

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Tuesday 7th July 2020, 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Councillors Mr J. Day, Mr D. Ellison, Mr A. Gibb, Mr R. Harris, Mr J. Hobbs, Mr L. Ivall, Ms L Kitchener, Mr J. Lean (Chairman), Mrs C. Leggatt, Mr A. Macdonald, Mr J. Price Williams, Mr C. Temple, Mr V. Watson and Mr A. Zerny.

Absent: Councillor Massey.

Also Present: CBC Cllr Ms T. Wye, Liz Smith (Chairman of Potton Hall for All), Orit Eyal-Fibeesh (Chief Executive Officer, SPARKO Virtual Retirement Communities), Sender Gross (SPARKO Virtual Retirement Communities), Town Clerk, Clerical Assistant, Admin Assistant and one member of the public.

1 Apologies for absence

Councillor Mr B. Massey. Cllr Wye advised that Cllr Zerny would be present at about 8pm.

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.

3 Public Participation Session

No questions from the public.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 2nd June 2020, which had been previously circulated, was approved.

5 Town Council Committees

Town Council accepted and adopted the following minutes and all recommendations contained from the Town Council Committee:

- Planning Committee – 2nd June 2020.
- Hall for All Steering Group – 9th June 2020.
- Environmental Committee - 16th June 2020.

6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Due to the absence of Cllr Zerny until 8pm, Cllr Zerny would be allowed to give an update later this evening,

Cllr Wye advised about a £1,000 per ward Cllr for Covid support recovery project.

Question from Cllr Gibb does that include business?

Cllr Wye advised would need to check with CBC, though would need to be a community-based project.

7 Social care for older residents of Potton proposal - Sparko Virtual Retirement Community (VRC)

The Chairman welcomed Orit Eyal-Fibeesh Chief Executive Officer of SPARKO VRC and Sender Gross of SPARKO VRC.

Orit Eyal-Fibeesh and Sender Gross gave a presentation to the town council about SPARKO VRC.

Sender Gross demonstrated SPARKO VRC and how it works on a TV and an app. Sparko has three foundations, 1. person, 2. family and 3. connection with the community.

A member of the public spoke about SPARKO VRC.

Question - To communicate on the video call.

Answer - One person has the system and the family have an app.

Question - Is this is a subscription.

Answer - Initial cost to purchase the system and a monthly subscription.

Question - Quite expensive.

Answer - Price on the web is for an individual, large quantities will reduce cost.

Question - Minimum size of community for it to get going.

Answer - For the service to work effectively need to have 200 households.

The Chairman asked the member of the public (Andrew Hope) to speak.

Andrew Hope Sparko allows independence of the individual and allow people to stay in own home for longer.

Question - Need to know what the cost is before we help promote to the community.

Answer - Happy to have discussions with you about cost, economies in scale.

Question - What do you need from Potton Town Council.

Answer - Would like Potton Town Council to promote and help identify people who would benefit from the system. Signposting to services.

Question - What do want from the town council.

Answer - Support of the council of identifying who would benefit from the system.

The Chairman thanked Orit Eyal-Fibeesh and Sender Gross for attending.

Cllr Zerny joined the meeting.

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors continued (Agenda item 6)

CBC are catching up on meetings.

Anglian Water meeting on Thursday about water issues for last few years. Meeting Lane herringbone wall fallen down and needs rebuilding as exactly as was or owner will need to gain planning permission for a non-herringbone wall or build the outside layer of bricks in herringbone and the inner part can be built as the owner would like.

9 Potton Consolidated Charity (Agenda item 8)

Members noted that the four outgoing town council trustees for the Charity are all willing to be nominated. The Chairman asked if anyone would like to be nominated.

It was **resolved** that the four-town council nominated trustees of the charity are as follows:

Cllr Angus Macdonald

Anna Adnitt

Alan Leggatt

Terry Woods

10 Potton Hall for All Steering Group (Agenda item 9)

Members noted that Cllr Kitchener has resigned from the Steering Group.

The Chairman invited members to join Cllrs Andrew Gibb, Cllr Richard Harris, Cllr Angus Macdonald and Cllr Vaughan Watson on the Potton Hall for All Steering Group.

No members volunteered to join the Steering Group.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Steering Group is Tuesday 14th July @ 7pm via Zoom.

11 Potton Hall for All Trustee (Agenda item 10)

Members noted that Cllr Gibb has resigned from being a Potton Hall for All Trustee.

The Chairman asked if any of the four Steering Group members are willing to be the trustee.

A member asked what is the time implication of the trusteeship.

Liz Smith advised it changes, an evening or half a day a week.

Cllr Price Williams volunteered to be the town council Potton Hall for All Trustee for 2020-21.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Price Williams is the town council Potton Hall for All Trustee for 2020-21.

Cllr Price Williams was asked if he was willing to join the Potton Hall for All Steering Group.

Cllr Price Williams agreed to join the Steering Group.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Price Williams joins the Potton Hall for All Steering Group.

Liz Smith (Chairman of Potton Hall for All) asked if item 17 (Hall for All) could be considered next.

The Chairman agreed that item 17 (Hall for All) be considered next.

12 Hall for All (Agenda item 17)

Eight Cllrs have provided a written motion to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 7 Previous resolutions a): A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 8 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9 below, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.

The eight cllrs were as follows:

Day
Gibb
Hobbs
Kitchener
Lean
Macdonald
Price Williams
Watson

It was **resolved** that part (iii) of the resolution is amended from [*the town council will only commit the town council to apply for £500,000 when all other funding for the community hall is in place.*] to [*to allow further fundraising more chance to succeed the town council will apply at the earliest opportunity following a supportive consultation for £500,000 PWLB.*]

The full resolution is now as follows:

It was resolved (i) that the town council will in principle request permission from the MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) to borrow £500,000 to fund towards the shortfall of the Potton Hall for All. (ii) that the town council will take out a £500,000 loan over a period of 15 years if it receives approval to borrow money. (iii) to allow further fundraising more chance to succeed the town council will apply at the earliest opportunity following a supportive consultation for £500,000 PWLB. (iii) the town council will only commit the town council to apply for £500,000 when all other funding for the community hall is in place. (iv) the Hall for All Charity and town council consult the residents of Potton about the town council taking out a loan of £500,000 towards part funding some of the shortfall in the funds needed. (v) the town council will only apply to the MHCLG to borrow £500,000 if the majority of Potton residents who respond to the consultation are in support of the project and the precept increase.

13 Consultations (Agenda item 11)

Members noted the LGA's consultation on a new model Code of Conduct.

14 Bedfordshire Bugle (Agenda item 12)

The latest edition of the Bedfordshire Bugle from BATPC was noted.

15 Newsletter (Agenda item 13)

Cllr Macdonald advised he had had a request for an article for the Sue Ryder Online Bereavement Service to be included.

It was **resolved** that Sue Ryder Online Bereavement Service submit an article for consideration.

Articles suggested Potton Apple Day, Potton Litter Pick, Potton Community Help Group, Volunteering, Hall for All and Young People's Council.

It was **resolved** that the next newsletter is targeted for the end of August 2020.

16 Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire (Agenda item 14)

It was noted that a member of the public has been in contact with Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire, Richard Fuller MP to raise to concern about the residents of the Gypsy and Traveller site in Common Road, when they are in the local community. The member of the public has advised that Richard Fuller MP would be willing to attending a town council meeting.

Richard Fuller MP had provided a list of dates he could attend a meeting.

It was suggested that a meeting with Richard Fuller MP should not take place in the school holidays as some people would not be able to attend.

It was **resolved (i)** to invite Richard Fuller MP to attend a walkaround of Potton in September 2020. **(ii)** Cllrs to send a list of items they wish to discuss with Richard Fuller MP to the Town Clerk. **(iii)** to send Richard Fuller MP the list of items that Cllrs wish to discuss with him.

17 Sandy Town Council – Neighbourhood Plan (Agenda item 15)

It was noted that Sandy Town Council are considering undertaking a neighbourhood plan and they asked if anyone from the council would be available to talk to members of Sandy Town Council, via a zoom call, about their experience and the process of doing a neighbourhood plan.

It was **resolved** that in principle the four Cllrs Day, Hobbs, Lean and Price Williams (subject to being available) who are members of Potton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group attend a zoom call with Sandy Town Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan experience and process.

18 Queen's Birthday Honours (Agenda item 16)

Correspondence from the office of HM Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Helen Nellis was noted.

It was **resolved** that a citation form is submitted for Potton Community Help Group and Simon Auckland.

19 Town Council Office (Agenda item 18)

The report from the Town Clerk was noted.

Members discussed various option for an office and this included moving to Horslow Street or upstairs.

It was **resolved** that the town council pursues moving the office upstairs.

20 Street Naming (Agenda item 19)

The town council considered the name proposed by the developer, which was the developers name for CB/SN/18/0333 Land between 119 and Eagle Farm, Everton Road, Potton, Sandy, SG19 2PD. The town believed the developer's suggestion is highly inappropriate for several reasons.

Frith was suggested based on the windmill field layout from 1775 as the section of land for this development was called Frith Closes.

It was **resolved** that the town council would like to put forward Frith for the road name.

21 Outdoor Hire (Agenda item 20)

Following a request to hire the outdoor facilities the town council considered setting a charge.

It was **resolved** that the hourly charge is £5 for up to 5 people and £10 for 6-15 people.

22 CB/16/04460 - Land opposite Playing Field and Mill Lane (Agenda item 21)

It was noted that Cllr Lean had provided a written motion for consideration by the town council about a document from Dandara.

It was **resolved (i)** to contact Till Sills at Woodfines Solicitors to gain his opinion of the two-page document from Dandara. **(ii)** to contact Dandara about the future maintenance plan for the highways as Dandara mention in the document that Dandara have previously committed to agree a future maintenance plan with the Town Council, and relevant stakeholders. As the town do not want to be responsible for the maintenance of the highway. **(iii)** request Dandara provide the town council with the full report from Philip Sissons QC and the full report from expert archivist /historian Kevin Ward. **(iv)** that the planning officer at CBC is copied into the correspondence sent to Dandara. **(v)** that the town council will contribute a maximum of £1,500 towards legal costs, though the residents should be prepared to contribute towards the cost.

23 Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (Agenda item 22)

It was noted that the PCC has allocated £3,000 to support the Youth Club project.

24 COVID-19 (Agenda item 23)

It was suggested that the cones are removed from outside the Chemist.

It was **resolved** that the cones are removed from outside the Chemist.

It was suggested that a letter is sent to the shops that remained open during the lockdown.

It was **resolved** that a letter is sent to all the shops that remained open during the lockdown.

It was noted that the play areas in Henry Smith Playing Fields and Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

It was **resolved** that the locking of allotment gate can be decided by the allotment holders.

It was **resolved** that signage is displayed about social distancing.

25 Development in Potton (Agenda item 24)

Planning applications considered by the Planning Committee on 7th July 2020 for recommendation at the next Town Council meeting.

Application No: CB/TCA/20/00313

Location: 4A Brook End, Potton, Sandy SG19 2QS

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Removal of two Leylandii trees.

Weblink:

<http://cbstor.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicportalviewer/publicViewer.html?caseID=CB/TCA/20/00313>

The Planning Committee resolved to recommend to support the application, subject to the approval of the Tree & Landscape Officer.

It was **resolved** no further comment.

Application No: CB/20/02107/FULL

Location: 7 Blackbird Street, Potton, Sandy SG19 2LT

Proposal: Proposed single story rear extension and internal alterations.

Weblink:

<http://cbstor.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicportalviewer/publicViewer.html?caseID=CB/20/02107/FULL>

The Planning Committee resolved to recommend no objection.

It was **resolved** no further comment.

26 To note the date of the Next Meeting (Agenda item 25)

The next meeting of the Town Council has been arranged for Tuesday 1st September 2020.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed.....ChairmanDate

Mission Statement

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