

Minutes of **ARLESEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on **Tuesday 3 April 2012** at the Village Hall, High Street, Arlesey.

PRESENT:

Cllrs: N Daniels (Chairman)	Mrs J Rencontre
G Bains	Ms J Squizzoni
Ms L Clapham	A White
D Page	D West
M Rainbow	

Also present: Mrs E Hare (Town Clerk), Mrs L Rowe (Assistant Clerk), Unitary Councillor Ian Dalgarno and four members of the public.

265 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs H Frost, Cllr C Howitt and Cllr Ms L Warwick.

266 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 19 (a) Correspondence received from Arlesey Churches Together requesting the hire charges for their Harvest Lunch be waived – Cllr N Daniels declared a personal interest as the correspondence was from a relative. Cllr N Daniels took no part in the voting on the matter.

Item 12 Red Bear Children's Centre – Cllr Gursh Bains declared a personal interest as he is a volunteer for the Red Bear Children's Centre

Item 13 Arlesey Community Safety Group – Cllr Ms L Clapham declared a personal interest as she is the Town Council Representative of the group.

Item 14 Casual Vacancy – Cllr D Page, Cllr Ms J Squizzoni and Cllr D West declared a personal interest as they know of the candidate

There were no other declarations of personal interests received.

There were no declarations of prejudicial interests received.

267 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Correspondence from the Citizens Advice Bureau

The Chairman read out to the meeting a letter from the Citizens Advice Bureau, which thanked the Town Council for the donation of £100 towards their 'Outreach Service'.

(b) CBC News Release – Council sets out how it will deliver local priorities

Copies of the news release have been placed in councillor's individual trays.

(c) London-Luton Airport Proposed Expansion

A copy of the presentation that was given at a meeting held on 22 March 2012, which Cllr C Howitt attended, has been placed in councillors personal trays.

268 COUNTRYSIDE SITES, PUBLIC PATH NETWORK AND DEFINITIVE MAP

The Chairman welcomed David Leverington the Rights of Way Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council who came along to speak to the meeting on managing and maintaining our Countryside Sites, Public Path network and Definitive Map. He apologised that Clive Beckett was unable to attend the meeting.

David Leverington said that he came along in response to the Town Council's interest shown in being more involved in assisting with the maintenance of the path network, improvement in accessibility where possible, working with officers on local Improvement Schemes and co-ordinating responses to planning applications that affect local paths.

He informed Members that CBC within their main vegetation clearance they cut 4km of the Arlesey network. This is done twice a year and the Town Council could have more control on the timing of the cuts. ACORN and the P3 Group carry out the work on separate paths. Local farmers and landowners could be encouraged to review their path structures to improve accessibility. The Town Council could assist on the local Improvement Schemes by completing missing links. RoW Officers could help with the planning applications that affect local paths.

Cllr Ms Jane Squizzoni, Cllr Andy White and Cllr Ms Linda Clapham said they would be willing to help with a way forward to walk all the footpaths. David Leverington said he would send an up to date Definitive Map to the Town Council.

The Chairman thanked David Leverington for attending the meeting.

269 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

270 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received a copy of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6 March 2012.

The Chairman proposed amendments to minute number 250 and read the full minute to the meeting.

It was RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6 March 2012 with the amendments to minute 250 proposed by the Chairman be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

271 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

272 BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

(a) Report from our local PCSO

The Chairman reported that PCSO Laura Wilson had sent in her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting as she was on a training course. Instead, she sent in the monthly crime report for March 2012. Copies have been placed in councillors personal trays

It was AGREED to note the information in the report

(b) Bedfordshire Police Authority – March 2012

Prior to the meeting Members had received a copy of the March edition of Making Contact from the Bedfordshire Police Authority.

It was AGREED to note this information

273 REPORTS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Unitary Councillor Ian Dalgarno reported:

- § There is to be a review of the Let's Talk Central Scheme to find new ways of engaging with the community
- § The Town and Parish Conference is on 1 May 2012 at 5.30pm
- § Under the Home Office Alcohol Strategy the Local Health Authority will have more power to make decisions
- § The Local Leisure Forum is on 11 April 2012
- § Of other consultations taking place there is the Property Accreditation Scheme
- § CBC aim to improve services for Adult Social Care
- § Capital Budget has been approved for 2016 to spend £5m on relocating Gothic Mede School to a new site
- § CBC has approved a budget for the old Roecroft School to become a Pupil Referral Unit

Cllr Dalgarno gave details of Highways proposals for a holistic scheme to carry out road resurfacing and footpath repairs and this will include street lights. He said he would like the Town Council's views whereby all the work from the 5 way junction to Ramerick Gardens could be undertaken in July/August 2013.

The Chairman asked Members for their views and the go ahead for the highway work to be undertaken in July/August 2013.

274 SCHOOL/NURSERY GOVERNOR REPORTS

Cllr Mark Rainbow as Town Council Governor representative gave details to the meeting of the Headteacher's report on Gothic Mede School

275 FINANCE

(a) Budget Detailed Income and Expenditure – February 2012

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of the detailed Income and Expenditure for

February 2012.

It was RESOLVED

that the detailed report of Income and Expenditure for Month 11 – February 2012 be accepted

(b) Petty Cash for February 2012

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of the petty cash details for the Resource Centre and the Town Council for month 11 – February 2012

It was RESOLVED

to approve the petty cash for the Resource Centre and the Town Council for month 11 – February 2012

Cllr Mrs H Frost took no part in the voting on the following item

(c) Application for Financial Assistance 2011/2012

Members were asked to approve the Financial Assistance grant of £180 to the 1st Arlesey Guides as recommended by the General Purpose & Finance Committee at the meeting held on 20 March 2012 – (minute number 86)

It was RESOLVED

to donate £180 to the 1st Arlesey Guides

Granted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s 137

(d) Hardware Maintenance Contract

Members were asked to approve the new hardware maintenance contract for £480.00 per annum from 1 May 2012 as recommended by the General Purpose & Finance Committee at the meeting held on 20 March 2012 – (minute number 87)

It was RESOLVED

to approve the new hardware maintenance contract for £480.00 from 1 May 2012

276 RED BEAR CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of the correspondence from Jess Milne, Cluster Manager of the Red Bear Children's Centre in Stotfold. This informed Council of the changes made through the recent Children's Centre in Central Bedfordshire Consultation by CBC; the aim "to work smarter and save money". As a result of the consultation Red Bear Children's Centre managed by St Mary's Church of England School is extending the reach area to include Arlesey as well.

It was AGREED to note this report

277 ARLESEY COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

The Chairman reported that the Arlesey Community Safety Group was formed in

September 2001. Recent events have proved that the Safety Group meetings have not been held for the intended purpose. One councillor who was the Town Council Representative on the group was invited to leave a meeting because of the attitude towards her by the chair of the meeting. Therefore, she was unable to give a report to the Town Council meeting. A Member reported the meetings were once an informal affair but are now similar to an ARA meeting and the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator felt it was not easy to put forward safety issues.

Cllr Dalgarno interjected to say that the Safety Group was wound up in 2006 and reformed in 2008. The new constitution was formed from the Houghton Conquest Safety Group. He showed a copy of the constitution if the Town Council would like a copy they can apply to Mr Harper.

Cllr Mrs Rencontre commented that the bad feelings and furtive meetings must stop. Councillors should not feel they are obliged to leave the Community Safety Group meetings.

It was RESOLVED

to arrange a meeting with a Community Safety Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council

278 CASUAL VACANCIES

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of an application to become a town councillor that had been sent in for consideration. The Chairman reminded Members that due to the resignation of Cllr Ms T Osborne, there were still three vacancies for co-option on to the Town Council. If Members felt that an applicant was not suitable they did not have to co-opt them.

It was RESOLVED

Mick Holloway is a suitable candidate as a town councillor

279 YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chairman read out to Members a report on Arlesey Youth Council from Nicola King the Youth Participation Officer for Aragon Housing Association.

It was AGREED to note this report

280 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – MASTERPLAN

The Chairman gave the latest update to Members on the Masterplan. The Town Council will be invited to an inception stakeholder group meeting on 2 May. The Chairman said he will be meeting with the Urban Designers and planning officer before the 2 May to receive an update on the work the Consortium's Project Team has been undertaking over the past 6-9 months to inform a future scheme.

Potential dates have been arranged in the spring and late autumn for public consultations.

It was AGREED to note the latest Arlesey Masterplan update

281 DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of the report from the Diamond Jubilee meeting held on Monday 26 March 2012

meeting held on Monday 20 March 2012.

Cllr Mrs J Rencontre added that it was agreed at the meeting the slogan on the back of the coin is "Celebrating Arlesey Life". She had a good sponsor for the village entrances who will draw up a design and donate all the building materials.

The Clerk gave a report on behalf of Cllr Howitt. A children's entertainer and face painting artist had been booked for the children's party being held on 3 June 2012. The cost to cover this will come from funds generated by the ticket sales. The Art Group are presenting three prizes of £10 each for three different categories in the painting competition and have made a request to the Town Council for a donation for half the cost of the prizes.

It was RESOLVED

that the Town Council give a donation of £15 towards the Art Group's painting competition

**It was AGREED to note the Diamond Jubilee Committee's report
282 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

Prior to the meeting Members had received a copy of a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The Chairman read out details of the request for expenses claimed by councillors and staff, petty cash accounts and any payments made to the Town Clerk's husband for services to the Council for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Chairman said this was a similar request made by the ARA which the Town Council had responded to as a vexatious request. The Chairman said the councillors listed in the FOI request over the four year period was incomplete and most certainly the Town Clerk's husband has never been commissioned to carry out work for the Council. It was proposed that this request by its very nature came from the same source as the previous one.

It was RESOLVED

- 1. that there are no councillor expenses to disclose other than the current chairman. It was noted the previous chairman's expenses were not requested.**
- 2. the request for Mrs Hare's and Mrs Rowe's expenses for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 cannot be disclosed because of ongoing confidential matters**
- 3. the request for petty cash accounts for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 was considered vexatious because the requester was discrediting the Town Council without good reason on a certain forum**
- 4. there were no details to disclose of payments made to the Clerk's husband as he had never undertaken any work of any kind for the Town Council**

The Chairman added that the ARA had made an FOI request for the full audit report, although this had been answered in an earlier request it appears now to be clarified as the external auditor's report and not the internal audit done in 2011.

It was RESOLVED

- 1. to send the full external auditor's report and publish this report on the website**

The Clerk added that the accounts to 31 March 2011 have been published on the website

Cllr N Daniels took no part in the voting on part (a) of the following item

283 CORRESPONDENCE – ARLESEY CHURCHES TOGETHER & OLYMPIC FLAME

(a) The Chairman read out the correspondence received from Arlesey Churches Together asking the Council to waive the hiring fees for their joint Harvest Lunch being held on 16 September 2012

It was RESOLVED

to waive the Village Hall hire fee for Arlesey Churches Together Harvest Lunch on 16 September 2012

(b) The Chairman read out the correspondence received from a resident who has booked the village hall on Sunday 8 July 2012 and has suggested the possible use at the same time of the MUGA and recreation ground. This event will be to mark the Olympic Flame passing close to Arlesey. A request was made to Council that as a way of donating to the event the Town Council waives the hire fees for these venues.

It was RESOLVED

to waive the Village Hall hire fee on 8 July 2012 including the use of the MUGA facilities if they are also used

284 CORRESPONDENCE – SKATE PARK

The Chairman read out to Members correspondence received from Make a Difference requesting permission to use the Skate Park for an event on 12 April 2012

It was RESOLVED

to grant permission to Make a Difference for the use of the Skate Park for their event on 12 April 2012

285 CORRESPONDENCE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

(a) Prior to the meeting members had received a copy of the correspondence received from a resident in respect of the Annual Town Meeting.

Members had a lengthy discussion on all the issues raised in the letter about the Annual Town Meeting. It was felt most of the contents was part of a fault finding mission and a follow on from other internet activity by the same resident. Members felt that rather than be negative towards the Town Council the resident should look at working with the Council in a more positive attitude and to offer that suggestion to the resident. The Chairman concluded that the Town Council is now more open and democratic than ever before. Members agreed with that statement and also that there was no need to dissolve the Council.

It was RESOLVED

Members unanimously agreed to continue and not dissolve the Council as suggested in the resident's letter and to respond to the points raised by the resident and suggest

that he offers more positive support to the Council.

(b) The Chairman gave a report on the comments made by a resident at the Annual Town Meeting to dissolve the Council under a Community Governance Review. The Chairman said the cost of an election to the rate payer would be around £5,500 and then again in two years time there would be another election.

A Member asked why does this resident continually attack the Town Council and what was his angst.

Cllr Dalgarno commented that all councillors were here legally.

It was AGREED to note the Chairman's report

286 REPLACEMENT BUS SHELTER – HIGH STREET

Prior to the meeting Members had received a copy of the correspondence received from the Transport Officer at BRCC informing the Town Council that a maximum grant of £1,500 had been awarded towards the new bus shelter project subject to the conditions as set out in the application pack. The Chairman said one of the conditions was that the Town Council must supply a second quotation from a manufacturer such as Queensbury or Bus shelters Ltd. The Town Council must also match fund the project

It was RESOLVED

to accept the conditions as set out and the Clerk obtain a quotation before proceeding with the project

287 ARLESEY STATION BUS TRIAL

The Chairman said Members should have received by email a copy of the correspondence on the Arlesey Station bus trial. The trial was the result of pressure by BABUS to reinstate the bus service into the station forecourt.

It was RESOLVED

to write to BABUS that the Town Council would support such a scheme and to ask Paul Dodge of Highways to keep the Town Council up to date on the scheme

288 HIGHWAYS – STOTFOLD ROAD

The Chairman read out the correspondence received from Bedfordshire Highways concerning a Traffic Regulation Order being processed to extend the yellow lines in Stotfold Road. The Chairman added this work is being done due to constant pressure from the Town Council, Ward Councillors, and other groups.

Members were pleased that Highways had taken on board the constant complaints sent in to them especially from residents in the area.

It was AGREED to note there was a legal order in process for extended yellow lines in Stotfold Road

289 TOWN PLAN

The Chairman reported that the Town Plan was 7/8 years old and there was a need to refresh the plan and bring it up to date with the town's requirements

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It was RESOLVED

to contact the officer at BRCC to discuss refreshing the Town Plan

290 HIGHWAYS

The Chairman read out to the meeting the correspondence received from Bedfordshire Highways to inform the Town Council they would be remarking the faded yellow lines on House Lane.

It was AGREED to note this information

291 CORRESPONDENCE – ANGLIAN WATER

Prior to the meeting Members had received a copy of the correspondence from Anglian Water concerning the drought situation and imminent hosepipe ban. Anglian Water is currently applying for a drought permit, which will allow them to take measures to secure their supplies. The Chairman urged Members to respond to Anglian Water's consultation for the drought permit which can be found on the Defra website.

It was AGREED to note this information and members would respond

292 RESOURCE CENTRE

Prior to the meeting Members received a copy of an April news item from the Resource Centre Manager. The Chairman reported that the cupcake sale on 13 March 2012 as well supported by the local community and raised an impressive £228 in aid of Brain Tumour UK. The Manager had been chosen to judge a BBC 500-word short story competition for children. The Red Bear Children's Centre will continue to have Rhyme Time sessions in the Resource Centre.

It was AGREED to note this information

293 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES REVIEW (Eastern) – SECONDARY CONSULTATION

The Chairman reported that all Members should have received a copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of the Boundary Commission for England by Cllr James Jamieson, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council. This was in response to the Secondary Consultation of the Parliamentary Constituencies Review (Eastern). The Town Council has previously agreed with Central Bedfordshire Council's alternative proposal.

It was AGREED to note the contents of the letter to the Boundary Commission for England

294 RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT 2012/2013

Members had received a copy of the amendments to the Risk Assessment and Management 2012/2013 proposed by Cllr G Bains at the General Purpose & Finance Committee meeting held on 20 March 2012. Cllr Bains reported and went through the amendments he had made and suggested ideas to add to the risk mitigation strategy.

It was RESOLVED

to approve the amendments to the Risk Assessment and Management 2012/2013 as proposed by Cllr G Bains

295 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

Members received reports from the following Committees:

Environmental Committee – 20 March 2012

Property Committee – 20 March 2012

It was RESOLVED

that the minutes of the above committees are accepted and these would be approved and signed by the Chair of those committees at their next meeting

296 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

There were no reports

CHAIRMAN