

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Tuesday 7th July 2015, 7pm at the Community Centre.

Present: Councillors Mr D. Ellison, Mr G. Emery, Mr A. Gibb, Mr R. Harris, Mr J. Hobbs, Mr L. Ivall, Mr R. Jordan, Mr P. Langridge Chairman, Mr A. Leggatt, Mr J. Lewis, Mr C. Temple, Mr R. Whitfield and Mr A. Zerny.

Absent: Councillor Mr J. Lean and Mr A. Macdonald.

Also Present: CBC Cllr Doreen Gurney, Peter Bradley, Senior Site Manager RSPB Sandy, fourteen members of the public and the Town Clerk.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mr J. Lean and Mr A. Macdonald.

2 Declaration of Interest

Councillors were reminded that they should declare an interest in any matter of personal or prejudicial interest to be discussed at this meeting. Information about this requirement had been on the table.

3 Minutes – 16th June 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June 2015, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true and accurate record with the following amendment.

Page two Minute 5 Community Orchard – Presentation “Would Potton Consolidated Charity consider managing the orchard for income?”

Would be changed to read.

“Would the Hall for All Charity consider managing the cutting and the orchard rather than asking the Town Council as this could potentially assist with their ongoing income/expenditure?”

4 RSPB The Lodge wind turbine - update

Mr Bradley arrived.

The Chairman welcomed Peter Bradley, Senior Site Manager RSPB Sandy.

Mr Bradley proceeded to give an update on RSPB, The Lodge wind turbine which is to be installed on Sandy Ridge field.

Mr Bradley advised that Planning permission has been given for the wind turbine itself, and we hope to have planning permission for the cable route in the next few weeks.

Work should start at the end July 2015 with the cable route, base for the crane and base for the turbine. Installation should take five days once the preparation work has been completed.

Majority of the items will be delivered via Sandy, though two items are too large and heavy for the railway bridge, these being the crane and the turbine tower and as such will be delivered via Biggleswade, past the Royal Oak in Potton and then to RSPB. The wooden planter by the Royal Oak will have to be removed and a replacement can be provided if required.

Erection of the turbine is planned for the end of October 2015.

Questions and Answers

A member asked what will be the delivery dates of the items coming through Potton. Mr Bradley advised date not yet known, will be delivered at night.

A member of the public asked do the RSPB have any plans for anymore wind turbines to be installed at the The Lodge, RSPB. Mr Bradley advised no only room for one wind turbine at the The Lodge, RSPB.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bradley.

Mr Bradley left the meeting.

The Chairman advised that as twelve members of the public are present he wanted to alter the order of the items and have agenda item 15 Mill Lane Pavilion Car Park next, followed by item 8 To Receive any Questions from the Public.

5 Mill Lane Pavilion Car Park (Agenda item 15)

The Chairman started to outline the written motion from Cllr Zerny and correspondence received with regard to locking Mill Lane Pavilion Car Park.

The Chairman invited Cllr Zerny to outline his written motion and further information he provided to members earlier in the day by email.

Cllr Zerny advised his amended written motion is, this council agrees to get a quotes for a key-operated secure gate across the entrance to Mill Lane Car Park - at a location agreed between the Chairman of the Playing Fields and Allotments committee, residents and installation engineers - with the clerk to proceed with arranging for installation at the earliest possible juncture, if the total cost is less than £3,000.

Cllr Zerny advised that the main issues are:

- Noise from loud music, revving of engines and sharp breaking/skidding.
- Damage to public property.
- Aggressive behaviour towards members of the public who have attempted to intervene.
- Speeding on Mill Lane (while a gate won't prevent this, discouraging use of the car park as a gathering point should reduce use of Mill Lane)

Cllr Zerny advised Residents have tried reasoning with those involved.

Cllr Zerny advised either hall users and / or residents who have offered to take responsibility to lock the gate.

The Chairman raised concerns for residents to lock a barrier.

The Chairman asked if a response was available from Potton Consolidated Charity as landowner, following the letter sent by the Town Clerk to establish whether the charity would approve of the locking of Mill Lane Pavilion car park.

Cllr Leggatt a trustee of Potton Consolidated Charity (PCC) advised that the Charity had met yesterday and they would be happy for a gate and a bollard to be installed if that is the desired outcome of the town council.

The Chairman advised members of the public to be quiet.

A member of the public arrived.

A land covenant was raised with regard to access across the site.

The Chairman reminded members of the public to be quiet.

CBC Cllr Gurney arrived.

Members discussed about the need to increase the precept next year to pay for a barrier.

A member of the public arrived.

Rising bollards were suggested.

Cllr Leggatt advised that PCC may be willing to support the barrier financially.

A member of the public arrived.

CCTV costs were discussed.

Cllr Leggatt was asked when the PCC will next be meeting. Cllr Leggatt advised that the next meeting is scheduled for the 14th September 2015, though they could have a special meeting and meet sooner.

It was **resolved** to install a Physical Barrier to prevent unauthorised use of Mill Lane Pavilion Car Park.

6 To Receive any Questions from the Public (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman invited questions from the public.

A member of the public advised he is a Youth of Potton and he drives one of the eleven cars that meet at the Mill Lane Pavilion, he is aware that the actions of some of the group is anti-social and create noise. He used to be a member of the Youth Group though is no longer welcome due to his age. We don't have anywhere else to go and we want a place to go.

A member of the public advised from 6pm the noise is unbearable.

A member of the public advised the actions of the youths is Anti-Social Behaviour, they make a great deal of noise and leave a mess.

The Chairman advised that only one person to speak at a time, they must wait for the Chairman to advise that can speak and to speak to the Chairman.

A member of the public asked if they reduced the noise and anti-social could they still use the car park.

A member of the public advised that though we have known you for so long, it is impossible for you to speak for all the youths and they will still be noisy and anti-social.

The Chairman advised he would contact the member of the public to discuss about somewhere else for the youths to go.

A member of the public asked if they left the area by a certain time, could we still use the car park.

A member of public advised that the noise and anti-social behaviour is just unbearable.

A member of the public advised that because of work carried out to some of the cars even on tick over they are very noisy.

The Chairman agreed that vehicles can be noisy when enhancements have been added.

Two members of the public arrived.

A member of the public commented that the youths create so much noise and litter.

Member of the public asked how will the residents find out information on the proposals for the physical barrier? The Chairman answered that the town council will pass on information when the proposals for the physical barrier are known.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting.

Thirteen members of the public left the meeting.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 5)

- i. 19.5.15
10 Appointment of members to existing committees - Youth Club representative, It was noted that Cllr Langridge has advised that Mr P. Rogers is willing to continue as Youth Club representative.

One member of the public left the meeting.

10 Appointment of members to existing committees - Tree Warden
It was noted that the Town Clerk has spoken with Mr A. Fenton and he has advised he is willing to continue as Tree Warden.

- ii. 2.6.15
13 Emergency Plan. A copy of the plan was distributed to all members who wanted a copy.
- iii. 16.6.15
13 Councillors inspection – Clearing out of the litter from the Brook near the bottle bank by the Environmental group of the town plan.

The response from the environment group was noted that there are H&S issues (risk of drowning, Weils disease to name two).

It was **resolved** that the Playing Fields, Allotments and Burials Committee should consider how to remove litter from Brook near the bottle bank.

13 Councillors inspection – It was noted that the Internal Drainage Board have been contacted about gaining permission to clear the litter from the Brook near the bottle bank. The IDB has advised that permission is not needed to clear litter though legislation needs to be considered with regard to habitats.

14 Section 106, it was noted that two applications have been made to Central Bedfordshire Council to spend children's s106 play monies and these are as follows for 24m3 of hardwood bark chips at a cost of £1841.50 under the two multi-units of play equipment at Henry Smith Playing Fields and fencing also in Henry Smith Playing Fields at a cost of £2,114.

8 Town Council Committees (Agenda item 6)

Town Council accepted and adopted the following minutes from the Town Council Committees:-

Social Media Group – 17.6.15 and 23.6.15

9 Reports from Cllr Representatives (Agenda item 7)

To receive written reports from:

1. Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

Cllr Gurney provided a verbal report to advise that she will provide a report in a few weeks with regard to Gypsy and Travellers.

Cllr Zerny advised that he had produced a report. The Town Clerk advised he had contacted Cllr Zerny to ask if the report which had arrived yesterday could be included in the agenda for the 21st July.

2. Potton Town Councillors on external bodies.

Cllr Lewis provided a verbal report to advise that he had recently attended a steering group meeting for the Potton Community Agent, a role which is funded by Potton Consolidated Charity. Cllr Lewis added that the Community Agent has numerous clients and had been able to recruit many volunteers.

10 Planning Applications (Agenda item 9)

Application No: CB/15/02173/FULL

Land to the rear of 111 Everton Road Potton SG19 2PD

Erection of new chalet bungalow following demolition of existing building.

It was **resolved** to object to the application as over development of the site.

11 Late Planning Applications (Agenda item 10)

No late planning applications to consider.

12 Correspondence (Agenda item 11)

1. Bedfordshire Bugle - noted.

2. Central Bedfordshire Council – noted Councillor Code of Conduct 22 July, 6.30-8.00, Priory House, Chicksands, Chairman Invitation and the Chairman has accepted the invitation to attend.
3. The Fire Fighters Charity - noted.
4. Central Bedfordshire Council – Is your High Street the best in Britain - noted.

The Chairman advised he had some late correspondence.

The Chairman advised that he wanted in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press to be excluded from the remainder of this item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

CBC Cllr Doreen Gurney left the meeting.

5. Members' Interests Form. Confidential note attached.

13 Councillors Surgery (Agenda item 12)

- i. Councillors Surgery Saturday 20th June 2015
The Councillors Surgery took place on Saturday 20th June 2015.

Cllrs Ellison and Macdonald were in attendance at the surgery.

Cllr Macdonald advised in a written report that the following enquiries were made at the surgery.

- Parking in the square – What can be done about this to improve spaces for customers and move the business owners on.
- Co-op delivery vehicles are using the entrance to Spencer Close as a turning circle. This is dangerous and has an effect on local traffic. Can the Co-op not reschedule deliveries, use a smaller vehicle or use the Tesco car park to turn round? Can we write to the Co-op and Central Beds to see what can be done about this?
- Speeding in Horslow Street. This is still happening, despite the change to the 20mph zone. Is there anything that can be done to reduce the speed of drivers in this street?
- Sun Street pot hole has still to be repaired. When will this be done? - pothole is on the pavement apparently, just round the corner from the hairdressers. I had a look on the way home and couldn't see anything noticeable.
- Pothole/subsidence on the road at The Paddocks. This could be dangerous and possible result in cars leaving the carriageway. When will it be repaired? - we checked this and it looks like reference 253020A.

Additional written report from Cllr Ellison

- Sun St pothole is actually at the boundary between the private unmade drive to the rear of the hair dressers and the pavement. At this point the pavement is 2 + m wide and beyond the pothole reduces to less than 1 m wide to go around the hairdressers, therefore unless you have impaired vision I don't see it as a major issue, I have however reported it on the CBC website via their App.
- On the demise in quality of standard broadband speeds in the town since the delivery of "High Speed" fibre optic broadband.

- Regarding speeding in Horslow St – we would not get the ok to conduct speedwatch there, especially in the evenings which was the gentleman's concern, due to parked cars.

Members noted the reports from Cllr Ellison and Macdonald.

- ii. Councillor Surgery dates October – December 2015
Members discussed about the monthly Councillor Surgery which takes place once a month on a Saturday 10am – 12 noon in the Library.

Members noted that it is usual that when the Seasonal Market takes place that a Councillor Surgery is held. December 5th.

It was **resolved** that the surgeries are as follows Cllrs Leggatt and Temple October 10th, Cllrs Ellison and Harris November date to be confirmed and Cllrs Emery and Hobbs December 5th.

14 Finance (Agenda item 13)

- i. **To approve the list of payments.**

A list of payments up to and including the 7th July 2015 was handed to members for consideration.

It was **resolved** that the list of payments up to the 7th July 2015 be approved.

- ii. **Verify Bank Reconciliations against statement 1st May – 31st May 2015.**

It was **resolved** to ask Cllr Jordan to scrutinize bank reconciliations and statements for the month of May and sign these if approved at the end of the meeting.

- iii. **To receive an income and expenditure by budget heading report showing progress against the budget 2015/16 at the end of May 2015.**

Members proceeded to go through the detailed statement of income and expenditure against budget.

It was **resolved** to approve the detailed statement of income and expenditure against budget for the period to 31st May 2015.

- iv. **Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Jordan confirmed that he had reviewed the reconciliations against the bank statements during the meeting and signed them as being correct.

15 Highways (Agenda item 14)

The blue book for reporting Highway problems was on the table at the meeting.

1. Highways Customer Service report 18/5/15 to 14/6/15 was noted. Cllr Leggatt raised that the report didn't include the item he had raised about the footpath between Everton Road and Myers Lane. The Town Clerk checked the report and advised that the footpath between Everton Road and Myers Lane is on page 3 item 6.

2. Market Square parking. It was noted that two letters of correspondence have been received. The Chairman advised he had sent a letter of response to Mr Hutchinson as requested. (ii) The Clerk advised he had written to Central Bedfordshire Council to request that the time allowed to park in the Market Square is increased to two hours and the whole Market Square is made into one zone (one traffic regulation order), the transportation team now have twenty days to reply to the enquiry.

16 Mill Lane Playing Fields Dog ban

The Chairman asked if a response is available from Potton Consolidated Charity.

Cllr Leggatt a trustee of Potton Consolidated Charity provided a response to advise that the Charity as landowner approved the request that the Town Council can proceed with a Dog Control Order to exclude dogs from Mill Lane Playing Fields.

Members discussed about proceeding with a Dog Control Order to exclude dogs from Mill Lane Playing Fields.

The Town Clerk reminded the town council that they don't have an enforcement officer.

Cllr Zerny and the Town Clerk reminded members that the town council hasn't approved a Dog Control Order to exclude dogs from Mill Lane Playing Fields.

17 Cemetery and Churchyard

The Chairman advised that he and Cllr Gibb had visited the Cemetery and Churchyard.

The Chairman and Cllr Gibb then advised that they had in hand management plans for the Cemetery and Churchyard and would be available for the next meeting.

18 Brook End Car Park

Cllr Temple apologised the plan to increase the number of spaces in the car park is not yet ready and would be available for the next meeting.

19 Hall for All

Members noted the report from Cllr Emery, Chairman of Potton Hall for All.

20 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council had been arranged for Tuesday 21st July 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....ChairmanDate

Mission Statement

The aim of Potton Town Council is to serve the people of this town to the best of its ability.