



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE GREENACRE CENTRE,  
VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD SG5 4HG ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026 AT  
19:00**

**Present:**

Cllr S Buck (Mayor), Cllr J Smith (Deputy Mayor), Cllr L Anderson, Cllr J Bendell, Cllr M Cooper, Cllr S Dhaliwal, Cllr S Hayes, Cllr J Headington, Cllr J Hyde, Cllr D Matthews, Cllr L Miller, Cllr B Saunders, Cllr J Talbot, Cllr B Woods, Cllr N Venneear

**Also Present:**

E Payne

1 Member of the Public

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**001/26      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Members were present.

**002/26      DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Woods declared a personal interest in item 010/26 as she knew two of the candidates for this Overview and Scrutiny Committee and would not vote on this item.

**003/26      PUBLIC SECTION**

A member of the public, addressed the Council regarding the proposed precept increase for the next financial year.

**004/26      MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES**

No CBC Ward Councillors were available to attend the meeting.

**005/26      COUNCIL MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 December 2025. There were no comments other than amendment to the address which had already been amended.

**Decision:**      **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2025 as a true record of the meeting.**

**006/26      MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Smith was thanked for stepping in for civic attendances.

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



**007/26            GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TENDER**

Members received a report with submissions for the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Concerns were raised about the budget figure set aside and the proposals exceeding this budget. It was noted that any expenditure more than the budgeted sum would be met from general reserves depending on which contractor was selected.

**Decision:**    **It was RESOLVED to award the Grounds Maintenance contract for 2026-27 to Countrywide.**

**008/26            STREET LIGHT TENDER**

Members reviewed the submissions for the Street Light Contract. Concerns were raised about the specification and the awareness of UMSO issues among contractors. It was proposed to go back to the other contractors to ask for their position on UMSO support and bring the decision back to the next meeting.

**Decision:**    **It was RESOLVED to defer the decision on the street lighting contractor to allow other contractors to ask for their position on UMSO and bring the decision back to the next meeting.**

**Task:**            **Contract tenderers for support on UMSO for next meeting.**

**009/26            SIMPSON CENTRE - ARCHITECTS AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS**

Members Council discussed the valuations for architects and planning consultations for the potential development of the Simpson Centre. There was a detailed discussion about the disparity in costs and specifications among the quotes.

It was considered that a Working Group set up to oversee the initial stages of the project would be beneficial.

**Decision:**    **It was RESOLVED to appoint bcr.Infinity Architects for the pre-app advice for the Simpson Centre development at a cost not exceeding £1,500.**

**Decision:**    **It was RESOLVED to appoint a Simpson Centre Working Group comprising of Councillors Anderson, Buck, Matthews and Venneear.**

**Task:**            **Devise Terms of Reference for the Working Group for ratification at next Full Council meeting.**

**010/26            OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Members received redacted nominations for the appointment of residents to this committee. There was a total of eight candidates for four positions. After a vote, four candidates were appointed.

**Decision:**    **It was RESOLVED to appoint Emily Wearmouth, John Hole, Lewis Miller, and Matthew Westlake to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**



Cllr Woods declared an interest as she knew two of the candidates and took no part in the voting.

**011/26 STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-26**

Members receive a motion from six councillors to review the decision to adopt the strategic plan, particularly the cap on the precept increase. Members considered the removal of the cap due to the uncertain future and the need to take on more responsibilities.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to remove the precept cap in the strategic plan.**

**012/26 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

**012.1/26 Budget 2026-27**

Members received the budget for 2026-27 along with the recommended fees and charges. Members noted the proposed precept increase would see an additional £79,079 transferred into General Reserves.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to adopt the fees and charges as outlined in the report for 2026-27**

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to agree the expenditure budget of £962,451**

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to request CBC collect precept of £1,058,158 for 2026-27.**

**012.2/26 Expenditure**

Members received the expenditure report for November 2025.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure report for November 2025.**

**012.3/26 Income Received**

Members noted the income received for November 2025.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the income received report for November 2025.**

**013/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**013.1/26 Public Realm Committee - 10 December 2025**

The minutes of the Public Realm Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025 were received for information purposes.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Public Realm Committee held on 10 December 2025.**

**013.2/26 Governance and Resources Committee - 17 December 2025**

The minutes of the Governance and Resources Committee meeting held on 17 December 2025 were received.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Governance and Resources Committee meeting held on 17 December 2026 and adopt the following:**

- Training and Development Policy
- Flexi Time Scheme



- **Public Participation Policy**
- **Publication Scheme**

**013.3/26 Building Management Committee - 7 January 2026**

The minutes of the Building Management Committee meeting held on 7 January 2026 were received for information purposes.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Building Management Committee held on 7 January 2026.

**013.4/26 Governance and Resources - 21 January 2026**

The minutes of the Governance and Resources Committee meeting held on 21 January 2026 were received.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Governance and Resources Committee held on 21 January 2026 and adopt the following:

- **Calendar of Meetings for 2026-27**
- **Councillor Long Service and Civic Holder Recognition Policy**
- **Complaints Policy 2026**
- **Health and Safety Policy Manual 2026**

**014/26 CO-OPTION POLICY**

Members reviewed and re-adopted the Co-Option Policy..

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to readopt the Co-Option Policy.

**015/26 LEASES**

Members noted the signing of the following leases:

- Cafe at Greenacre Centre
- The Barn

**016/26 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Venneear reported on the police priority setting meeting in Kempston, highlighting the focus on ASB and E-bikes in the area. He urged residents to participate in the public space protection order consultation to enable more efficient police action.

**017/26 MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

Councillor Woods expressed gratitude on behalf of Stotfold Singers for the grant from the Town Council, which would help with purchasing items for the choir.

**018/26 WORK PROGRAMME**

Members Council noted the work programme for Full Council. There were no additional items suggested for inclusion.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to note the work programme.



**019/26      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 4 March 2026.

**020/26      CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**Decision:**      It was **RESOLVED** that 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, were excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**021/26      SIMPSON CENTRE - LGA 1972 S172 CLARIFICATION**

Members Council received a confidential report with legal advice on the valuation of the Simpson Centre. There was no further discussion on this agenda item.

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

**SIGNED BY CHAIR:** .....

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):** .....