

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

---

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
S Hayes	Mrs J Hyde
B Saunders	L Stoter

Also present: The Clerk

---

**5813. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Collier, Cooper and Mrs Lewin.

**5814. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of Members interests.

**5815. MATTERS RELATING TO THE MUGA**

There were no matters relating to the Multi Use Games Area.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**5816. To consider a quotation to carry out weed spraying around the town twice a year for the next financial year (see minute 5791)**

County Councillor Street has advised that we need to write to Basil Jackson, who is the new Assistant Director of Highways for Central Bedfordshire, and request the required sum of money to cover the weed spraying around the town to be provided by Mr Summerfield. They have a pot of money for this purpose and will endeavour to include our request. A letter has therefore been sent.

**5817. CPRE ‘Stop the Drop – Litter & Fly-tipping’ Parish Council Tool Kit (see minute 5792)**

The District Council have been asked to supply details of recent dates and locations where litter picks have been carried out within the town. They advise that the next scheduled litter pick for Stotfold on adopted highways is week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March and every four weeks following, Mondays and Fridays. The town centre is visited on a Monday and Friday every week, the underpass to Arlesey is covered weekly on a Friday. The sweeping is covered six weekly, on a Tuesday, last week was scheduled for Stotfold and every six weeks following. They advise that if the Town Council implemented enhancement of the current resource with a static litter picker, they would be happy to collect any bagged litter arising from any such activities.

**5818. To receive a report on the site meeting regarding the Hitchin Road shared cycle/footway and the Hitchin Road underpass (see minute 5797)**

The Section 106 agreement for the Land South of Stotfold does include the provision of a cycleway along Hitchin Road. The understanding is that the Hitchin Road Pedestrian and Cycle Link must be constructed and completed to the satisfaction of the Highway Authority before 100 residential units primarily served from Hitchin Road to be occupied. The developers must have entered into an agreement made pursuant to Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 with the County Council before

commencing the works. Checks are being made with the District Council as to whether this cycle route will run through the site, up Hitchin Road and towards the traffic lights. Jill Cross, Highways Area Steward, will be advised of the information accordingly. The Clerk will establish exactly what is to be provided – whether it will be the required 2m wide with a division line down the middle to separate cyclist from pedestrian.

**5819. To receive a report on the site meeting regarding the grass area at the bottom of Princes Street and Common Road (see minute 5799)**

A letter will be sent to residents in the area concerned to inform them of the ongoing problem and ask if they have any reasonable suggestions for a solution. Jill Cross, Highways Area Steward, has been requested to install the wooden bollards, at County Council expense, as a short term solution.

**5820. To consider and approve the Conditions of Hire document for the MUGA (see minute 5800)**

The approved Conditions of Hire document has now been circulated to all MUGA users.

**5821. To consider the request by King's Baptist Church to use The Green during the evening of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June as part of Festival Week for a youth focused songs of praise (see minute 5803)**

No response from King's Baptist Church has been received to date following our request for more details on times for the event. They are to be reminded to make sure the event is well advertised so that properties close to The Green are aware of the possible forthcoming event. They must also check that they have insurance in place, in particular to cover the use of staging. Councillor Mrs Bundock will put together some notes for a lettings policy for the use of Council's recreation grounds for consideration at the next meeting.

**5822. To consider the request by Ken Lynch, Project Coordinator for Bedfordshire Skating School Club, to use the skate park at the Riverside Playing Field to teach skateboarding to young people from 5 to 12 years old (see minute 5804)**

A meeting has not yet taken place between Mr Lynch and the Clerk to discuss his request in more detail. At the meeting Mr Lynch should be reminded that although he has had a CRB check, he needs to make sure he has a separate one done for this particular venue. He is also to be asked whether this is a 'turn up' event or will it be a 'closed club' type of event.

**5823. To consider the request by James Dean Leisure & Entertainments to use The Green for a fun fair visit during April and October 2009 (see minute 5805)**

James Dean Fair has advised that they have found it necessary to move their October visit to September. The office has checked that it doesn't clash with any other bookings and there is sufficient time between other fair/circus visits to allow The Green surface to recover. They will now be arriving on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September and will leave on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The Junior Football Club has been advised accordingly.

**5824. To consider replacing the street lighting column on the grass verge near 89/91 Hitchin Road which was recently knocked down by a vehicle (see minute 5807)**

P.C. Ryan has confirmed that County Highways received a Form 45 from the Police shortly after the incident, which provides them with all the required details to assist them in making a claim for damage to street furniture. Alex Carnegie Street Lighting Steward at County Highways has confirmed that he has received this information and will now make the claim on behalf of the Town Council and will carry out the necessary works to repair the damaged column.

**5825. General work to be carried out (see minute 5811)**

Mr Summerfield has carried out works to repair the damaged Stotfold picture sign boards from Norton Road and Arlesey Road. He has re-affixed both signs to their original posts.

**5826. Items for information purposes only (see minute 5812)**

A site meeting has taken place between Andrew Gwillam, Footpaths Officer, Councillor Mrs Cooper, Phil Pateman of the Football Club and the Clerk, to discuss the conifer trees sited along the Club boundary and which are overhanging the adjacent footpath and are considered too tall. It was pointed out by Mr Gwillam that the trees need to be reduced in height and cut back along their length. Three quotes are being sought for the work, and he will produce a report for this Committee to consider in due course. Discussions will need to take place regarding who funds the work, as the Football Club will need to contribute as they are the leaseholders for the land and the Club originally planted the trees.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**5827. The following items of correspondence are available from the Clerk**

- Playing Field – February edition
- Open Space – Spring 09

**5828. TO ADVISE ON LITTER HOTSPOTS AROUND THE TOWN**

Litter hotspots are areas that don't appear to have been covered by the District Council's litter picks, and where litter has been accumulating for some time.

**Resolved** that the following litter hotspots are reported:

District Council

- Footpath between the Pig & Whistle public house car park and High Street has lots of broken glass and leaf debris.
- The Arc Building on Mill Lane, owned by the District Council, is becoming an area where youngsters gather, and rubbish, cans and bottles are accumulating.

Aragon Housing

- A large amount of litter is building up on the Hallworth House site.

It was felt that we need to encourage the community of Stotfold to be aware of litter when they are walking around the town and to collect it and dispose of it at home, or to report it to the District Council.

**5829. TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO ANY LIGHTING ISSUES AROUND THE TOWN**

**Resolved** that the following be reported to County Highways:

- B21 (old number painted on column) – Brook Street/High Street junction has been off for some time, and has been reported before.
- The lamp on the wall of the alterations shop in Brook Street is not working.
- S4 Brook Street – lamp is glowing red/orange and may need changing.
- S14 outside the Bowls Club in Brook Street – working intermittently.

- Various lights on the A507 roundabout at Hitchin Road are out. There are about six columns with no numbers on the Land South of Stotfold side, and getting numbers from the other columns is very dangerous.

Concern was expressed that many lighting columns are not clearly numbered, or are not numbered at all, and it is therefore very difficult to make sure the Town Council and residents are reporting the correct lamp, especially when viewed at night. It was:

**Further resolved** that the new Central Bedfordshire Authority is asked to reinstate night time scouts of the whole of the town when the lighting contract is up for renewal.

### **5830. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT AS ADVISED BY MEMBERS**

**Resolved** that the following works be carried out:

#### **County Highways**

- The road surface in Queen Street near the Mill View entrance is sinking again.
- Potholes have formed in the whole of Kingsway, and in particular outside numbers 4 and 14.
- Remind that the pavement outside the property in Brook Street near the Hitchin Road junction which has had major building works is to be reinstated once building work is complete.
- The speed activated sign on Hitchin Road is not working.
- There is a footway hole in Regent Street adjacent to the shrub bed at the traffic lights.
- There is a footway hole on the NTL manhole at the gate to the Methodist Church off Hitchin Road.
- Chase David Alderman, Tree Officer, regarding the damage to the trees on the A507 roundabouts caused by rabbits.

#### **Mid Beds District Council**

- Garden waste has been dumped on the verge at the stub end of Baldock Road.

#### **Town Council**

- A length of fence is leaning into Oliver's Lane, over the grassed area at the Church Road end of the Lane. This is to be assessed, the resident is to be advised, and the matter is to be monitored to ensure it doesn't cause a health and safety risk to pedestrians and dogs using the Lane.
- Some of the small conifers recently planted on the footpath at the back of Mill View, running from Mill Lane to Baldock Road, are still growing. Mr Summerfield is to remove these conifers.
- Mr Summerfield is to repair the bus shelter outside the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. There appears to be some woodworm in some of the planks, this is to be monitored and added to this Committee's rolling plan for future works to replace or re-clad the shelter accordingly.

**5831. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

The Chairman advised that the Assistant Clerk has recently contacted the electricity supplier EON regarding the electricity bills for the Hitchin Road Rec Changing Rooms. It appears that they have not been using our meter readings and have also taken their own readings incorrectly. She has constantly pursued the matter and as a result has been able to get EON to refund £1,100 due to incorrect electricity bills. Thanks were given to the Assistant Clerk for her persistence.

She is also looking into the matter regarding an order for benches for the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground and rubbish bins for the Riverside Playing Field that were agreed in September of last year.

There being no further relevant business the meeting was declared closed at 8.07pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**