

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Tuesday 11th January 2022, 7.04pm via Zoom link.

Present: Councillors Dr C. Craig, Mrs L. Fox, Mr A. Gibb, Mrs V. Gwilliam, Mr J. Hobbs (Chairman), Mr A. Inkersole, Ms L. Kitchener, Mr J. Lean, Mrs C. Leggatt, Mr A. Macdonald, Mr D. Norman, Mr J. Price Williams, Mr M. Williams and Mr A. Zerny.

Absent: Councillors Mr J. Day.

Also Present: CBC Cllr Ms T. Wye, Town Clerk and Administration Assistant.

1 Apologies for absence

Councillors Mr J. Day.

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

Cllr Inkersole raised the Mill Lane development (Dandara) advising there is supposed to be a pedestrian access in to Newtown and it is shown on the plans and the developer has created a footpath to the boundary of the development. A fence has been installed and this is preventing access.

The Town Clerk advised the town council could contact planning enforcement at Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to make them aware, the closure could be temporary.

A member mentioned that a temporary vehicle access was in place between Dandara and Newtown in the Summer 2021. Query over whether Dandara or Aragon Housing own the land where the pedestrian access is located.

A member mentioned a pedestrian access is to be created, though as the development has not yet been finished the developer is not forced to complete the footpath access.

A member mentioned a similar issue in the Tall Trees development, with the footpath that heads towards Sheepwalk Close.

Cllr Zerny gave an update about the footpath between Tall Trees and Sheepwalk Close. A consultation for the footpath will be carried out by CBC and it is hoped that work will commence in Autumn 2022.

4 Minutes of Potton Town Council

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 7th December 2021, which had been circulated was approved.

The Chairman asked for an update with regards to the following items;

5 Highways Consultation - A00175 B1040 Biggleswade Road, Potton – Traffic Calming and 30mph & 40mph Speed Limits.

The Town Clerk advised he has contacted the Clerk to Sutton Parish Council and a response had been received advising he had forwarded the email on

to the Sutton Parish Councillors. I have, in turn, received responses back from them and they fully support the proposed suggestion to lower the speed limit from the John O' Gaunt Golf Club to Potton.

9 Potton Green Wheel Masterplan

It was resolved that BRCC investigate funding for a cycleway to be placed in Henry Smith Playing Fields adjacent to Potton Brook.

The Town Clerk advised he did not have an update.

The Chairman advised he would speak with BRCC at the next Potton Green Wheel meeting.

10 Sustainability Audit

It was resolved (i) to investigate a commercial bin for paper and cardboard.

The Town Clerk advised that he had obtained a quotation.

The Chairman asked that the Management Committee consider the quotation.

12 Mill Lane Recreation Ground – Fencing

It was resolved to install barrier tape temporary fencing on the western and northern boundaries of Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

The Chairman advised that the fencing had been installed and queried who had completed the work.

The Town Clerk advised that the town council completed the work.

14 Potton School

It was resolved (i) to contact Central Bedfordshire Council ward Cllrs Wye and Zerny to ask who are the correct people to talk to at CBC to achieve the optimum future usage for the buildings, facilities and land on the Potton School site, particularly where school downsizing gives an opportunity for alternative use for the community resource.

The Chairman invited CBC Cllr Zerny and / or Wye to speak about how the above should be taken forward.

Cllr Zerny advised that broadly speaking that the school intends for the facilities to be used by a smaller number of school years. Suggest that the query is sent to Potton Federation first rather than CBC.

Cllr Inkersole who raised the written motion at the last meeting, if any development of the site is to be discussed that the town council, school and CBC to work together as discussions have already taken place between the school and CBC.

Cllr Zerny advised discussions between the school and CBC have taken place.

(ii) that Cllr Inkersole and other interested Cllrs draft wording for a letter.

The Chairman invited Cllr Inkersole to speak about the letter.

Cllr Inkersole advised he would make some changes to the letter based on the comments from CBC Cllr Zerny.

5 Minutes of Town Council Committees and groups where a Cllr(s) is (are) appointed by the town council.

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

- Planning Committee – 7th December 2021 and 21st December 2021.
- Environmental Committee – 16th November 2021 (N.B Cllr Day absent to comment).
- Commemorations and Celebrations Working Group Meeting – 22nd November 2021.

6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

The Chairman invited Cllr Zerny to give a report.

Cllr Zerny advised an appeal by the applicant is expected for the planning application adjacent to the Paddocks as the case is being considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Zerny.

The Chairman invited Cllr Wye to give a report.

Cllr Wye advised that she wanted to give an update with regards to the next item on the agenda Local Cycle Routes.

7 Local Cycle Routes

The Chairman invited Cllr Wye to speak about this item.

Cllr Wye advised she has been liaising with CBC, Town Councillors, RSPB and Sustrans. The latest idea for the cycleway from Deepdale crossroads to the RSPB is for the cycleway to go on the edge of the quarry land owned by Tarmac and the landowner is keen to assist.

Cllr Wye continued and advised has written to Richard Fuller MP and met with him on site to ask for funding from the Government minister towards the Potton to Sandy cycleway. The aspiration is that the cycleway will then carry on to Sutton, Wrestlingworth and link all other villages in the Potton ward as a future plan. A site meeting is scheduled at the RSPB on the 18th January 2022 12-2pm for a talk and walk on the grounds from Sandy to Potton.

The Chairman mentioned that the town council is planning to meet with Richard Fuller to discuss about local cycleways.

Cllr Wye advised she has spoken with the CBC member for Transformation, Cllr Steve Dixon about cycleways and he is keen for progress to be made.

A member raised a question about the site meeting.

Cllr Wye advised she would forward details about the site meeting to the member.

The Chairman advised a Greenwheel meeting was scheduled for 18th January and has been rearranged for 25th January 2022.

8 Meeting of Neighbouring Parishes

Correspondence from Sandy Town Council with regards to Neighbouring Parishes meeting to discuss issues of a shared and common interest was noted.

The Chairman spoke about the idea of meeting of neighbouring parishes was raised by Cllr Pettitt, Chairman of Sandy Town Council.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to meet with Neighbouring Parishes.

Cllrs Craig, Hobbs and Price Williams volunteered to meet with Neighbouring Parishes.

It was **resolved (i)** Cllrs Craig, Hobbs and Price Williams meet with Neighbouring Parishes. **(ii)** that the Town Clerk advises that Cllrs Craig and Hobbs attend the online meeting on the 27th January 2022 and sends apologies for Cllr Price Williams who will attend future meetings.

9 Welcome Back Fund

It was noted that an additional £1,111.80 of extra funding from the Welcome Back Fund has been allocated to Potton.

The Town Clerk advised that the additional funding has been allocated to pages in the newsletter, more Christmas Lights and bunting for the Queens Jubilee 2022.

10 Potton Library

Correspondence from Neil Cartwright, Senior Surveyor (Operations) at Central Bedfordshire Council was noted.

It was **resolved** to confirm the town council agree to pay a proportion towards **(i)** the £1,184.25 quoted for electrical work for the Library. **(ii)** CBC costs for an agreement between CBC and the town council for the Library.

11 Newsletter

It was noted that the town council produces a newsletter approximately quarterly and it is delivered to every household in Potton.

Various members spoke and they were all of the opinion that the town council should continue with producing a quarterly newsletter and it is still delivered to every household in Potton.

Members considered the quotations from the suppliers.

It was **resolved (i)** to continue with the Newsletter design, print and delivery to every household with our current supplier Right Click. **(ii)** that a competition is included in the July / August edition of the newsletter with the prize being a family ticket for Party on Potton.

12 COVID-19

The CBC COVID-19 Snapshot update (05.01.22) was noted.

Comments and discussions about the Covid-19 Snapshot.

It was suggested that the February 2022 meeting of town council is held online.

It was **resolved** that the February 2022 meeting of town council is held online.

13 Items for the next agenda

The Chairman asked members for any items they included on the next town council agenda.

No items mentioned.

The Chairman mentioned councillors can send any items they would like included on the next meeting via email to the Clerk.

14 To note the date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council has been arranged for Tuesday 1st February 2022 and this will be held online.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Signed: Date:

Chairman Mission Statement

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