

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE  
CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor S Dhaliwal, the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner, Marco Boi and Lee Homan of Playinnovation

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**29/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**30/19 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 interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

As the Playinnovation representatives had not yet arrived, it was agreed that the agenda would continue until their arrival.

**31/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

**32/19 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**Matters arising from previous meeting – updates in italics**

Minute 24/19 -

Members noted that in minute 19/19, point 1, (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) although Central Beds Highways advise that they are in the process of ‘rectifying’ the footway, this has not yet been done and is to be chased. *Central Bedfordshire Council contacted ref. 325302*

Minute 27/19 -

Central Beds Council – Highways

- Hazel Grove – it is not clear where this road starts after Coppice Mead – request a second ‘Coppice Mead’ road name sign with a right pointing arrow at the junction of Coppice Mead and Hazel Grove, and put down white lining to show the junction where Coppice Mead turns left, and the entrance to Hazel Grove starts (as a junction) *28/03/19 Nick Carofalo emailed*

### Central Beds Council - Public Rights of way

- The footpath signs reported at previous meetings are still down – at The Bury and to the side of St Mary's Academy – please chase *Already chased Chris Dorow for update 26/03/19*
- A request is made to provide a tarmac footpath from Chequers Close to link with the existing tarmac public right of way – this link is an existing public right of way but is grass through the Churchyard *28/03/19 emailed Chris Dorow to raise this issue*
- The public right of way footpaths within the Churchyard are in a poor condition *28/03/19 emailed Chris Dorow to raise this issue*

Note:

Nick Carofalo – Highways Area Steward

Chris Dorow – Public Rights of Way Officer

Councillor Mrs Hyde entered the meeting at this point.

### **33/19 ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL MINUTES**

Minutes of the Etonbury Green Wheel meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were previously circulated to Members.

Members considered a request from Green Wheel minute 6.8 to create a pond in the 'wet area' at the Riverside Playing Field to encourage wildlife. A letter from Val Balderstone who co-ordinates the annual 'toad lift' in Taylors Road was also circulated.

It was felt that creation of a 'wet area' at Riverside Playing Field could encourage wildlife and is something that should be explored. Liz Anderson, Ecologist at Central Beds Council is to be asked for advice on whether this would be possible and consider how we might ensure the area remains wet.

The two representatives from Playinnovation arrived, and their agenda item was moved to this point.

### **34/19 PRESENTATION FROM PLAYINNOVATION**

Playinnovation had been invited to give a presentation on different types of community use MUGA facilities, with a view to installing such a facility at the Arlesey Road site to meet our wider community use requirement.

Marco Boi gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation showing potential layout designs, materials, colours and surface designs and additional play/exercise equipment which could be incorporated into the overall design. Members discussed longevity of materials, maintenance and replacement requirements.

After a very informative presentation, Marco and his colleague were thanked for their attendance, and they left the meeting. Consideration of specification of the community MUGA facility we are looking to provide at the Arlesey Road site, using Section 106 money available, will be added to the next agenda.

### **35/19 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – HIGH STREET**

As referred from the April Council meeting, Members considered safety concerns expressed regarding the pedestrian crossings on the High Street and ways that safety of those crossing

could be improved (lead Councillor Talbot). Members discussed recent accident and near misses with pedestrians on both crossings – outside parade of shops and outside funeral directors. The highway code requires a person wishing to use a pedestrian crossing such as these to start to cross before a car is required to stop. However, this always presents a danger that vehicles will not stop. It was felt that both crossings should be changed to the type where you have to press a button to cross and wait for a light to turn red, stopping the traffic, in order to cross safely.

Our Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafola, will be asked to meet with committee Members to discuss our request.

### **36/19 FOOTPATH WITH ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

Following a request from this committee for Central Beds Council's Public Rights of Way team to make repairs to the existing rights of way paths running through the churchyard (footpath 9 and 22), they advise that the work is already scheduled (anticipated during the summer). The Public Rights of Way team were also asked to consider tarmacking the existing grassed public right of way from Chequers Close to the tarmacked path and advise that they have limited funds for this type of work and have requested a contribution from the Town Council. A breakdown of costs, anticipated for this meeting, was not available, and so this item was deferred until the next meeting.

### **37/19 PITCH INSPECTION – ARLESEY ROAD (STADIUM)**

A pitch inspection has been carried out on the stadium pitch by the Institute of Groundsmen working with Beds FA (copy of report was circulated to Members prior to the meeting). Details of works already carried out were provided, together with the specification of works to be carried out (as per quote approved from Rik Golder Ltd, Town Council Grass Cutting & Landscape Contractor). An assessment was made on the current condition of the pitch, which found that additional works to that already proposed should be provided. A second inspection will be carried out in August to assess progress.

Based on the pitch inspection findings, Members considered:

Supply and spreading of 120 tonnes of loam	£7,500 plus vat
Purchase of an irrigation system	£2,000 plus vat

Note – funds for these works does not come from this committee, but from General Reserves, however requires approval to spend.

It was agreed that in order for the pitch to be signed off at the end of the clubhouse build, these works must be undertaken.

**RESOLVED** that the required supply and spreading of loam on the stadium pitch, plus irrigation system is approved. Funds from General Reserves.

### **38/19 GENERAL WORK**

Councillor Mrs Bundock advised that she was currently updating her road survey and would report to committee once complete.

**RESOLVED** that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Highways

- The Avenue – work recently done at several houses where dirt and stones were piled on the road for several days. Work now done, but road and grass verge left with residue of dirt and stones
- Baldock Road – road hole at junction with Littlebury Close
- Queen Street – road hole outside The Barn
- Baldock Road – a sign “loose chippings” has been left, many months after work was finished, another is on the verge close to the old telephone box
- Rook Tree Lane – road hole at junction with The Green
- Norton Road – repair required on vehicle access to nos. 129 and 131, affecting pedestrian safety
- Hitchin Road – pothole level with Pix Road junction, in middle of road
- Hitchin Road - Blocked drain outside pumping station

Central Beds Council – Environmental

- Norton Road – rubbish on verge of roundabout, close to junction with Tansy Avenue

Town Council office

- Contact Grand Union Housing Association, and ask that where they have recently changed some of the front gardens of their properties into shingle/hardstanding, they should apply to Highways for a dropped kerb – e.g. in The Avenue

**40/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.48pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**