

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD ON WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.45PM

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## Present:

Cllrs S Buck (Chairman), S Hayes (Vice Chairman), L Anderson, J Bendall, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, J Hyde, J Headington, D Matthews, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, H Wightwick, N. Venneear.

## Also present:

Mrs K Woodfine, Central Beds Council Ward Member  
E Payne, Town Clerk  
4 Members of the Public

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### **194/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Members were present.

### **195/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest on any item on this agenda.

**Standing Orders were suspended to allow Members of the Public to speak.**

### **196/23 PUBLIC SECTION**

There was a question from a member of the public regarding a confidential matter and the Chairman thanked the resident for their comments.

### **197/23 MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES**

Cllr Woodfine made a presentation on the recent developments from CBC and answered any questions from Members.

Members asked about the current situation regarding Tansy Avenue. The plan is it will go to the January TMO meeting.

**Standing Orders were reinstated.**

### **198/23 COUNCIL MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 November 2023. It was **RESOLVED** to:

***Adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.***

### **199/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE**

- a) The Chairman's engagements were noted by members.
- b) The resignation of T Bhasin was noted, and CBC had been informed of this matter.

**200/23 CLERKS REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk report with some feedback on the Christmas Lights Switch on Event. Members thanked the Chairman and the Town Council staff for their efforts in putting on such a successful event. It was **RESOLVED** to:

*Note the report.*

**201/23 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**201/23.1 Planning Committee – 8 November 2023**

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8 October 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

**201/23.2 Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee –8 November 2023**

Members of the recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8 November 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

**201/23.3 Cemetery Committee – 8 November 2023**

Members of the Cemetery Management Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8 November 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

**201/23.4 Building Management– 15 November 2023**

Members of the Buildings Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meetings held on 15 November 2023 are a correct record. There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

**202/23. ACCOUNTS**

**202/23.1 Expenditure November 2023**

Members received the expenditure report for November 2023, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

*Approve the report.*

**202/23.2 Income Received November 2023**

Members received the income report for November 2023, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

*Note the report.*

**202/23.3 Review of Income & Expenditure Report and Earmarked Reserves**

Members received the income and expenditure and earmarked reserve reports. It was **RESOLVED** to:

*Note the report.*

## **203/23. MEMBER REPORTS**

### **203/23.1 Member and Nominated Representatives on Outside Bodies**

- a) Cllr Hyde gave an update on the refurbishment of the Roecroft Centre. It is anticipated that the centre will reopen in January 2024, with an official opening in the Spring.
- b) Cllr Wightwick reported on the start of the Community Coffee sessions at the Greenacre Centre which had started this week.

## **204/23. TOWN STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Members received updated Terms of Reference for this Committee. Members welcomed the addition of the Neighbourhood Plan as a responsibility of this committee. It was queried when there would be a meeting of this Committee and the Clerk will issue an agenda in consultation with the Chair of the Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to:

*Adopt the Terms of Reference.*

## **205/23. MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

There were none.

## **206/23. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024**

Members were invited to attend this strategic planning session to assist with the formulation of a strategic plan for the period 2024-27. Further information would be forthcoming before Christmas.

## **207/23. MEMBERS ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

There were no items raised.

## **208/23. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

Exclude the press and public for the consideration of the following items under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

### **209/23.1 Budget Matters**

Members received a confidential report regarding the Budget for 2023/24. Members considered when best to issue a public statement and it was agreed that this should be after the budget is set, but before CBC issue the Council Tax notices. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) *Ringfence the sum of £225,000 for the Grounds Maintenance contract for 2024-26.*
- b) *Issue a public statement on the matter.*

## **210/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 31 January 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 2045.

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**