

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Tuesday 1st March 2022, 7.10 pm in the Community Centre.

Present: Councillors Dr C. Craig, Mr J. Day, 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: All present.

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

1 Apologies for absence

All present.

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

The Chairman asked for questions and representations from members of the public.

Cllr Norman advised that a resident of Deepdale, Potton had expressed concern to him with regards to trees from the RSPB, Deepdale, Sandy which hand over the road and the residents property.

It was **resolved** to contact Sandy Town Council to request that they contact the RSPB about the trees in Deepdale.

Cllr Leggatt raised about Party on Potton and advised that twenty two band members are attending from Thursday to Monday and hosting is needed.

Cllr Lean spoke about the footpath on the Royston Court side of Sun Street, next to O'Sarracino advising that a number of pot holes are present and need repairing.

It was **resolved** that the pot holes in the footpath next to O'Sarracino is reported to Central Bedfordshire Council highways.

Cllr Williams advised about Anti-Social Behaviour in Bull Street and Horslow Street and a stabbing. It was mentioned about reporting via the Community Safety reporting form. Richard Fuller MP had advised in Westminster that there are 72 more Police in Bedfordshire.

It was **resolved (i)** to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner about seeing a Police presence in Potton following the appointment of 72 more Police in Bedfordshire. **(ii)** to continue including an article about Community Safety in newsletter about the importance of reporting to the Police.

4 Minutes of Potton Town Council

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1st February 2022, which had been circulated was approved.

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:

- Management Committee – 18th January 2022.

The Chairman mentioned about the resolution with regards to the Tennis Club and the soil reprofiling.

It was suggested that the tennis club speak with Dandara about the soil as they are carrying out Environmental soil profiling.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Kitchener speaks to the tennis club about the soil reprofiling.

Secondly, we need a protocol for public use of the courts with regards to how to book a court.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Kitchener contacts the Tennis Club to ask the tennis club to formulate a protocol on public use of the courts for the town council to consider at a future meeting of Potton Town Council.

It was suggested that public use of the courts is publicised on the town council website and a notice is fastened to the tennis court fencing to advise people how to book the tennis courts.

Cllr Kitchener mentioned about some vandalism to the tennis courts.

Cllr Craig asked Cllr Kitchener to advise him of the vandalism so that it can be reported on the Community Safety reporting form.

- Planning Committee – 1st February 2022 and 15th February 2022.
- Potton Hall for All Steering Group – 8th and 22nd February 2022.
- Potton Hall for All Alternatives - 17th February 2022.

It was suggested that the name of the group is changed.

It was **resolved** that in future that the group if it meets again is named the Section 106 Contingency Plan.

- Commemorations and Celebrations Working Group – 21st February 2022.

6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

The Chairman invited the Central Bedfordshire Councillors to give a report

- Cllr T Wye –
Nothing to report.
- Cllr A Zerny –
Nothing to report.

A question was raised with regards to when the planning appeal for land south of The Ridgeway, Potton SG19 2PS will be considered by the Planning

Inspectorate.

Cllr Zerny advised that the Planning Inspectorate is going to consider the appeal in April 2022.

The Chairman requested that Cllr Zerny keeps the town council updated with regards to the planning appeal as a representative of the town council will need to express concerns about the application to the Inspector.

7 Planning Applications for recommendation at the meeting of the Town Council on 01.03.2021

Application No: CB/TCA/22/00043

Location: Church Hall, Hatley Road, Potton

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Fell 2 no Alder trees.

Weblink:

<http://cbstor.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicportalviewer/publicViewer.html?caseID=CB/TCA/22/00043>

The Planning Committee resolved to recommend no objection.

It was **resolved** to agree with the recommendation of the Planning Committee.

8 Party on Potton

It was noted that Simon Auckland, POP Committee attended the town council meeting on the 1st February 2022 to talk about Sponsorship and following the meeting has submitted correspondence with regards to sponsorship opportunities for the Party on Potton Big Weekend.

Suggestions were made with regards to donating to the Party on Potton Big Weekend and these ranged from £1,000 to £9,000. It was noted that the town council will include a pull-out booklet in the Newsletter.

It was **resolved** to donate £9,000 to Party on Potton via the General Power of Competence with £7,900 in this financial year (2021/22) and £1,100 in the following financial year (2022/23).

9 Potton Gamlingay Cycleway

The draft minutes of a meeting for Potton Gamlingay Cycleway were noted.

The Chairman spoke about the meeting and mentioned Minute 6. Next steps. Potton to consider further survey work from Potton Community in relation to linking to Gamlingay and Greensand Ridge – onward leisure route to Cambridge-for evidence base'.

The Chairman asked CBC Cllr Wye to give an update about the Potton-Gamlingay Cycleway.

Cllr Wye advised she had placed a post on Facebook with regards to whether there would be any interest in a Potton-Gamlingay Cycleway.

The Chairman advised that Richard Fuller MP had previously advised that funding is available for cycleways.

The Potton-Sandy Cycleway was discussed with regards to getting this project finished.

The Chairman suggested about having a working group.

It was noted that Cllr Gibb and CBC Cllr Wye are involved in the Potton-Sandy Cycleway.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to work on local cycleways working group. Cllrs Fox, Inkersole, Kitchener volunteered to work with Cllr Gibb and CBC Cllr Wye.

It was **resolved** that Cllrs Fox, Inkersole and Kitchener join Cllr Gibb and CBC Cllr Wye on a local cycleways working group.

10 Platinum Jubilee

It was noted that item was requested by Cllr Leggatt Vice-Chairman of the Commemorations and Celebrations Working Group.

Cllr Leggatt advised she is looking volunteers for the Platinum Jubilee for the four day event.

It was **resolved** that Cllrs advise Cllr Leggatt by the 19th March 2022 of their availability for the Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend.

11 Potton Library

The Chairman asked if the Town Clerk had an update from CBC.

The Town Clerk advised he had not received any information from CBC.

12 Potton School

It was noted further to minute 14 Potton School of the December Town Council meeting, minute 6.14 Potton School of the January Town Council meeting correspondence has been sent to Potton Federation to request a meeting and representatives of Potton Federation – Joint Chairman Hannah Bartram and Acting Executive Headteacher Charlotte Coppenhall have agreed to meet with Cllrs Hobbs, Price Williams and Inkersole @ 5pm on the 10th March 2022.

The Chairman advised that the school would like to know what the town council would like to discuss.

The Chairman advised he had two questions;

1. The school facilities need post conversion to Primary School status. The use of any buildings / facilities that are surplus to requirements (PTC wish to be party to discussions between the school and CBC to retain important community facilities).
2. In order to improve / support communication links between Potton Federation and Potton Town Council, we would ask that the constitution of the new Governing Body include a delegate from Potton Town Council.

A member mentioned as Potton is getting larger and the number of school buses is increasing, suggest that the land is used a Free School for children

up to Secondary School age.

It was suggested that a Free School is not raised at the meeting and a member of the public can raise about a Free School at the Annual Town Meeting.

13 Sluice Crossing (Ford) and Dredging

It was noted that work commenced on the 28th February 2022, though due to the rain, work is now postponed to allow for the ground to dry out to limit the amount of vehicular damage to the recreation ground.

14 Luton Rising – Statutory Consultation.

It was noted that Luton Rising is the new trading name for London Luton Airport Ltd and they are consulting on plans to expand the airport from 8th February to 4th April 2022.

The Chairman asked Cllr Williams for an update.

Cllr Williams advised he had been monitoring flight paths in the local area as the flight paths changed on the 20th February 2022, planes from the South are going up to Biggleswade and going round Pottton and then flying back to Stevenage and then to Luton, when previously they would turn at Stevenage to go to Luton.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams.

It was suggested that Cllr Williams formulates a response to the consultation and this is then sent to the rest of the council for comment and produces wording for a Poster to be displayed in the noticeboard about the consultation.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Williams **(i)** formulates a response to the consultation and this is then sent to the rest of the council for comment. **(ii)** produces wording for a Poster to be displayed in the noticeboard about the consultation.

15 Crime Prevention & Public/Community Safety

The crime statistics as supplied by Central Bedfordshire Council were noted and discussed.

It was mentioned that the number of crimes reported is down and about the importance of residents reporting crimes to the Police.

It was **resolved** to continue to include in the newsletter about the importance of reporting crimes in the newsletter.

16 Dedicating a bench

The correspondence received with regards to enquiring about dedicating a bench was noted.

It was suggested that when dedicating a bench, that they would need to purchase the bench. A suggestion was made about purchasing and planting of a tree with a plaque. A further suggestion about purchasing a dedicated bench for Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

It was **resolved** that Dedicating a bench is considered by the Environmental Committee and they make a recommendation to the town council.

17 Finance

i. Verify Bank Reconciliations against statement 1st January – 31st January 2022.

Members proceeded to go through the Bank Reconciliation.

It was **resolved** that the Bank reconciliation for 1st January – 31st January 2022 be approved.

ii. To receive an income and expenditure by budget heading report showing progress against the budget 2021/22 at the end of January 2022.

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

A question was raised with regards to Staff Costs. The Responsible Financial Officer answered the question.

It was **resolved** to approve the detailed statement of income and expenditure against budget for the period to 31st January 2022.

18 CBC-Highway Improvement Scheme

Members noted the correspondence from CBC.

- i. Highways Improvement Scheme.
- ii. Rural Match Fund guidance and Application form.
- iii. Speed indicator Device guidance document.

The Chairman advised that the town council can submit up to two Highway Improvement Schemes and asked for suggestions.

The following schemes were suggested;

1. Biggleswade Riad by Blackbird Street which could include barriers to prevent vehicles from parking on the pavement to improve visibility and planters to enhance the street scene.
2. Hatley Road by the Church which would be a new footpath to assist pedestrians crossing the road.
3. Crossing on Bury Hill by the Fire Station.
4. Biggleswade Road footpath by the garage, so that people know where the edge of the road is.
5. Speed controls on Everton Road from the Everton entrance to the town.
6. Church Causeway to the scout hut, pathway improvements.
7. Sun Street, widening of the footpath by having a priority for traffic.
8. Deepdale Crossroads.
9. Everton Road by Frith Fields.

It was **resolved** that the CBC-Highway Improvement Schemes put forward are 1. Hatley Road and 2. Corner of Biggleswade Road and Blackbird Street.

19 Items for the next agenda

The Chairman asked Councillors if they had any items for the next agenda.

Members suggested;

1. Sun Street and Market Square, Highways and consider the removal of a car park space(s).
2. Cllr Surgery notes from Cllr Lean.

The Chairman requested Councillors to send any further items they would like included on the next meeting via email to the Town Clerk.

20 To note the date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council has been arranged for Tuesday 5th April 2022 in the Community Centre and will take place in-person.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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.