

# MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021, AT 7.30PM

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## Committee Members present:

Mrs A Clarey, B Collier A Cooper, Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, C Phelps, J Talbot

## Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner and Councillor B Saunders

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### **13/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

### **14/21 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

There were none. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

### **15/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

### **16/21 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Nothing to report.

### **16/21 ARLESEY ROAD – UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO SITE FROM REAR OF VAUGHAN ROAD**

Following a request to Grand Union Housing to block up the unauthorised access from their properties on Vaughan Road, behind the Pix Brook Academy and onto Arlesey Road, their response is:

*From GUHG point of view, we would not be blocking this access of for the following reasons;*

- 1. Past experience shows people will just pull the fence down and make the situation much worse i.e. going past the high voltage electrical sub-station immediately next to the 'access' or climbing over the garages*
- 2. Secondly we are a repairs service & don't have a budget for such works*
- 3. Again we are reluctant to restrict residents access to open spaces in this current lockdown environment while acknowledging this is not the 'right access'*
- 4. If the council wish to erect & maintain any such fence we would have no objection*

This matter was originally discussed under [minute 58/20](#).

The Clerk reminded members that the Public Rights of Way Officer has previously cautioned leaving the unauthorised access open as in time it could create a formal right of way. Our lease on the Arlesey Road site also requires always maintaining the

fence in good repair, and by leaving the access open, we are breaching the terms of our lease.

Members noted that this has been a well-used access for some years already, and it was accepted that trying to close up the access would still see people removing the fence to access the site, rather than taking a long walk around from Vaughan Road to access.

**RESOLVED** that as part of a larger request for a licence to alter terms of the lease to permit other project works to be carried out on the Arlesey Road site, that the matter of the informal access point at the Vaughan Road/Pix Brook Academy corner boundary is included. An explanation is to be given to Central Beds Council, as our landlords, as to why we wish to leave this access point open, citing existing long-term access via this point before the recreation area was created, our wish to see an additional pedestrian access point to the recreation area, and Grand Union Housing declining to block up the initial access point on their land in Vaughan Road.

#### **17/21 ALLOTMENTS POLICY DOCUMENTS REVIEW**

Current allotment template tenancy agreements and proposed policy documents were previously provided for members. There are no proposed amendments required for the tenancy agreements, however it is proposed that the FAQs document is replaced with an updated and more detailed Rules and Regulations document, and a new application form to register for the allotment waiting list is introduced. It is proposed that the two new documents apply to both the Norton Road Allotments and the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field owned (and Town Council managed) Common Road Allotments – note, aspects of the Rules and Regulations document have already been discussed by the Charity, and the new document now reflects their decisions.

Members discussed key points in the new Rules and Regulations documents, such as permitting keeping hens, rabbits and bees.

**RESOLVED** that the amended Rules and Regulations documents, which reflects a decision not to permit keeping livestock or bees on plots at Norton Road and Common Road Allotments, updated Tenancy Agreements for both sites to reflect the same, and the new Allotments Waiting List Application Form are adopted. The Rules and Regulations, Allotments Waiting List Application Form, and sample Tenancy Agreement will be added to our website, and updated Rules and Regulations sent to current tenants on both sites.

#### **18/21 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members reviewed this committee's Terms of Reference and proposed amendments by the Clerk to update and clarify certain points within.

**RECOMMENDED** that the updated committee Terms of Reference for the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee, forming part of the council's Standing Orders, are adopted.

#### **19/21 PUBLIC REALM WORKS**

Members were reminded that if they have any matters that are to be reported to other parties or are repair/general maintenance work for the council, these should not be held until the next committee meeting, but should either be reported by the member to the office (in the case of town council related matters), or through the Fix My Street

app/webpage which forwards reports of highway faults or street lighting faults to Central Beds Council.

Reporting repair/general maintenance to other parties

- Regent Street – there is a large pothole opposite Vegas fish and chip shop, and debris from the hole is being thrown onto the pavement
- The dog waste bin by the entrance to the Arlesey Road recreation ground car park is still missing, and its replacement will be chased

**20/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

The seat at the end of the footpath by the Library has now been fixed using recycled plastic slats. Thanks were given to the Handyman Contractor for a very good job.

The previously missing Rook Tree Lane street sign by the junction of Rook Tree Lane and The Green, has been re-fixed in the same position.

The Clerk advised that the list of items for the request for a licence to alter the lease on the Arlesey Road site now includes the football club requested fencing, new kissing gate by the vehicle entrance, the pedestrian entrance in Vaughan Road/Pix Brook Academy corner, provision of a MUGA, play equipment and outdoor gym equipment as per current project, and also provision for some sort of semi-hard surface for the overflow car park area.

Central Beds Council Highways will be chased for an update on planting proposals for Norton Road roundabout, previously provided approximately 18 months ago.

The Clerk provided an update on the transfer of public open space on Land South of Stotfold/Greenacres development. The developers Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon homes have a list of works required to be completed prior to transfer, and a final proposed commuted sum is being discussed.

Thanks were given to Central Beds Council Highways for the team who carried out recent footpath works around The Green. An excellent job was done, with an efficient and friendly workforce, willing to work around increased pedestrian traffic on school runs.

Plans have now been received from Highways showing the toucan crossing and ramp for Arlesey Road – a copy will be provided to members for information. A brief description of the work will be given on Facebook to inform members of the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.42pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**