

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE ON TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2022, AT 7.00PM

Members present:

S Buck – Chairman, L Anderson, B Collier, M Cooper, J Hyde, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot

Also present:

One member of staff (remote attendance)

195/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper, D Matthews, G Russell, H Wightwick and the Town Clerk.

196/22 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.

197/22 PUBLIC SECTION

None present.

198/22 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 5th October 2022 be taken as read and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

199/22 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD REJUVENATION PROJECT

Members considered approving the recommendation from the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee, minute number 120/22 as follows:

‘That Earmarked Reserves – MUGA Sinking Fund are used, as required, to make up the deficit from previously approved Community Asset Grant and specific Section 106 funds available, to enable the refurbishment of the Riverside Playing Field MUGA to go ahead at the earliest opportunity’

RESOLVED that the recommendation from minute 120/22 is approved.

200/22 STOTFOLD LIBRARY PROPOSAL

Members were asked to note the decision made by Central Bedfordshire Council at their Executive meeting held on 11th October, and to agree with the change of use of the Oak Hall from a hireable space to accommodate a relocated Stotfold library

Before discussion and voting, the Chairman read the following statement:

Stotfold Town Council approached Central Bedfordshire Council Library Services to suggest a possible relocation for the library to the Oak Hall of the Greenacre Centre.

After due consideration, Central Bedfordshire Council came back and we entered into discussions with the Library Service which resulted in an agreement in principle, due to approval Central Bedfordshire Council would need for capital spend on the project.

Central Bedfordshire Council is required to consult the public on such large scale proposals, Stotfold Town Council is not. Central Bedfordshire Council, as Library Service providers therefore held a 12 week consultation from May through to July 2022.

Stotfold Town Council has not spent any money on the project proposal, as Central Bedfordshire Council were not able to commit to the project until completion of the consultation process.

Last Tuesday, the result of their consultation was made public and at the same time Central Bedfordshire Council confirmed that they wish to proceed with the project, noting the capital spend and S106 contribution.

Council is asked therefore now asked to note and confirm cbcs decision made at their 11th oct executive meeting, and to agree to continue with the project through to completion.

RESOLVED that following the decision made by Central Bedfordshire Council at their Executive meeting held on 11th October, Stotfold Town Council agrees with the change of use of the Oak Hall from a hireable space to accommodate a relocated Stotfold Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.10pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: