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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FULL COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April 2024 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chair), Cllrs S Ghosh, A Guney, J Hogg, P Jones, J Kavanagh, A Khan, A Love, J O’Brien, L Prior and T van de Bilt

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

 Dist. Cllr Alan Dean

 Hollie Ryder – Stortford Independent

**507 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barnes – family commitment, Cllr Braeckman – away at university and Cllr Sell – attending a meeting at UDC.

 **RESOLVED** To approve the apologies for absence from Cllrs Barnes, Braeckman

 and Sell.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

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**508 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**509 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2024**

**RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2024 were approved as a true and accurate account.

**510 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

461 Minutes of joint meeting to be circulated to members – done.

463 Ask Cty Cllr Gooding what has been done so far re verges on Walson Way – done.

466 Cllr Barnes and Cllr Hogg to draft document – done.

**511 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR MAUREEN CATON**

Attached

**512 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

No written reports available. Cllr Dean reported that there is a meeting tonight at UDC to discuss the Local Plan, but no written reports had been circulated in advance. Regarding the water leak on Grove Hill, he has heard from Thames Water that it is a soft water supply and therefore not their responsibility – they believe it is Essex Highways.

**513 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

No written report available but some items covered in the Chair’s report.

**514 FINANCE**

**a) TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS**

The list of payments was checked against the invoices by Cllr Hogg during the meeting. The list of payments was approved.

**c) TO RECEIVE THE SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO 31ST MARCH 2024**

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Tabled and received by members. The Clerk reported that the year-end accounts were looking promising with a small surplus being added to the Council’s general reserve and the annual payment of £25,000 back to the Foresthall Park Community Fund made in full.

**515 TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**1 UTT/24/0680/FUL – NORTH OF THE LARCHES, GROVE HILL**

S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/22/2400/DFO (details following outline application UTT/20/0882/OP, details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and garage) – alterations to improve performance, sustainability, better suit applicant’s requirements and reduce impact on the site and surrounding.

No comment other than to support the request by Place Services for ecological surveys to be undertaken.

**2 UTT/24/0713/LB – STANSTED HALL, CHURCH ROAD**

Conversion from a manager flat to two bedrooms with ensuite to be used as student accommodation and office space.

 No comment.

**3 UTT/24/0844/HHF – BRAESIDE, 13 ST JOHNS CRESCENT**

Single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory, garage conversion, rear extension to the garage and a link between the garage and the house.

 No comment.

**516 TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CONTRIBUTE TO A FIREWORKS EVENT IN NOVEMBER 2024**

The Chair explained that it was possible that an event could be organised this year at Forest Hall School organised in conjunction with the Economic Development Working Group and the Stansted Business Forum. If this does go ahead, it is likely to cost in the region of £10,000 with any profits from the event going to charity.

After brief discussion, members agreed in principle to make a financial contribution – possibly up to £4-5,000 from the Events Reserve, but it would come back to the Council for a final decision once more details are known.

**517 TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE FIRE SAFETY POLICY**

The document was adopted. It was agreed to keep a log of visual inspections of the fire extinguishers. It was further agreed to come up with guidance for group using the building when no staff are present.

**518 TO CONSIDER RESPONDING ON A CONSULTATION REGARDING MORE NIGHT FLIGHTS OUT OF STANSTED AIRPORT**

Information relating to the consultation had been circulated with the agenda, as had a press release from Stansted Airport Watch. Cllr van de Bilt, a member of the Airport working group, reported that he has discussed this with some local residents. It should be remembered that the airport benefits a number of parishioners.

 That said, he was in favour of supporting the Department for Transport’s (DfT’s) preferred choice – Option 3 – for the government’s existing controls to remain. Cllr van de Bilt considered that with no public transport available 24/7, any extension of the hours for night flights could encourage more use of cars and, potentially, more fly-parking in the village. He also noted that the reports of health studies related to

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this topic are still awaited in 2025. Cllr Jones commented that noise must be considered across the various time periods – you cannot use an average. Increased noise at the shoulder periods does disrupt sleep, no matter what the airport might claim.

 After discussion, it was agreed that the Council support the DfT’s Option 3.

 It was further agreed that the Airport Working Group would benefit from increased membership by parishioners with a genuine interest in, or knowledge of, airport-related issues. Cllr van de Bilt agreed to draft some wording to publicise this fact which could then be posted on social media, the Council’s website and perhaps also The Link magazine.

**519 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL’S POSITION RELATING TO LAND AT ELMS FARM, CHURCH ROAD**

Background papers had been circulated with the agenda and Cllr Jones spoke about the discussions that have taken place to date with the landowners and their representatives. He also gave his views on why Uttlesford District Council has raised this issue with the Parish Council now and why they want such an urgent response.

 The planning working group believes that the Council does not yet have sufficient information and was seeking the Council’s approval to task two members with holding further discussions – Cllrs Jones and Hogg, supported by the Chair. The key to any consent being granted on this site would be its removal from the Metropolitan Green Belt, but this could not be achieved unless there are “Exceptional Benefits”. It was generally agreed that there should be more available in terms of community gains, for example a funded community centre.

 It was also generally agreed that the site was sustainable for Almshouses and the risk of losing that money to another community is very high.

 Having been proposed by Cllr Khan and seconded by Cllr O’Brien, it was unanimously agreed that Cllrs Jones and Hogg, supported by the Chair and the Clerk, should enter into further discussions with the landowners/their representatives, and to report back to the Full Council at the earliest opportunity.

 In the meantime, the Clerk will update UDC on the position and inform them that the Council’s position will not be known for a few weeks. She will also enquire as to whether UDC would consider spreading the total housing allocation for Stansted across 3 sites rather than 2.

**520 PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY AND 20TH MARCH 2024**

The minutes of both meetings were received.

**521 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were received.

**522 TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE AMENDED TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

There are words missing on the second page under “Tree Inspections” – replace the text in red with “who is suitably qualified and insured”. There being no further

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 amendments and, having been proposed by Cllr O’Brien and seconded by Cllr Jones, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Tree Management Policy document.

**523 WINDMILL SUB-COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were received.

**524 F&GP COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were received.

**525 TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION BY THE F&GP COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE AMENDED INVESTMENT POLICY**

Cllr O’Brien highlighted key changes to this document to bring it up to date. Having then been proposed by Cllr O’Brien and seconded by Cllr Jones, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** to adopt the amended Investment Policy document.

Meeting closed at 8.39pm

**ACTION POINTS**

**517** Office to prepare record of visual inspections of fire extinguishers and to prepare guidance sheet for people using the building when no Council employees are on site.

**518** Submit comments to the Department for Transport.

**519** Contact UDC re any wider dispersal of the residential site allocations for Stansted.