

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 7.10pm at the Community Centre

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

Absent: Councillor Dr C. Craig, Mr J. Day, Mrs L. Fox, and Mr A. Zerny.

Also present: Potton Hall for All Trustees Mrs K. Gutteridge and Mrs E. Smith and the Town Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Craig, Day, Fox, and Zerny.

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

Mrs Gutteridge and Mrs Smith advised that they were attending to answer any questions the town council had regarding the Potton Hall for All.

4. Potton Hall for All

Members were asked to consider the recommendations from the minutes of the Potton Hall for All (PHfA) Steering Group meeting on 10th October 2023, which were attached.

Members noted that the town council now has approval from the DLUHC to take out a loan. Members were asked to consider a decision to borrow; to allow for the contract to be signed with the contractor, the town council needs to confirm a decision to borrow at this stage.

Members noted that it is proposed that the town council approves that the maximum amount (£254,357) is permitted to be borrowed over the maximum term (15 years) permitted, and that the loan does not need to be taken at this stage, but the decision to borrow is required to allow for the project to proceed.

It was proposed that the town council approves the loan of £254,357 from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb).

A member mentioned that in the PHfA Steering Group meeting minutes the town council requested an updated business plan before committing to the funding.

It was confirmed that that an outline draft business plan has been received.

Mrs Smith explained how the income figures were calculated.

It was **resolved** that the town council approves the borrowing of £254,357 from the PWLB.

The Chairman then tasked the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer with keeping the amount to borrow as low as possible.

It was then proposed that the town council delegate the town council members on the Potton Hall for All Steering Group to sign the contract with Watson and Cox once terms are agreed.

It was **resolved** that the town council delegate the town council members on the Potton Hall for All Steering Group to sign the contract with Watson and Cox once terms are agreed.

It was noted that all communications between the Town Council, Hall for All Trustees and Watson and Cox will be via the Employer's Agent (Jeremy Howson, Peter Bushnell Associates).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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.