



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD, SG5 4HG AT 19:00

Committee Members present:

Cllr J Headington (Chair), J Smith (Vice-Chair), J Bendall, S Buck, S Hayes, B Saunders, B Woods.

Also present:

Cllr L Miller

Also present:

S. van der Merwe – Democratic Services Manager

S. Hossack – Community Engagement Officer

Members of the Public – 6

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dhaliwal and Cllr Talbot. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Accept the apologies.

2. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations made.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions from the Members of the Public present.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Engagement meeting held on 15th May 2024 are a correct record.

5. CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND MATTERS ARISING FORM PREVIOUS MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence has been received from volunteers from Respite at Home thanking the Town Council for the fundraising from Stotfest of £2,583.

5.2 Thank you letter from Stotfold Brownies who raised more funds than anticipate and had subsequently donated £40 to Respite at Home.

5.3 Registration is now open for the Walking Market, being advertised via Stotfold News and social media.

5.4 PCSO outreach event being held to coincide with Councillor surgery being held on 27th July 2024.

5.5 Official figures from bar takings at Stotfest of £1,848.

6 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

6.1 Stotfest50

Cllr Headington wanted to extend his thanks and gratitude to all those who participated in making the event such a success. Members discussed the event and there were various items to feedback. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) *Note the potential costs of the event*
- b) *Make Stotfest an annual event.*

6.2 Stotfold Mill – Public Consultation

Members received a report on the feedback from the survey received from the Mill weekend. The response rate was low with only 12 respondents. Members felt that the Town Council's location at the event was not optimal and should be raised with the organisers. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the feedback.

6.3 Engagement with Older Residents

Members asked the visitors to the meeting who were representatives from the Stotfold Good Neighbour Group to participate at this point in the meeting. The discussion covered the methods with older residents and the sort of engagement. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Further investigate further engagement, including representatives from this committee attending the Stotfold Good Neighbour Group on a Friday afternoon.

6.4 Engagement with Bedfordshire Police

Members considered PCSO outreach being held at the Greenacre Centre. The proposal has already been considered that they join the councillor surgery. The PCSO had been positive about the experience and with more promotion it would be better attended. It was noted that it is dependent on her shift pattern. A more central location might be more beneficial, and a gazebo could be installed at The Haven. There is electricity at the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

Monitor the situation and facilitate any future engagement opportunities.

6.5 Youth Engagement

Members considered how the Town Council's current youth engagement should continue. After a discussion on the various ways to undertake this engagement, it was **RESOLVED** to:

Continue with youth engagement and investigate this item further and report to a future meeting.

6.6 2023 – 2024 Residents Survey

Cllr Smith reported responses had increased and with a base line of questions it can be built on year on year. Engagement has increased and so has the level of satisfaction with the Council's operation. The issue is that we don't promote what the Town Council is involved in. A lot of the areas where people are dissatisfied is not within the control of the Town Council. Members discussed whether this should be outsourced to a third party who may have a greater reach.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) *Obtain quotations for outsourcing the survey for 2025.*

- b) ***Speak to Breakthrough Communications to discuss marketing opportunities for the Town Council.***

6.7 Events 2024 – 2025

Members considered an extensive but not exhaustive list of events that the Town Council could consider as part of its engagement strategy. Members felt that we should concentrate on the two main events (Christmas and Stotfest) with other smaller activities with minimal costs. Members felt that this should be costed before any decisions were reached.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) ***Poll for the public to ascertain what sort of events they would like to see organised via a poll on social media.***
- b) ***Cost out the top 5 potential events.***

6.8 VE Day – 80th Anniversary

Members received a report with proposal for the celebration of the VE Day. Members considered how to incorporate VJ Day which occurs on 15h August 2025. It was suggested that Officers speak with the Royal British Legion Stotfold and Arlesey branch. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Report to a future meeting with costings for the activities outlined in the report.

6.9 Citizen’s Awards

Members received a report on a different approach on the Community/Citizen Awards. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Open up the Citizen’s Award to public vote with a full-page advertisement in the Stotfold News seeking nominations.

6.10 Work Programme

Members noted the work programme.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

- 7.1 Members asked when the Litter Angel scheme would be launched. This is happening during Love Parks Week which was being managed by the Public Realm Committee.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 20:15.

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: _____

MINUTES APPROVED (date): _____