

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY 2019 AT 7.52PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor S Dhaliwal and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

41/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none, as all Committee Members were present.

42/19 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.

43/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

44/19 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk’s Report

Future agenda

The next meeting of this Committee will consider evidence regarding different speed reducing measures and their effectiveness (as per request at a previous meeting). This is with a view to discussing with Highways the best way to reduce speed and ensure the town-wide 20mph speed limit is adhered to.

MUGA – Riverside Playing Field

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been experiencing significant vandalism to our Riverside Playing Field MUGA. Internal fences have been pulled off posts and the boundary goal posts also pulled away from their fixings. The Clerk has reported the incidents to the Police.

Updates on work from Central Beds Councillor B Saunders

High Street – surface course material starting to deteriorate – putting forward to structural maintenance team to consider resurfacing

Hitchin Road/A507 roundabout – a company has been earmarked to carry out the work, but no fixed dates – chasing for further information

Play equipment – insurance claim

For information, a report has been made of a child who fell from a climbing unit at Pix Brook Play Area and broke their arm. The parent wishes to make a claim against the Council's insurance against the type of play surface used under the play item. The item concerned, including the play surface, has recently passed a ROSPA inspection with no issues identified.

Matters arising for information

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. Chased again 15/05/19- this was inspected by technician 24/04/19 who asked for work to be carried out in line with the maintenance plan, but no timescale given. Office will call back in around a week to check the response. 21/5/19 – chased – response is that it is now with the assets team to be included in their 5-year resurfacing programme. They were unable to say when in that programme this area would be done.*

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 Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafalo emailed- not replied. 16/05/19 Response from Nick Carafalo: *under advisement the second road sign request has been forwarded to Building Control "With regard to the request for junction road markings for where Coppice Mead turns left, and the entrance to Hazel Grove starts we would not approve installation of junction markings. The area teams maintain what is on the network not introduce new assets, these requests generally go through to the Transportation Team however it is very unlikely this request would have any support unless there were reported incidents recorded"*

Minute 27/19

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 – *Chased Chris Dorow for update 26/03/19- signs re-instated*

It was noted that in this last point, re-instatement of the sign does not appear to have been carried out by Central Beds Council, but by residents who have tied it to the nearest sign pole. This will be checked.

With regard to the request for a second 'Coppice Mead' road name sign, plus white lining, Members reiterated the need for clarity for delivery vehicles. The numerous occasions when delivery vehicles have to turn around in Hazel Grove because it is not clear where Coppice Mead turns at the junction with Hazel Grove, provides the evidence that this work is required. The office will repeat this request to Highways.

45/19 HIGHWAYS ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2019/2020

Our Highways Representative, Councillor Mrs Bundock has completed her annual inspection of the condition of roads and footways in Stotfold. A copy of her report was circulated to Members for information. This report will be submitted to Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafola, together with a request for him to meet with Councillor Mrs Bundock to discuss works identified. Councillor Mrs Bundock was thanked for her continued work on highways matters.

46/19 FOOTPATHS THROUGH CHURCHYARD

Following a request by this Committee for the surface overlay of the existing public right of way running through the Churchyard (STF19/20 & STF/9/30), and a new link from the public right of way from Chequers Close through to the second public right of way in the Churchyard (STF/22/10 – surface overlay already carried out), Chris Dorow (Public Rights of Way Officer) and Chris Nicol (Contracts Officer Assets, Highways & Transport) have provided a plan showing the proposed overlay and proposed new asphalt path, together with costings (currently being updated). Central Beds Council has limited funds for this type of work and would like to request a contribution from the Town Council, as neither route is considered to be urgent work. Unfortunately, the updated costs were not available for the meeting, and so this matter will be deferred until the next meeting. However, Members discussed the section of footpath proposed for overlay, and requested that clarification is given to Chris Nicol and Chris Dorow that we acknowledge that the existing section of footpath (STF/9/20) is not considered urgent, however the section of footpath running the driveway from Church Road between the Roecroft Centre and the Church Hall into the Churchyard (STF/9/10) is in very poor condition and has large potholes.

47/19 PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG – TOWN-WIDE CAMPAIGN

Members considered a proposal to start a ‘pick up after your dog’ campaign to try and tackle fouling of our footways and open spaces in the town. Ideas include organising a poster competition with local schools with the winning design being made into signs and affixed around the town, placing stickers/labels on Town Council owned litter bins which advise that dog waste may also be deposited in them, consider supplying dog waste bags to dog-walkers who request them, use a ‘clean it up’ stencil to mark problem hotspots on the footways – Highways Area Steward has indicated that for this purpose, it would be acceptable to spray the footways.

RESOLVED that a ‘pick up after your dog’ campaign is organised, to include a poster competition run by the Council with the assistance of local schools and Stotfold News – posters to be displayed around the town, stickers/labels to be fixed to Town Council owned litter bins which do not already advise that dog waste can be deposited in them, and use of a ‘clean it up’ stencil for problem hotspot footpaths – spraying to be organised by office. We will not be providing free dog waste bags.

48/19 MUGA – ARLESEY ROAD

Further to the presentation at the last meeting on types of community MUGA facilities available, Members considered specification of the community MUGA facility we are looking to provide at the Arlesey Road site, using S106 money available. The Clerk confirmed that Central Beds Council is willing to undertake the complete process from tendering to commissioning through to completion, by way of a Framework Agreement, removing the need to follow the OJEU process, thereby reducing timescales. This would be at a fee of 13.31% of the total project cost – taken from the S106 funds. Or the Town Council can undertake the process itself, although this would require going through the OJEU process, plus significant project work.

RESOLVED that we accept the proposal by Central Beds Council to carry out the design and contract manage the project to provide a community use MUGA at the Arlesey Road site. We acknowledge that Central Beds Council has a list of assessed market leading companies, and we will require sight of the list and to be able to request additions. Our required specification for the facility is:

- A multi-sports pitch with provision of multi-sport goals
- Surface to be brightly coloured with imaginative design
- Provision of play walls on MUGA fencing – e.g. target walls to provide learning and play opportunities
- Provision of traversing ‘climbing’ walls along MUGA fencing to make best use of the facility
- Incorporated outdoor gym equipment
- Sitting areas to enable family participation
- Provision of floodlighting to facility is preferred
- Facility is to be an ‘open’ type, available for wider community use

49/19 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Highways

- Dane Close – category 1 road hole outside no. 4
- Saxon Avenue – road hole opposite no. 3
- Church Road – road hole outside The Academy of Central Bedfordshire
- High Street – two road holes outside no. 105 were repaired but didn’t last – needs proper repair
- High Street – area from The Haven towards pedestrian crossing, repairs to road holes badly done, patch needed

Central Beds Council – Assets

- Former Roecroft Lower School playing field on Church Road, adjacent to the Academy of Central Bedfordshire, is very overgrown and needs cutting before the weeds go to seed and spread

Town Council office

- Brook Street car park – area under trees needs trimming and remove rubbish
- Verge outside the Baptist Church – grass has not been cut – check if this is on Grass Cutting Contractor’s schedule
- Kissing gate for footpath from Rook Tree Lane to Millennium Green is coming apart, wood is rotting. Gate needs replacing, ask if BRCC can assist in providing new gate

50/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Members were advised that further to a previous meeting and a request for the assistance of Liz Anderson, Central Beds Council Ecologist in creating a ‘wet’ area at Riverside Playing Field, now

that the work on the Green Wheel launch is complete, she will consider the matter and come back to us hopefully by the June meeting. In the meantime, the next Green Wheel meeting is on 14th June, and will be considering areas for landscaping and planting in Arlesey, Stotfold, Fairfield. Funding is available through BRCC and Members are asked to let Councillor Mrs Clarey know their ideas and thoughts before their next Green Wheel meeting.

The Clerk advised that a special meeting of this Committee will be held next Wednesday 29th to consider maintenance of the Arlesey Road stadium pitch.

Early stage plans have been provided by Councillor Saunders, showing potential works to improve safety at the junction of Regent Street/The Green/Astwick Road. Members were asked to look at the possibility of roundabout or line markings and advise the Clerk/Councillor Saunders. These are not plans set in stone, only initial thoughts produced by the Highways team and there is no guarantee the works will be undertaken.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED