

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD ON WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM

Present:

Cllrs S Buck (Chairman), S Hayes (Vice Chairman), L Anderson, J Bendell, M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, J Hyde, J Headington, D Matthews, B Saunders, J Talbot, H Wightwick, B Woods, N. Venneear.

Also present:

E Payne, Town Clerk
PCSO T Healey

218/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Accept apologies.

219/24 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest on any item on this agenda.

Standing Orders were suspended whilst the Public Section was opened.

220/24 PUBLIC SECTION

PCSO Tasha Healey introduced themselves to the meeting as the Town's PCSO and answered questions from Members including trends in crime.

221/24 MEMBERS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr Woodfine offered their apologies. Cllr Wightwick made a short verbal report on the budget for CBC. There is a ward councillor meeting with Highways on 31 March 2024 and if there are any highways issues to raise, please pass them to Cllr Wightwick.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

222/24 COUNCIL MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31 January 2024. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

223/24 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CIVIC ATTENDANCE

The Chairman's engagements were circulated separately after the meeting.

224/24 CLERKS REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

a) CBC Electric Charging Points Arlesey Road

The Clerk can confirm that they have signed a letter of understanding with CBC for the installation of charging points at this location. CBC had updated the Clerk on the situation with the Memorial Hall charges. BP Pulse are seeking to connect them via a connection in one of the Grand Union properties adjacent to the Memorial Hall and not via Hitchin Road.

225/24 COMMITTEE MINUTES

225/24.1 Planning Committee – 31 January 2024

The minutes of this committee meeting were received. There were no recommendations. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the minutes.

225/24.2 Community Engagement Committee – 7 February 2024

The minutes of this committee meeting were received. There were no recommendations. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the minutes.

225/24.3 Recreation Committee – 14 February 2024

The minutes of this committee meeting were received. There was the following recommendation:

a) The Council adopts the Banner Policy

There being no other recommendations, it was **RESOLVED** to:

Adopt the recommendations and note the minutes.

226/24.4 Cemetery Committee – 21 February 2024

The minutes of this committee were received. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the minutes.

226/24.5 Town Strategy Committee – 21 February 2024

The minutes of this committee were received. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the minutes.

227/24. FINANCE AND RISK MANGEMENT

227/24.1 Expenditure January 2024

Members received the expenditure report for January 2023, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Approve the expenditure.

227/24.2 Income Report January 2024

Members received the income report for January 2024, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report.

227/24.3 Review of Income & Expenditure Report and Earmarked Reserves

Members received the income and expenditure and earmarked reserve reports. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report.

228/24. PLANNING OBLIGATION

Members received a proposed policy for the handling of planning applications. Members expressed concerns that there would not be an opportunity to consider planning applications if the policy was introduced. Members asked how the email decisions would be notified to the whole Council. They were advised that there is a register of planning applications received and this could be made available to all councillors via the Teams channel. This could also be available for the public via the Town Council website. Members wanted the public to be able to access the list that was circulated to all Councillors. This could be published on the website or a link to CBC's website who do issue this list weekly. Members asked for variation of conditions to be included in the list of applications to be considered.

Members queried if there is a need of the public to register their desire to speak at a meeting. This would be covered by the Public Participation Policy. The public have the right to put in their own objections to planning applications and should not be reliant in coming to the Town Council for the opportunity to object.

A revised policy will be considered by the next meeting.

229/24. MEMBER REPORTS

229/24.1 Member and Nominated Representatives on Outside Bodies

- a) Cllr Talbot reported on this attendance, with Cllr Venneear on their attendance at the 1st Stotfold Scouts Executive Committee meeting under the new leadership. It was a very positive meeting and are looking to consolidate what's been developed in the past. Cllr Talbot was congratulated on behalf of the Town Council how wonderful the Christmas lights switch on event had been.
- b) There is an Area 5 Police Meeting at the Town Council Offices on Monday 5 March.

230/24. MEMBER'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- 230/24.1 Cllr Talbot asked what was going to be done about the repairs to the large pothole by the kitchen entrance. Now that CBC are not undertaking the connection via Hitchin Road the pothole needs to be repaired as a matter of urgency.
- 230/24.2 Cllr Anderson reported that three fruit trees had been planted in the community garden at The Haven.
- 230/24.3 Cllr Mathews reported that there has been damage to the trees at Jubilee Meadow. This will be investigated and reported to the Recreation Committee.

231/24 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was received, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report.

232/24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3 April 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 1933.

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: _____

MINUTES APPROVED (date): _____