

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	B Collier
A Cooper	S Hayes
C Phelps	J Talbot

Also present: the Assistant Clerk, Ms Caroline Jenkins

11/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs A Clarey.

12/19 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 item to discuss, they should declare it at that point.

13/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

14/19 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION
Matters Arising

9/19 –Rook Tree Lane – potholes outside no. 7 – it was noted that this has been marked for repair.
Alexander Road – hole near to junction with Church Road – this has already been repaired.
Drains around Stotfold – drains are scheduled to be cleared by Central Beds once every 3 years, apart from priority areas. It was noted that drain can be cleared but damaged drains will continue to block.

15/19 PERMISSION FOR USE OF THE GREEN – JAMES DEAN FAIR

Members received a request to use The Green from James Dean Fair, Arrival on Sunday 28th April, open on Thursday 2nd May, Friday 3rd May and Saturday 4th May 2019. Leaving on Sunday 5th May 2019.

RESOLVED that permission is granted to James Dean Fair for use of The Green, with usual rates of payment and providing repair of any damage to the surface is carried out.

16/19 PERMISSION FOR USE OF THE GREEN – CAR BOOT SALE

Members received a request to use The Green from Friends of St Marys Church for a Car Boot sale on Saturday 13th July 2019, 12.00noon – 4pm.

RESOLVED that permission is granted to Friends of St Marys Church for use of The Green with usual rates of payment and providing repair of any damage to the surface is carried out.

17/19 BROOK STREET CAR PARK SIGNS - PRICES

Members considered prices for notices to be displayed in Brook street car park stating a 2 hour parking restriction, that area is a shoppers car park, and that there is to be no overnight parking.

Each sign will be £42.00 plus VAT, double sided sign will be £84.00. Price does not include fitting until quantities are confirmed.

RESOLVED that a total of 4 signs (2 single sided and 1 double sided) be erected on the posts in Brook Street Car Park. Total Cost £168.00 plus VAT and fitting.

Members agreed that this was a start in trying to keep the Car Park vacant for short term parking for shoppers only. It was hoped that the signage would go some way towards helping with the current problem of the car park being used as residents parking 24/7.

18/19 MAINTENANCE OF STADIUM FOOTBALL PITCH - ARLESEY ROAD

Members were asked to consider a quotation from our Grounds Maintenance contractor for maintenance of the Stadium Football pitch at Arlesey Road. Total £6870.00 + VAT. A breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Supply and apply Autumn and Winter Fertilizer	£850.00
Supply and overseed with grass seed (including hire of machinery)	£1650.00
Supply chemical and spray pitch for weed control	£400.00
Supply Spring and Summer Fertilizer	£800.00
Verti Drain Pitch (including hire of machinery)	£850.00
Chain Harrow pitch per application	£160.00
Roll pitch per application	£160.00
Aerate pitch per application	£400.00
Grass cutting of pitch 16 x cuts	£1600.00
Total: £6870.00 +VAT	

It was noted that the Grounds Maintenance contractor already cuts the pitch 16 times per year as part of his contract. To get the pitch surface to FA and Sport England standards to enable matches to be played in November 2019, he feels that an additional 16 cuts, plus the additional maintenance above is needed, making a total of 32 for the year.

Members expressed their disappointment in Central Bedfordshire Council that maintenance of the area had not been ongoing before the Town Council took on the leasing of the site. It is now at a cost to the Town Council to correct 4 years of neglect to bring the area to FA/Sport England standards.

RESOLVED that the quotation of £6870.00 + VAT be agreed.

19/19 GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT

RESOLVED that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Highways

From junction with Regent Street towards Rook Tree Lane – Footway in very poor condition, damaged when new houses were built adjacent to Coach and Horses.

Markings on footway including “Further Work” now are very faded and no works done.

Church Road – No Cycling sign down beside Church Hall on public footpath.

High Street – road has crack down the central white lining.

Corner of Brook Street and Hitchin Road – as well as hedge growing out onto pathway, pathway has now developed a puddle at the lowest point, encouraging people to walk onto the verge.

Pendleton Way – needs a litter pick! Central Beds Council to confirm how often a litter pick is carried out on their timetable.

Town Council office

Riverside – circuit of obstacles on BMX trail has slat missing.

20/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Councillors Mrs S Bundock and A Cooper attended the Highways Area Custodian Drop in session on 7th February at the new Sandy Depot, Beamish Close, Sandy. This is mainly for salt storage and maintaining the winter programme. They spoke to the Area Steward, Nick Carofalo and questioned the drains in Stotfold, Particularly the one outside the Co-op Store. This has never been in correct working order and whilst the new gulley clearing machine will clear the drain, a repair is needed to prevent constant blocking.

Stotfold Town Council will be holding the Big Tidy up on Saturday 18th May 2019. The Chairman would like to approach Etonbury School to see if the pupils would like to take part in the Big Tidy up or a separate event on a school day. A letter will be sent from the office to invite them to participate.

Streetlamps on Hitchin Road, going towards Fairfield have been reported to Central Beds Council as not working. These cannot be found on their portal. Numbers on the lamp posts will be obtained and will be reported by the office.

Streetlamps and bollards are not illuminated on Hitchin Road, Stotfold. This is a dangerous road junction. Numbers to report will be obtained and a letter will be sent from the office.

For next Agenda – to raise the subject of a pedestrian crossing on Grange Drive, between the High Street and junction of Mulberry Close. A new pedestrian controlled crossing has been recently installed at the junction of Hitchin Road and Dickens Boulevard in Fairfield, less than 10 metres from the roundabout.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED