

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.10PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

S Hayes (Chairman), S Buck, A Cooper, M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, D Matthews, J Talbot

Also present:

Ms C Jenkins – Assistant Clerk, 1 member of the public.

1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillor A Cooper declared an interest in item 6, free let of the Memorial Hall. 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.

3/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

4/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor D Matthews was present at the meeting on 16 November and asked for minutes to be amended.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Buildings Management Committee meeting held on 16th November 2023 are amended as above and confirmed as a correct record.

5/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

6/23 FREE LET REQUEST – STOTFOLD COMMUNITY FAYRE

Members were asked to consider a letter from the Stotfold Community Christmas Fayre committee requesting a free let of the Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th November 2023. A copy of the letter was attached for members.

RESOLVED that a free let of the Memorial Hall for the Stotfold Community Christmas Fayre is granted for Saturday 18th November 2023.

62/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Following a recent meeting with Library Staff, an update had been sent to members. There is a slightly revised plan of the Library layout.

Thanks were given to the Chairman for the update at this meeting, which has only just been received by the Chairman.

Members asked whether a Local History Corner could be incorporated in the new library. This would be down to the library department to decide the planning and design. It was thought that Central Bedfordshire Archives could have this information digitalized.

It was noted that on the site plan, it looks as if the building itself is owned by Central Bedfordshire Council. Members asked for the plans to note that Stotfold Town Council are the owners. It was also noted that the map shows a hole in the ownership, around the parking spaces.

Councillors also noted that the Central Bedfordshire Planning Committee are a group of individuals who are free to turn down the change of use of the building if they see fit.

The Kitchen reserved for Box of Cakes currently has an external serving hatch next to the back door. This may change and the access may differ.

By the end of March 2023, it is hoped that the planning application will be submitted. It is hoped that Central Bedfordshire Council will be the nominated agent.

The proposed new access from Marigold Way will enable us to have 2 barriers, one at each end of the car park. There should be 1 barrier open at any one time. The Buttercup Road end will be kept closed, but opened if necessary for deliveries etc. There will be minor parking requirements, possible drop bollards in spaces for Library staff and Box of Cakes to park, although some of the staff live locally and can walk to the premises.

Early April will see the details of the final build and requirements, plus outside seating.

The maple room will be divided into 2 small offices to enable room for bereavement services for the cemetery and an office for CAB, Police, Hirings or small meetings if required. Rooms will also be soundproofed for privacy.

Public Wifi will be installed throughout the building.

The library are going to change all the old fluorescent lights which were installed during the initial build of the premises with LED lights and they will provide us with a quote to consider replacing the lighting in the rest of the building.

It is proposed to install 3 sub meters for electricity to enable the council, library and café to pay their own share of electricity costs.

4K CCTV will be installed throughout the building and fixtures and fittings requirements for reception will be looked into.

The new communications cabinet is being installed in the new Central Beds Library staff area, which will enable a full Fibre connection. Stotfold Town Council will decide whether to take advantage of this and use this alongside Central Beds.

There are many hurdles to get over before the tender for the project can be finalized. It was thought this would be by the end of Summer 2023.

The project has been sadly pushed down the queue of priority, due to work at Biggleswade Library and 2 further projects that are larger than this one.

A member of the public asked what decision had been made for the future of the old Library. No decision on the future has been made yet, and won't be until the building is empty and we have vacant possession. Selling the building is an option, but nothing has been decided.

Councillors considered forward planning for the building and spoke about alteration and a possible extension to the car park. It was noted that now the car parks at the memorial hall and brook street have been equipped with EV charging points, this may be something that should be installed at the Greenacre Centre in the future, especially with the forthcoming discontinuation of manufacturing petrol cars in 2030. There is also the possibility of government funding to be utilized for this project. The only concern would be that the barriers to the car park would both be closed overnight, so any charging points installed would have to be fast charging as there would be no overnight facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.36pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: