

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JULY 2023, AT 7.25PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), Mrs L Anderson, S Buck, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, B Saunders, J Smith.

Also present:

Ms C Jenkins – Acting Town Clerk

96/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor John Talbot

97/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of members interests or 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.

98/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

99/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendments to the previous minutes were as follows:

- 79/23 Jubilee Meadow once adopted – no associated play equipment.
- 87/23 Community Asset Grant – only 1 grant will be chosen per ward, funds to be spent in 12 months.

RESOLVED that following these amendments, the minutes of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee meeting held on 14th June 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

100/23 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

- Car Show on the Green – paperwork for this event has been submitted
- Bench for Pendleton Way, outside Larksfield Surgery, has been ordered
- Riverside MUGA – new surface installation has been completed, together with line markings for Tennis and Netball.
- Bridge at end of Campion Avenue to have metal handrails installed for safety.

101/23 ALLOTMENT FEES

Members were asked to consider the allotment fees for the year ahead, commencing 29th September 2024 – 28th September 2025.

RESOLVED that charges for this year are as follows:

Full Plot	£80.00
Half Plot	£40.00
Quarter Plot	£20.00

102/23 RIVERSIDE RECREATION GROUND – BRIDGE

Members discussed the possibility of erecting a bridge between the Riverside Recreation ground and Jubilee meadow. It was confirmed that there is no need for bollards or a height barrier on this bridge.

The costing of a bridge was discussed. Councillors agreed that this is only needed for access for machinery to maintain the area. It was discussed whether to create a culvert by digging out ditch and placing a seal pipe, placing hardstand and compacting earth over the top. Must be able to take weight of a tractor, around 10 tonnes.

Councillors agreed that construction must come with a guarantee, to cover any public liability and be constructed to British Standards.

Members discussed about options for the maintenance for Jubilee meadow. It was noted that work should adhere to the Management Plan in place for the area. It was agreed that the area would be cut and a hay crop taken once or twice a year. The area would be wild flower meadow with pathways strimmed by contractors.

It was discussed if the contractors could access Jubilee meadow from Blackthorn Place, rather than from the Riverside Recreation Ground. It was felt that permission would be needed to cross this area with machinery, as this land is not owned by the Town Council.

It was also noted that the main height barrier and the armco barrier in the Riverside Car Park were now too narrow for access for a tractor. It was felt possible to move the upright to the left of the entrance over to make a wider entrance, and fit an extension to the overhead barrier. It was also noted to look at the surface in this area.

RESOLVED: that David Johannsen will be contacted and together with Philip Westrop, be asked to quote to create a culvert.

To also arrange a meeting with Martin Davenport (countrywide) David Johannsen and councillors to discuss the management plan and work to be carried out.

103/23 GRASS CUTTING COMPLAINT

Members heard a complaint from a resident regarding the grass cutting in Coppice Mead and Hazel Grove. The resident claims that the verges are being totally missed and the Recreation Grounds are not being cut well either.

RESOLVED that a letter will be sent to the resident regarding their concerns.

104/23 REQUEST TO HAVE PICNIC BENCH MOVED FROM NEAR THE BOWLS CLUB

Members discussed the possible re-siting of the picnic bench on Riverside Recreation Ground, due to anti-social behaviour experienced by the Bowls Club.

Councillors stated this was the first time this had been raised. The bowls club had already asked for the tree to be trimmed, and have been told they can cut off any problem branches.

RESOLVED that the situation will be monitored.

105/23 RIVER IVEL DRAINAGE BOARD WORKS

Members noted the programme of works for 2023 – 2024.

106/23 REVIEW ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTION REPORTS

Members were asked to note the recent play equipment inspection reports. Items that were brought to main attention for the future were as follows:

- BMX track – post stand up to be removed
- Yellow gates to be replaced – contact CPM playgrounds
- Missing bolts – Town Rangers to replace.
- Zip Wire at Riverside – Needs new spring seat.
- Ropes and netting at The Green – tension to be checked.

RESOLVED that once the current repairs are completed by CPM playgrounds, Town Rangers will be asked to check to see if they are able to complete the majority of the repairs. Anything else, CPM playgrounds will be asked for quotations for the repairs.

107/23 TREE GUARDS

Councillors discussed quotes received for tree guards for the Jubilee memorial trees. Quote is £172.34+VAT, Town Rangers to fix the tree guards.

Councillors also asked for all jubilee trees to be watered and the Flowering tubs in the high street to be watered as part of the Countrywide contract.

RESOLVED: that 3x guards are purchased at £172.34 + VAT. Town rangers will be asked to install these.

Councillors also noted that the Jubilee tree planted in Prince Charles Avenue had died. It was noted that Ashridge Trees were selling these trees at £100.00 plus delivery. Price to be confirmed before any purchase.

108/23 ARLESEY ROAD TO PIX BROOK ACADEMY

Members were reminded of the problems along the entrance road to Pix Brook School, off of Arlesey Road. There have been complaints of litter and lack of grass cutting, gas cans and discarded bottles. It was noted that this was the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council, as the road has now been adopted and is also on CBC land. The Headteacher at Pix Brook School is aware of the problem, as are Central Bedfordshire Council. Stotfold Ward Members are also aware of the problems.

109/23 MILLENNIUM GREEN GATE

Members discussed a quote for £224.60 +VAT to supply and deliver a new 5 bar gate for Millennium Green.

RESOLVED that the quote of £224.60+VAT be accepted. TEASEL will be asked to install the gate.

A separate price for the kissing gate at Millennium Green will be sought for the next meeting.

110/23 SPEED INDICATION DEVICES

Members discussed the report on Speed indication devices and noted that vehicle speeding was a main issue from last year's residents survey. Members had been tasked at looking at options that could be provided for the town.

The Evolis Solar mobile pack, £2250.00 + VAT has the facility to autonomously charge its batteries, and being fully mobile, it can be moved around the town to target desired locations and maximise coverage. Data collected and analysis software could then provide evidence of the speeding vehicles on our roads, enforcing the necessity for "Speedwatch" or a Police enforcement campaign.

RESOLVED that 2 Evolis Solar mobile packs be purchased at a total cost of £4500+VAT. Priority locations to be targeted. Funds to be taken from Reserves.

111/23 CCTV FOR RIVERSIDE MUGA

Councillors received quotations of £8634.00 from Ace Security for 6 cameras. There was also a quote for around £6000.00 from Shebang, however this quote was not available for the councillors at the meeting.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to check that the Shebang quote was equivalent to the Ace Security quote. The quote will need to contain 6 cameras and 1 years full maintenance.

112/23 GREENACRE BRIDGE HANDRAILS

It was noted that a quote for £3072.00+VAT had been received to supply and install the handrails on the bridge leading to Greenacre Park from Campion Avenue.

Councillors also noted that to source the parts ourselves and ask the Town Rangers to install and fit would be around £1800.00inc VAT.

RESOLVED that the Town Rangers would be asked to install and fit the handrails. Town Rangers and the office would source parts for this.

113/23 TIMINGS FOR NETBALL POSTS AND NETS

The Chairman noted that the meeting was now running over its 2 hour limit and asked for this item to be rolled over to the September Agenda.

114/23 HIGHWAYS REPORT

Nothing new to report

115/23 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.

- Councillor Anderson noted that the hedge laying at Norton Road will now be deferred to September/October. Sadly it was noted that laying hedges was beyond the remit of the TEASEL group and a quote had been received for £100.00 per metre. A full quotation for this will be requested and brought to a future meeting.

- IDB have been in contact with Councillor Liz Anderson to look to moving the pond and creating a bund at Riverside Recreation ground. Plans are to be drawn up for pond and bund location. Councillor Anderson requested this discussion to be had at the same meeting scheduled to discuss the Jubilee Meadow maintenance.

116/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

- Councillors noted a letter received from a Common Road Allotment tenant who is sadly vacating his plot and moving away from the area. He wanted to thank the Charity and Town Council for their work, also many thanks to Annette Dabner for all her hard work in administering the plots.
- It was noted that Norton Road allotments now have a new compost bin which has been built and installed.
- A lady who tripped and fell over a protruding gate stump on the footpath at Rook Tree Lane expressed her thanks to the Town Rangers for removing the metal stump so quickly.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: