Etonbury Zebra crossing at Arlesey Road turning into Pelican crossing.***

b) ***The Clerk to approach other Parish and Town Councils to see if there is any appetite to lobby for a change in the developer obligations system.***

ACTION: Town Clerk to liaise with neighbouring Parish and Town Councils.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to:

336.2 / 2024 CBC School Consultation

Members received a report on a consultation on school provision. Members considered that it was important to rectify the structure of the current school provision and update it to two-tier system as there is evidence that children under achieve in a three-tier system.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to comment as follows:

The Town Council supports the implementation of a two-tier school system to support the achievements of children and young people in Stotfold. They support the principles of the consultation.

ACTION: Town Clerk to respond to consultation.

336.3 / 2024 Government Consultation on Virtual Meetings

Members received a report on the Government consultation on virtual meetings. Members were advised that they could respond on an individual basis as well as a corporate body. Member considered the proposal to hold virtual meetings and recognised the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. It was noted that if the legislation is changed, not all Councils have to adopt the model. Some Members raised concerns about proxy voting.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to:

Support the consultation.



ACTION: Town Clerk to respond to consultation.

337 / 2024 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members received either written or verbal reports on the following:

- BATPC AGM - Cllr Jon Smith
- Stotfold Scouts - Cllr John Talbot
- Police Priority Setting Forum – Cllr John Talbot
- St Mary's Academy - Cllr Liz Anderson

Members noted with interest the work of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and that other Parish and Town Councils support the charity by paying for an advisor.

Members were updated on Police engagement including the recent session at the Co-Op with the PCSO.

Members were updated on the decarbonisation project at St Mary's School which is now 12 months over schedule.

DECISION: It was **RESOLVED** to

- a) *Note the reports.*
- b) *Write to the Diocese to ask them to action the lease for the sub-station on the site so that the scheme can be concluded due to the effect that the scheme is having on the school and community.*

ACTION: Town Clerk to formulate response to Diocese.

338 / 2024 MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

There were no items for information purposes only.

339 / 2024 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND REPORTS

Wednesday 4th December 2024.

340 / 2024 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

340.1 / 2024 Library Café

Members received a confidential verbal report on the library café. As the Clerk had not yet met the tenant, there was no recommendation or decision. This item will be deferred to Buildings Management Committee on 27th November and then at Full Council on 4th December 2024

SIGNED BY CHAIR:



MINUTES APPROVED (date):

DRAFT