

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2022, AT 7.00PM

Committee Members present:

S Buck – Chairman, L Anderson, T Bhasin, B Collier, A Cooper, M Cooper, S Hayes, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, H Wightwick

Also present:

Mrs K Elliott-Turner – Town Clerk and 1 member of the public

132/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Dhaliwal, D Matthews and G Russell.

133/22 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interests in respect of items on the agenda, and no requests for dispensations. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

134/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None.

135/22 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & CIVIC ATTENDANCES

2 nd June	Thanksgiving Service for Queen's Jubilee	Mayor & Deputy Mayor attended
18 th June	Stotfold Junior Football Club presentation weekend	Mayor attended
20 th June	Armed Forces Day Greenacre Centre flag raising	Mayor attended
25 th June	Armed Forces Day Conservative Club	Mayor attended
25 th June	Houghton Regis Afternoon Tea & Prosecco in the Park	Declined
2 nd July	ABF Soldiers' Charity, Howbury Hall, Bedford	Declined
10 th July	Vantage Charity Lunch, Dunstable	Deputy Mayor & Consort to attend

136/22 PUBLIC SECTION

No requests to speak.

137/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

Richard Fuller MP will be holding a 'Town Hall' style meeting for local constituents in Stotfold, on Thursday 14th July from 6pm to 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

138/22 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 1st June 2022 and the extra council meeting held on 15th June 2022, be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

139/22 COUNCIL VEHICLE POLICY

Members considered the draft Council Vehicle Policy, and noted the vehicle check sheet, motor incident form and risk assessment for driving on sites in a council vehicle.

RESOLVED that Council Vehicle Policy is adopted, with an addition that the primary user of the vehicle is to park the council vehicle at the Greenacre Centre when not in use.

140/22 ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING POINTS – BROOK STREET CAR PARK AND MEMORIAL HALL

Members considered a report from Central Bedfordshire Council's Senior Sustainable Transport Officer regarding proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points in two town council car parks – Brook Street car park and Memorial Hall car park, and considered a request to provide written approval for the use of the land in question for the level of provision being proposed in the report.

An assessment had been carried out as to most suitable locations for EV charge points against a list of criteria, which includes where the most amount of people could be accommodated within a 5 to 10 minute walk, where they do not have off-street parking which could support charge points. The proposal is that 4 of the 8 parking bays in each car park would be for EV only, and the remaining 4 could be used as general parking if not used by an EV.

Members acknowledged that charging points are required for EVs, but some felt that by providing 8 spaces as requested we would be 'losing' spaces in car parks which have limited spaces anyway.

Questions were raised about whether we had to have both car parks or if we could choose one or the other, and whether we would be benefiting financially from it. The Clerk was unable to answer these points.

RESOLVED that we reject the proposal for 8 EV charge point spaces in the Memorial Hall and Brook Street car park, and ask that they reinvestigate Arlesey Road car park as a potential location for EV charge points.

141/22 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD YOUTH SHELTER – GRAFFITI PROJECT

Members considered a proposal from Nicola King, Grand Union Housing's Youth & Community Coordinator for a graffiti project on the youth shelter at Riverside Playing Field, as part of Stotfold's Community Action Day on 12th August 2022.

RESOLVED that we support the graffiti art project proposed for the Riverside Playing Field youth shelter.

142/22 STOTFOLD COMMUNITY ACTION DAY – 12TH AUGUST 2022

Members noted that Stotfold Community Action Day will take place on 12th August 2022, organised by Central Bedfordshire Council's Safer Communities Team. Having previously considered and approved using Brook Street car park to host stalls of agencies and partners, a revised format is being programmed. They will now 'flood the area' with uniformed officers from Central Bedfordshire Council, the Town Council and partner agencies, and will arrange for street cleansing, litter picks and other maintenance issues to be dealt with.

RESOLVED that the Town Council will have a stall at the Co-op - Councillor's Surgery, as part of the Community Action Day.

It was noted that Elaine Mountfort, Safer Communities Officer will be giving a talk to the Stotfold Good Neighbour Group on cyber-crime at their new social hub.

143/22 REPORTS

a) Central Beds Council Ward Member Report

Councillor B Saunders

- Councillor Dixon gave his apologies for not attending this meeting
- The deadline for the Community Asset Grant is 25th July 2022
- The Ward Councillor Scheme is open until March 2023
- Census - more information will be issued in October about individual towns or wards. Central Bedfordshire population has increased by 15.7% from 2011. This is higher than the overall increase for England, which is 6.6% where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million. Central Bedfordshire population increase is higher than the general increase in the East of England. The percentage of people by age, Central Bedfordshire has had an increase of 32.6% increase of people aged 65 and over, an increase of 11.5% in people aged 15 to 64 and increase in 16.7% in children under 15 years.
- His personal thanks were given to Councillor Collier for his time and efforts regarding the UKLand Appeal and report he submitted.

b) Member and Nominated Representatives on Outside Bodies

As Community Governor at St Mary's Academy, Councillor Anderson gave the following report:

- The Resources Committee have been considering an application for funding for energy efficient schools. The school has been selected as one of 7 schools across the country as part of the Government's Decarbonisation pilot. They will be working with a team from the Department of Education to make St Mary's Academy as low carbon as possible. This will involve a new heating system being installed which will only use renewable energy sources, as well as other fabric improvements to the school buildings

As Town Council representative for BATPC, Councillor Talbot gave the following report:

- I attended the BATPC meeting on 9th June at Biggleswade Town Council offices.

- Councillor Smith also attended as an observer, as he is the third BATPC member representing the Town Council, in order to see for himself the workings of the BATPC.
 - Two main points from the meeting were that the lease on Baystrait House has expired but the leaseholder is allowing BATPC to still use the building. A new venue has been selected, using part of Shefford Town Council offices. All that needs to be actioned is the agreement of the lease and the removal of Robin Thomas (BATPC officer) as the named individual responsible.
 - Regarding the forthcoming BATPC AGM, Stotfold Town Council had invited BATPC members to come to Stotfold. Thanks were passed but the main comment was that there was not enough parking for visitors. That said, the venue was agreed to be held at Henlow Pavilion, with guest speakers to be invited from The Environment Agency and National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- c) Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
No report to present.
- d) Other Member Representative reports
No other reports.

144/22 ACCOUNTS

- a) Members considered the Expenditure Report for approval for July 2022 payment run and the income received during June 2022 in the Income Report.

RESOLVED that all payments on the Expenditure Report are approved and are to be paid, and the Income Report be noted.

The Clerk referred members to a payment item to Assign IT and explained that although she had been given approval to purchase councillor laptops direct from Dell, because of the number required, she was unable to do so, and so went through Assign IT who charged the same amount as if purchased direct from Dell.

- b) Members considered the monthly committee budget report and bank balances as at end June 2022.

RESOLVED that the monthly committee budget reports and bank balances for month end June 2022 are noted.

145/22 RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE 2022

Members of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8th June 2022 are a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

146/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE 2022

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 8th June 2022 are a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

147/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 22ND JUNE 2022

Members of the Planning Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 22nd June 2022 are a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

148/22 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE – 1ST JUNE 2022

Members of the Establishment Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 1st June 2022 are a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

149/22 ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE – 22ND JUNE 2022

Members of the Establishment Committee confirmed that the minutes of their meeting held on 22nd June 2022 are a correct record.

There were no recommendations from the committee. The minutes were noted by council.

150/22 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

A member of the public made a point of observation that finding electric vehicle parking charging places is currently very difficult and the need for charging points will increase in time to come and hoped that developers will also ensure that charging points are included with new houses as well as public spaces within developments.

151/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Nothing at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.46pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: