

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Tuesday 6th September 2022, 7.35pm held in the Community Centre, Potton.

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

Absent: Councillors Mr J. Hobbs and Mr A. Inkersole.

Also Present: CBC Cllr Ms T. Wye, Roisin McGettigan Community Engagement Manager Gigaclear Ltd, two members of the public and the Town Clerk.

1 Apologies for absence

Councillors Mr J. Hobbs and Mr A. Inkersole.

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.

The Chairman advised he would alter the agenda to allow item 41 Potton, Willow Road Development to be considered next, as members of the public are present for this item.

3 Public Participation Session

The Chairman asked if members of the public had any questions and if members had any questions from the public for the town council.

No question from the public.

At the town council meeting in June 2022 it was resolved to invite Gigaclear to the September town council meeting to give a short presentation and answer questions.

The Chairman invited Roisin McGettigan Community Engagement Manager Gigaclear Ltd to deliver a presentation to the town council.

Roisin McGettigan spoke about a potential commercial scheme for ultrafast fibre broadband for Potton and Wrestlingworth. Our network is future-proof and provides brilliant broadband speeds that will enable everything from home working to watching movies online without buffering. Once completed, residents will be able to enjoy the benefits of our full fibre network which is capable of delivering speeds of up to 900gb.

A question was asked about a new cabinet near West End Lane.

Roisin McGettigan advised that the new cabinet hadn't been installed by Gigaclear.

Roisin McGettigan advised the proposed location for the Gigaclear access cabinet on Sutton Road by Wrestlingworth Road.

The Cllrs advised that the proposed location for the cabinet is a blackspot for accidents.

Question when is work scheduled to be undertaken.

Answer letters delivered to residents in December 2022 and work starts in February 2023.

The Chairman thanked Roisin McGettigan for attending.

4 Minutes of Potton Town Council

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21st June 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:

- Planning Committee – 21st June 2022, 19th July 2022 and 16th August 2022.
- Ukraine Response Group – 22nd June, 6th July 2022, 20th July 2022, 3rd August 2022 and 17th August.
- Potton Youth Council – 4th July 2022.
- Hall for All Steering Group – 11th July 2022 and 1st September 2022.
- Commemorations and Celebrations Working Group - 18th July 2022.
- Management Committee – 19th July 2022.

6 Meetings Scheduled

The meeting schedule was noted.

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Cllrs Wye and Zerny were not present to provide a report.

8 Development in Potton

The recommendations from the 16th August 2022 Planning Committee were approved by the Town Council.

9 Commemorations and Celebrations Working Group – Recommendation(s)

7 Remembrance Sunday

Rolling Road Block – Quote from MLP Traffic Ltd - £1,326.

It was **resolved** that £1,326 is transferred from code 4136 cc 110 to code 4162 cc 110 to cover the cost of the Rolling Road Block for Remembrance Sunday.

10 Treebilee

It was **resolved** to award 1st Potton Cub & Scout Group £260 for five trees.

10 Management Committee - Recommendation(s)

The recommendations from the 19th July 2022 Management Committee were approved by the Town Council.

11 Councillor Surgeries

a) Surgeries since the last meeting surgeries have taken place as follows;

Saturday 23rd July 2022 – Cllrs Hobbs and Norman
Cllr Norman advised nothing to report.

Saturday 27th August 2022 (Community Day – Party on Potton) – Cllrs Gibb and Macdonald

Written report from Cllr Macdonald was noted.

b) Surgeries scheduled are as follows;

Saturday 17th September 2022 – Cllrs Gwilliam and Inkersole

Saturday 15th October 2022 – Cllrs Fox and Price Williams

Noted

c) Surgeries to be arranged;

The Chairman asked for volunteers for November, December and January Councillor Surgeries so that the dates can be included in the next newsletter.

It was suggested that Cllrs Hobbs and Lean hold a surgery on the 5th November and Cllrs Craig and Inkersole hold a surgery on the 10th December 2022. No volunteers for January.

12 Finance

i. **Verify Bank Reconciliations against statement 1st June – 30th June 2022.**

Members proceeded to go through the Bank Reconciliation.

It was resolved that the Bank reconciliation for 1st June – 30th June 2022 be approved.

ii. **To receive an income and expenditure by budget heading report showing progress against the budget 2022/23 at the end of June 2022.**

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 30th June 2022.

iii. **Verify Bank Reconciliations against statement 1st July – 31st July 2022.**

Copy of the Bank Reconciliations statement attached.

Members proceeded to go through the Bank Reconciliation.

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

iv. To receive an income and expenditure by budget heading report showing progress against the budget 2022/23 at the end of July 2022.

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 July 2022.

13 Potton Hall for All

The Chairman asked Cllr Gwilliam the Chairman of the Potton Hall for All Steering Group for an update following the meeting on the 1st September 2022.

The Chairman of the Steering Group advised about a deadline of the end August 2023 to show full funding to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). The Steering Group are looking at ways to reduce the cost of the project.

Cllr Macdonald advised that a meeting of Potton Consolidated Charity (PCC) which also met on the 1st September 2022 and they refused to extend the £25,000 grant to Potton Hall for All, though the Potton Hall for All are free to apply again to the PCC.

The Chairman of the Steering Group advised by the end August 2023 that full funding is required for the building. The Steering Group now has until the end of September 2022 to come up with a plan and costs for buildings.

It was suggested that a meeting of the Alternative Hall for All takes place in October 2022.

It was requested that the minutes of the last Alternative Hall for All are redistributed.

It was **resolved** that a meeting of the Alternative Hall for All takes place in October 2022.

Cllr Gwilliam, Chairman of the Potton Hall for All Steering Group volunteered to attend a meeting of the Alternative Hall for All.

It was suggested at the November 2022 meeting of the town council, the town council considers the Councils support for the hall, with regards to whether the council continues to support Potton Hall for All or do we look for an alternative plan.

It was **resolved** that at the November 2022 meeting of the town council, the town council considers the Councils support for the hall, with regards to whether the council continues to support Potton Hall for All or do we look for an alternative plan.

Cllr Zerny advised he has asked the Chief Executive of CBC for a meeting to discuss the Potton Hall for All and the Section 106 monies if the hall wasn't built.

The Chairman asked Cllr Zerny to obtain figures from the Chief Executive by the November town council meeting.

Following the arrival of Cllrs Wye and Zerny the Chairman advised he would return to item 7 – Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

14 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

The Chairman asked Cllr Zerny for a report.

Cllr Zerny advised he had nothing to report other than he is speaking with CBC about the Section 106 for the land South of the Paddocks with regards to making sure the money is spent on infrastructure in Potton.

Cllr Zerny received a question about Church Causeway with regards to it being overgrown and the unevenness of the footpath.

Cllr Zerny advised he had contacted Chris Dorow the Rights of Way Officer at CBC.

Cllr Zerny received a question about the bridge for Tall Trees.

Cllr Zerny advised he is still waiting to hear when CBC will meet to discuss the bridge.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Zerny.

The Chairman asked Cllr Wye for a report.

Cllr Wye advised that applications for the Community Asset Grant have closed and three applications have been submitted for Potton these being the Bowls Club, the Church and Henry Smith Playing Fields. Decision to be made by the end of September 2022.

Quarry visit suggested a meeting once every four months, with Potton, Gamlingay and Everton Parish Councils to discuss where interests overlap and the quarry.

Cllr Wye received a question with regards to the quarry and the amount of money CBC generates from the quarry.

Cllr Wye advised a Corporate Resources meeting is scheduled for this month and she is going to write to the Finance Director to obtain information with regards to CBC income from the quarry.

Cllr Wye received a question about the SUD's in Sutton Mill Road.

Cllr Wye advised she contact relevant parties with regards to SUD's in Sutton Mill Road.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wye.

15 King Street

Correspondence from a resident with regards to King Street was noted.

The Chairman asked Cllr Zerny to speak about King Street.

Cllr Zerny advised that Potton was built in the Georgian and Victorian era when less vehicles existed.

Cllr Zerny was asked whether he could request that a highway officer visit King Street to observe the road.

Cllr Zerny advised he could ask a highway officer to visit King Street.

Various suggestions were made with regards to King Street.

It was suggested to write to the resident to thank her for correspondence, advise the resident this has spoken about on a number of occasions, no solution has been identified and ask for her ideas with regards to King Street.

It was mentioned that verges had been lost in King Street near Daimler Benz and that a previous planning application had proposed that parking bays are installed in front of Daimler Benz.

It was **resolved (i)** that the CBC ward Cllrs speak to Highways about the loss of verges in King Street by Daimler Benz. **(ii)** to write to the resident as per suggestion above.

16 A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme

Correspondence from Cllr Gibb with regards to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme and diversion route plans from Cllr Wye were noted.

The Chairman invited Cllr Gibb to speak about the item.

Cllr Gibb spoke about whether a restriction should be in place on the B1040 for large vehicles not permitted at certain times like a place in Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Wye spoke about the diversion route.

A traffic survey on the B1040 was suggested.

It was **resolved (i)** that a traffic survey is carried out on King Street (B1040) to establish a baseline for traffic. **(ii)** that the Town Clerk investigates the cost for a traffic survey.

17 Potton Fire Station

Correspondence from Cllr Gibb with regards to Potton Fire Station was noted.

The Chairman invited Cllr Gibb to speak about the item.

Cllr Gibb spoke about the additional fires that the local fire station and making an award as a sign of appreciation.

It was **resolved** that a £250 award from the General Power of Competence for The Firefighters Charity.

18 Warm Spaces

Correspondence from Cllr Gibb requesting a discussion on warm spaces was noted.

The Chairman invited Cllr Gibb to speak about the item.

Cllr Gibb spoke about Warm Spaces and Potton providing spaces.

It was suggested that Cllr Gibb speaks to relevant individuals in the town and if funding is needed he comes back to the town council.

19 Community Safety

The draft community safety plan documents were noted.

It was **resolved** to adopt the community safety plan documents.

A thank you to Cllr Craig.

20 Copier

The quotes from the two companies were noted.

It was suggested to go with the most cost effective quotation.

It was **resolved** to go with Company B (Canon DX C3826).

21 Lighting Consultation

The results of the consultation were noted.

Members were disappointed about the low number of responses.

It was **resolved** to proceed with lighting **(i)** the Millennium Path. **(ii)** the Skatepark with targeted lighting which is timed.

22 Mill Lane Recreation Ground – High Ball Fencing

Correspondence from Potton United Youth Football Club with regards to funding for High Ball fencing was noted.

A query was raised by the cllr who is also a trustee of Potton Consolidated Charity as to whether the football club had approached the land owner (PCC) about gaining permission to install the high ball fencing.

The town council were advised that PCC were not happy about not being consulted about the cutting down of the trees (Leylandii hedge) at Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

It was **resolved (i)** to write to Potton Youth United Football Club advising that they need to contact the PCC to ask for permission to install High Ball fencing and that at the same time they ask if the PCC would fund the cost. **(ii)** once the football club has obtained a decision from the PCC, the football club can then apply for funding from the town council towards the High Ball fencing. **(iii)** that the town council contacts PCC about gaining permission

to remove the remainder of the leylandii from Mill Lane Recreation Ground.

23 Horse Brook - Headwall

It was noted that the sheet piling on the Horse Brook sluice headwall is rusted with multiple holes and gaps between the sheets resulting in leakage and a quotation has been obtained to replace the headwall from a contractor.

The pedestrian bridge, waterlogging of the Millennium Path and the raising of the footpath was mentioned.

It was **resolved** to instruct the contractor to replace the headwall at a cost of £17,550.00.

24 Items for the next agenda

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

No items were suggested.

25 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council had been arranged for Tuesday 1st November 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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.