

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2022, AT 7.19PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), S Buck, B Collier, A Cooper, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, G Russell, B Saunders, J Talbot

Also present:

Non-committee member – Councillor J Smith, Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

45/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs L Anderson.

46/22 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of members interests. There were no requests for dispensation. 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.

47/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

48/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising for Information

Minute 34/22 - a site meeting has been arranged for 1pm, Friday 22nd April, between Councillors Mrs L Anderson, Mrs M Cooper, Mrs J Hyde and the Assistant Clerk, at the land to the rear of Aspen Gardens, to discuss the condition of the site which is being offered for transfer to the Town Council.

Minute 36/22 - no response as yet regarding the siting of goal posts at The Green.

49/22 STREET TRADING CONSENT

Members considered making comment on a Street Trading Consent application received by Central Bedfordshire Council. Application to trade on the A507 layby, previously occupied by a trader known as Kings Grill – details provided to members. Deadline for comments 22nd April 2022.

RESOLVED that we have no objections to this Street Trading Consent application and would like to request that the trading times as noted on the application, are followed.

50/22 MILL WEEKEND – USE OF MILLENNIUM GREEN, THE GREEN & FOOTBRIDGE

Members considered a request from Stotfold Mill to use Millennium Green for parking for their forthcoming May Mill Weekend. Should visitor numbers require it, they may also wish to use The Green as overflow parking provision. They also ask if we have any objections to them using their temporary footbridge from Millennium Green to the event field.

RESOLVED that we have no objections to their request to use Millennium Green and The Green (if required), and to use their temporary footbridge for their forthcoming May Mill Weekend, subject to usual provisos re provision of a risk assessment and method statement for parking and use of the footbridge, that car parking is marshalled at all times and a copy of their public liability insurance being provided.

51/22 GATE ACCESS TO THE GREEN

Members considered a request from a visiting fair for keys to be loaned for the gate on The Green, for the period of their visit, together with a report from the Clerk on current keyholding arrangements, security and liabilities issues, etc.

RESOLVED that a key is loaned to visiting fairs, to be collected from the council office, subject to a deposit of £50 refundable on return of the key, which should be returned to the office on leaving The Green. Thanks are given to the two nearby residents who have been assisting the council over many years in providing access to The Green when requested.

52/22 DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS

Members considered locations for x2 dog waste bag dispensers, given to the council by Central Bedfordshire Council, as part of the dog fouling campaign currently underway by the town council and Central Bedfordshire Council.

RESOLVED that the dog waste bag dispensers are located at the following points:

- Oliver's Lane – in the middle – possibly attached to one of the town council lighting columns
- Hitchin Road Recreation Ground – close to (or attached to) the dog waste bin on the Hitchin Road boundary (which is shortly to be replaced as the bottom has become rotten)
- If a third dispenser is able to be obtained free of charge, this is to be sited in Greenacre Park, close to (or attached to) the dog waste bin

53/22 EXECUTIVE ACTION – USE OF SKIP

Members noted executive action taken by the Clerk in permitting a group of residents who organised a litter pick of various areas around the town, to deposit their collected and bagged litter in the cemetery skip. This follows permissions previously given to Teasel members who have collected litter in the past.

54/22 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS – ENTRANCE GATE

Members considered quotes to supply and install new entrance gate at Norton Road Allotments, at an increased height to improve site security – attached for members.

RESOLVED that the quote from Gilks Fencing to supply and install a palisade gate at Norton Road Allotments, at £1,933.63 plus vat, is accepted. Funds from Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs budget.

55/22 **NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS – PLOT AND PERIMETER CLEARANCE WORK**

Members considered a request from tenants for the council go pay one third costs of hire of a skip, currently sited on adjacent farm land (with farmer's permission), to be used to clear debris from their plots, and to consider holding a 'clearance day', with skip and volunteers to assist plot tenants to clear items from their plots and 'fly-tipping' around the perimeter. Report provided for members.

RESOLVED that with regret, we cannot meet the one third costs of hire of a skip for use by two tenants, as we could end up with requests from other tenants. However, we will be holding a 'clearance day', providing a skip and volunteers to assist plot tenants to clear items from their plots and 'fly-tipping' around the perimeter. Date to be arranged.

56/22 **PROJECT UPDATES**

The Clerk gave an update on the following two projects:

- i) Arlesey Road MUGA, play & outdoor gym
Councillor Saunders and the Clerk met with David Gilder from the Assets team, newly assigned to this project, on site. Central Bedfordshire Council is managing this project on our behalf, with their Section 106 and Play Officers, plus Assets team assisting. He has assigned a new building surveyor, Stuart Bailey. We are still waiting for confirmation about planning, as we were advised that it is currently out for consultation, but it is not available on Central Bedfordshire Council's website. A noise assessment has been carried out on the proposed MUGA, and planning have advised that they see no planning reason why this could now not go ahead.
- ii) Riverside Playing Field MUGA & site rejuvenation
David also visited Riverside Playing Field, because part of the site is on land leased from Central Bedfordshire Council. David would like to renew the lease and look at licences for any new items placed on site. The Section 106 Officers are currently investigating funding for elements which may wish to site at Riverside Playing Field and have asked us to provide information on the items we may wish to include. This is so that they can identify the S106 allocation, i.e. Outdoor Sport, Children's Play, Outdoor Landscape, etc, and when a development triggers a S106 contribution, they can look to direct those to any item we may wish to site at Riverside Playing Field. In terms of option 2, we have not made any progress with the pre-planning application, and we are in discussions with Letchworth Roller Hockey Club (who submitted the proposal) about this. David expressed concern about traffic access a proposed building as part of option 2, particularly on the blind bend of Malthouse Lane at its junction with The Green, and also the proximity of newly built flats in Roker Park to such a building. Information has been put out on Facebook, our website and in the Stotfold News asking members of the public for their views on the options –

this is not a formal consultation, only to gauge the feel. To date, we have received around 200 responses, some of which have given further thoughts on extra items we might wish to consider.

We had already agreed to proceed with the basic refurbishment of the MUGA using the Community Asset Grant and S106 available. The spend by date has been further extended – the original spend by date was in August this year, and it would have been tight to get contractors approved, on site and works completed by then.

Another stage of MUGA refurbishment which we would want to see carried out is getting the existing floodlights working again. Our lighting contractor has advised that this is possible, and he is also considering fitting photovoltaics, timers, etc and looking at light splay – this may require installation of new floodlight heads. The S106 funds available for the MUGA will not cover repairs to the floodlights, as it can only be used for new items, therefore this committee will need to cover these costs.

To note, the builders for the Roker Park development have this week withdrawn from the site due to financial reasons, and settle are currently trying to get them back.

With regard to allocating future S106 funds towards play or outdoor sport items, a suggestion was made that where S106 funds from developments within Stotfold are being directed to outside the town, the same could be done to direct funds back into Stotfold. The Clerk will ask if this is possible.

With regard to the rest of Riverside Playing Field, and the ditch boundary with the Aspen Gardens open space, the Clerk will investigate whether the S106 for that development could cover provision of the bridges over the ditch, linking the two sites, or if the committee has to meet these costs.

57/22 HIGHWAYS REPORT

Councillor Russell, Highways Representative, did not have a report to present, however did note that the recent resurfacing works on High Street had been carried out to a good standard. The Clerk will arrange for our Highways Representative to meet the Highways Area Steward to discuss ongoing highways issues in Stotfold.

It was noted that resurfacing works of Hitchin Road from the Brook Street junction to the traffic lights is not in this year's work, but our Ward Members are pushing for it to be carried out in the 2023/2024 financial year.

58/22 PUBLIC REALM WORKS

Members were reminded that matters for Central Beds Council can be reported via <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> and if they have any matters that are to be reported to other parties or are general repair or maintenance work for the council, these should not be held until the next committee meeting but should be reported to the office.

Refer to Central Bedfordshire Council action for repair/general maintenance

- Malthouse Lane – from Ford Bridge to Wrayfields junction, where it has been resurfaced, the edge of the road is now breaking away and needs kerbing

Refer to other parties

- Previously reported – the Willow tree on the grass verge by AGB Narib at Fen End Industrial Estate needs cutting back as it overhangs the public footpath and obstructs pedestrians' safe access.

59/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

The Chairman advised that she and Councillor Cooper met this afternoon with David Brown, farmer of land adjacent to Norton Road Allotments. He has indicated that he may be relinquishing his land and discussed options for boundary work between the allotments and his land. Notes of this meeting will be presented to members at the next committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.33pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: