

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on
Monday 19th December 2022, 7.05pm held in the Community Centre, Potton.

Present: Councillors Mr J. Day, Mrs V. Gwilliam, Mr J. Hobbs (Chairman), Mr A. Inkersole, Mrs C. Leggatt, Mr D. Norman and Mr A. Zerny.

Absent: Councillors Dr C. Craig, Mrs L. Fox, Mr A. Gibb, Ms L. Kitchener, Mr J. Lean, Mr A. Macdonald and Mr J. Price Williams.

Also Present: Town Clerk.

1 Election of Chairman

Due to the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman an Election of the Chairman of the meeting until the Chairman is in attendance took place.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Leggatt is elected as Chairman of the meeting until the Chairman of the town council is in attendance.

2 Apologies for absence

Councillors Dr C. Craig, Mrs L. Fox, Mr A. Gibb, Ms L. Kitchener, Mr J. Lean, Mr A. Macdonald and Mr J. Price Williams.

3 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.

4 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 questions.

5 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

No reports from Cllrs Wye and Zerny.

6 Budget

Members noted the report from the Responsible Financial Officer with regards to the budget.

Cllr Zerny arrived.

Members noted the General Reserve and Ear Marked Reserves.

Members proceeded to go through the draft budget, which included the budget notes for each code.

A member asked a question about energy costs and the Responsible Financial Officer advised that energy budget have been increased by 100 percent.

Cllr Hobbs (Chairman of Potton Town Council) arrived.

The Town Clerk apologised for the meeting starting at 7pm rather than the time agreed with the Chairman of the town council of 7.30pm.

Cllr Hobbs chaired the remainder of the meeting.

It was **resolved** to set the town council budget for 2023/2024 with £409,399 income, £409,399 expenditure and to meet this to increase the precept by 0.3% to £368,620 and the Band D council tax remains the same as last year at £159.30.

7 Charges

Members considered the report with regards to charges for Allotments, Cemetery, Football, Room Hire and Seasonal Market.

Allotments

It was **resolved** that the charges for next allotment year are £50 per year for a half plot, £60 a year for a full plot and £20 a year late admin charge.

Cemetery

At the October 2022 Management Committee meeting it was resolved to recommend (i) that the Standard fee is quadruple the current charge and this applies to non-resident's. (ii) a resident of Pottton at time of death receives a 25% discount. (iii) a resident of Pottton for the last ten years before death receives a 75% discount. (iv) a non-resident who has previously lived in Pottton for thirty years or more receives a 75% discount. (v) the onus is on the executor/or personal representative to prove that the person to be buried meets a requirement for a discount. (vi) review the charges for headstones and what is allowed on a burial plot.

It was **resolved (i)** that the charges from April 2023 are set as per the recommendation from the October 2022 Management Committee for Cemetery and are increased by 10percent. **(ii)** that the Management Committee consider what is allowed (permitted) on a burial plot.

Football

A member mentioned about rubbish including strapping tape used for football socks being left after football matches and charging them for cleansing. A member mentioned that unless the Recreation Ground is checked before the football starts it is impossible to prove that it is the football club that has left all the rubbish.

It was **resolved (i)** that the football club(s) is/are reminded to carry out litter picking after a football match(es). **(ii)** that the charges for the 2023/2024 football season are £7 a match for Mini/Junior, £10 a match for Youth and £80 a year for Adult.

Room Hire

Members discussed about increasing the hire charges due to the increase in energy charges.

Members noted that the town council allows various groups free of charge

use of the buildings.

It was **resolved** to defer a decision to allow the Management Committee to put forward a recommendation to the town council.

Seasonal Market

It was **resolved** to defer a decision to allow the Management Committee to put forward a recommendation to the town council.

8 Warm Spaces

It was noted that Cllr Gibb has requested this item.

It was mentioned that attendance at the warm spaces has been minimal.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Gibb puts forward recommendation(s) for the Warm Spaces for a future of the town council.

9 To note the date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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.