



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GREENACRE CENTRE, VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD SG5 4HG ON WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026 AT 19:30**

**Present:**

Cllr J Smith (Mayor), Cllr J Bendell, Cllr M Cooper, Cllr S Hayes, Cllr J Headington, Cllr J Hyde, Cllr L Miller, Cllr B Saunders, Cllr J Talbot

**Apologies:**

Cllr L Anderson, Cllr S Dhaliwal, Cllr D Matthews, Cllr N Venneear, Cllr B Woods

**Also Present:**

Cllr K Woodfine, CBC Ward Councillor  
E Payne, Town Clerk  
1 Member of the Public

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**029/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr L Anderson, Cllr S Dhaliwal, Cllr D Matthews, Cllr N Venneear and Cllr B Woods

Apologies were noted from CBC Ward Councillor M Mason.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED to accept apologies**

**030/26 ELECTION OF MAYOR**

- a) Nominations were sought for the position of Chair of Stotfold Town Council. Cllr Headington proposed Cllr Smith for the position of Chair of the Council, seconded by Cllr Hyde.

**Decision: It was RESOLVED that Councillor Jon Smith was elected as the Chair of Stotfold Town Council and the Town Mayor.**

- b) Cllr Smith signed the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**031/26 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**032/26 PUBLIC SECTION**

There were no questions from the public.

**033/26 MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES**

Cllr Woodfine provided an update on the budget, including capital expenditure for schools and changes to council tax relief. There were concerns about the local council tax support scheme and the financial state of the council, noting a reduction in central government funding and its impact on statutory services such as adult



social care and children's services. Additionally, updates were given on the Highways Capital Programme and planning applications.

**034/26 COUNCIL MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 March 2026. There were no comments.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minute of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 as a true record of the meeting.

**035/26 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no civic attendances to report on for this month.

**036/26 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION**

There were no report or matters arising from previous council minutes to discuss.

**037/26 REPORTS**

**037.1/26 Review of Committee Membership**

Committee membership was reviewed following the recent resignation of a councillor. Members considered appointing a new member to the Overview and Security Committee, deciding to maintain the current number of councillors and address changes at the Annual Town Council meeting.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Jon Smith as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**037.2/26 Jubilee Meadow**

The Town Clerk reported that there was no progress on this item. Members expressed concerns about the cost of maintaining the meadow and decided to hold off on taking it over until more information is available.

**038/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**038.1/26 Public Realm Committee - 11 March 2026**

Members received the minutes of the Public Realm Committee meeting on 11 March 2026 were received, and the Banner Policy was adopted.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to:  
a) Note the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026  
b) Adopt the Banner Policy.

**038.2/26 Community Engagement Committee - 18 March 2026**

Members received the minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting on 18 March 2026.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to:



- a) **Note the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2206**
- b) **Adopt the Community Engagement Policy.**

**038.3/26 Building Committee – 25 March 2026**

Members received the minutes of the Building Committee meeting on 25 March 2025. Members discussed the age requirement for hirers in relation to the Hirers Policy and it was felt that 25 years was too high.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) **Note the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2026**
- b) **Adopt the amended the Hirers Policy after reducing the age requirement for hirers from 25 to 21 years.**

**Task:** Update the Hirers Policy with the age change.

**039/26 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

**039.1/26 Expenditure**

Members received the expenditure for January and February 2026.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure for January and February 2026.

**039.2/26 Income Received**

Members noted the income received for January and February 2026.

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

**039.3/26 Income and Expenditure Report and Earmarked Reserves**

Members received the income and expenditure report for January and February 2026, along with the earmarked reserves. There were no questions.

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

**039.4/26 Asset Register**

Members received the asset register which was reviewed. Significant updates and additions were noted, including streetlights, missing play equipment from the Greenacre Park, Prince Charles Avenue and Pix Brook Play Areas, along with memorial benches, and other assets.

Members queried the insurance valuations and were advised that these would be updated before the insurance renewal. Members were concerned that without this information the Town Council would be underinsured and were advised that with the additional assets on the register, the Town Council's assets were already underinsured and that going forward, the asset register would be more rigorously maintained after the extensive exercise to update it.

**Decision:** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the asset register.

**Task:** Update the asset register with insurance valuations.



**040/26            REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was reported that Cllr Venneear has not attended the recent police priority setting forum as he has already held a separate meeting with the police.

**041/26            MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

A question was raised about the water leak on Rook Tree Lane, which had not been addressed despite recent road patching. It would be noted for further investigation.

**042/26            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, 29 April 2026 at the Memorial Hall, 7pm.

Annual Town Council Meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at Greenacre Centre, 7pm.

The meeting closed at 19:36

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

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