



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GREENACRE CENTRE, VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD SG5 4HG ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 19:00

Present:

Cllr Smith (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Anderson, Cllr Bendell, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Dhaliwal, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Hyde, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Miller, Cllr Talbot, Cllr Woods, Cllr Venneear

Apologies:

Cllr Buck, Cllr Headington, Cllr Saunders

Also Present:

Cllr Mason, CBC Ward Councillor
Mr J Tizzard, Police and Crime Commissioner
E Payne, Town Clerk

464/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Buck, Headington and Saunders.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to accept apologies

465/25 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Hyde declared an interest in item 471.5/25 as a grant recipient via St Mary's Church.

Cllr Woods declared an interest in item 471.5/25 as a grant recipient via Stotfold Singers.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to accept Members' Interests.

466/25 PUBLIC SECTION

There were no members of the public present.

467/25 MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES

Councillor Mason provided a brief update, mentioning Central Bedfordshire Council's ongoing activities, including the Ivel Valley School options and fly-tipping actions.

468/25 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes from the previous Council meeting held on 8 October 2025 were reviewed.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2026 as a true record of the meeting.



469/25 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE

The civic attendance report was noted.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the report.

470/25 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was noted.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the report.

471/25 COMMITTEE MINUTES

471.1/25 Building Management Committee - 24 September 2025

The minutes from the Building Management Committee meeting held on 24 September 2025 were received. It was noted that these minutes had been omitted from the previous meeting. The Chair acknowledged the report given at the last meeting and confirmed there were no further updates required for this item.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

471.2/25 Planning Committee - 1 October 2025

The minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 October 2025 were received. A question was raised regarding the application for CB/25/02740/RM, specifically about the sealed surfaces. The Chair confirmed that no decision had been made yet, but the issues raised had been picked up by the CBC ecologist.

Members were advised that the suggestion for road naming the new development off Arlesey Road had been accepted and the development would be named as Redhouse Close.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

471.3/25 Governance and Resources Committee - 1 October 2025

The minutes from the Governance and Resources Committee meeting held on 1 October 2025 were received. There was a discussion about the decision to take professional financial advice and the associated costs.

Members raised concerns were raised about the £9,000 annual fee for the advice and the need for a clear investment strategy. Members had debated the merits of comparing the advice from the appointed advisor with the existing services provided by CCLA. Obtaining independent financial advice was seen as a priority by the Committee, accepting costs would be incurred but recouped by investment returns.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt the following policies:

- a) Information and Data Protection Policy
- b) Scheme of Delegation
- c) Customer Care Policy
- d) Civic Protocol.



Task: Investment Strategy to be added to the agenda for Full Council 3 December 2025

471.4/25 Public Realm Committee - 15 October 2025

The minutes from the Public Realm Committee meeting held on 15 October 2025 were received. There

471.5/25 Governance and Resources Committee - 29 October 2025

The minutes from the Governance and Resources Committee meeting held on 29 October 2025 were received and Members noted the grants awarded.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt:

- a) Reserves Policy 2025
- b) Stress Management Policy
- c) Business Continuity Plan.

472/25 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

472.1/25 Interim Internal Auditor's Report

The Interim Internal Auditor's report was received.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt the recommendations of the Interim Internal Auditor's report.

472.2/25 Expenditure September 2025

The committee resolved to approve the expenditure for September 2025.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure for September 2025.

472.3/25 Income September 2025

The income received for September 2025 was noted during the meeting.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the report.

472.4/25 Income and Expenditure Report

The income and expenditure to date were noted during the meeting.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the report.

473/25 STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-30

The Strategic Plan for 2025-30 was discussed and adopted unanimously. Members noted that the plan had been developed over several months, beginning in January 2024, and included feedback from the resident's survey. The plan was considered comprehensive and balanced, being ambitious without overreaching. Members expressed satisfaction with its content and direction.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt the Strategic Plan for 2025-30.



474/25 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Members discussed the Local Council Award Scheme and resolved to apply for the scheme in May 2026. There was a brief discussion about the various levels of the award (bronze, silver, and gold), and it was noted that the council would aim for the silver level directly, as the criteria indicated they were closer to achieving silver than bronze.

Decision: It was RESOLVED to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme (Silver award) in May 2026.

475/25 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were asked to appoint a representative to the Mossman Committee following Councillor Saunders' resignation as the Town Council's representative.

Decision: It was RESOLVED that Cllr Matthews is appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Mossman Centre committee.

476/25 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Venneear provided a verbal report on the Police Priority Setting Forum. He expressed frustration with the forum, noting that it had become less effective due to changes in leadership. He reported that Stondon Parish Council has taken over organising the local Area 5 meetings for police priority setting after Stotfold had organised these meetings for the last 18 months.

477/25 MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The first stage of the Community Governance Review was raised, noting that stage two of the consultation had been launched on 3 November 2025 with details being distributed via the bulletin. In addition, a report would be tabled at Full Council in December 2025. The recommendation of the working group was to reduce the number of councillors from 15 to 11 starting in 2027, based on the number of candidates standing for election in the past three elections. Members discussed the challenges of engaging younger people and encouraging them to participate in local government.

478/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 3 December 2025.

SIGNED BY CHAIR:

MINUTES APPROVED (date):