

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019 AT 7.25PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock  
B Collier  
Mrs J Hyde

Mrs A Clarey  
A Cooper  
J Talbot

Also present: 1 member of the public and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

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**69/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Hayes.

**70/19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

Councillors Mrs Hyde and Talbot declared an interest on the item relating to allotment fees as Trustee of the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field (which owns the Common Road Allotments) and spouse of an allotment tenant, respectively. 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.

**71/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

Not at this point.

**72/19 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk advised that she has now started the consultation on play equipment. The two local schools have kindly offered to circulate the consultation form, either in hard copy or electronically to parents and a double-sided page will be included in the September edition of the Stotfold News which will enable completion and tear-out of the form. The library will also be asked if they will take some copies of the form. The deadline for return of comments is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Correspondence**

Copy of the Wildlife Trust, Local Wildlife Summer 2019 magazine is available on file.

**Matters arising for information**

Minute 62/19 – our Ward Members have been made aware of our concerns regarding the MUGA and its current condition.

Minute 63/19 – further to the request from Stotfold Mill Preservation trust for an additional lighting column to be installed in Mill Lane, and our request for further information on the

location, notification has now been received to advise that they no longer wish to pursue this request, and the matter now falls.

Minute 65/19 – weed spraying of the public open space at the Arlesey Road site has been carried out.

Minute 67/19

- The missing sign on the Pendleton Way still needs to be replaced. *20/06/19 Reported to CBC using online name plate form. Building Control state that this is not a CBC sign. Office established that the original Bedfordshire County Council erected the cycling path sign and it was replaced by mid-beds district council as it had the old council crest on. Chris Dorow (public rights of way officer) has been contacted re. the sign's replacement. 20/06/19- Chris Dorow is investigating and is liaising with Nick Carofalo (highways area steward), who has instructed Building Control to arrange a replacement.*
- No work seems to be happening on hole/verge at The Green, opposite Common Road junction. *20/06/19 Chased by phone to Highways-being investigated. Check back next week ref. 327911*
- St Olives – Both Road signs are very old and should be replaced. *19/06/19 Reported to CBC- ref. 327887*
- Large amount of rubbish needs to be removed from left hand cul de sac of St Olives. *19/06/19 Reported to CBC – they were unable to supply a reference*
- Church Road – Road drain totally blocked outside No 28. *20/06/19 reported via CBC portal ref. 327908*
- Brook Street and Hitchin Road bridges have debris that needs removing from brook – Ivel Drainage Board, then to let Central Bedfordshire Council know so they can collect debris. *17/06/19 The Ivel Drainage Board were contacted re. debris at the Hitchin road bridge and this was carried out. 19/06/19 Contacted again re. checking the area at the Brook Street bridge. This had also been cleared*
- Resident asked if our Handyman could flip down the bottle bank lids if they are open when he does litter pick at The Green. *19/06/19 handyman has been made aware.*
- Grass Verges at entrance to Brayes Manor following development opposite in Rook Tree Lane. *Our grass cutting contractor has managed to top off the growth with a different machine. Emails to Highways Agreements re. updates on the progress of remedial work have not elicited a response. Nick Carofalo was contacted and has referred us back to Highways Agreements.*
- No 9 Rook Tree Lane – deep pothole – very urgent repair needed. Residents cars parked on their driveways are being damaged by stones thrown from the pothole by passing traffic. Hole is category 1 defect – size of a washing up bowl and very deep. *16/06/19 As noted by Councillor Mrs Hyde this hole has been repaired*
- The house built in the garden of the Old Vicarage in Rook Tree Lane constantly leaves rubbish bins out at the side of the road – overfilled and rubbish on the road with split bags that are often not collected by the refuse vehicle. Please inform Central Bedfordshire Council *17/06/19 Emailed our contact at Waste Services- the Waste Officer will investigate. 19034132. 24/06/19 The Waste Officer has visited today and a letter will be sent to the resident asking them not to overfill their bin and to take their bin back onto their property when it is not out for collection.*

68/19 – the new play roundabout at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground has not yet been signed off, although now installed, as there are concerns that it is not fitted flush with the ground. Sutcliffe Play is returning to assess and make good.

### **73/19 ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL MINUTES**

Copies of the draft minutes from the last Etonbury Green Wheel meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, were previously circulated to Members.

### **74/19 SPEED REDUCING MEASURES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS**

As per request at a previous meeting, Members considered a report from the Clerk on evidence regarding different speed reducing measures and their effectiveness. 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.

The conclusion in the report from research found is that as the 20mph speed limit is in force across Stotfold, with different types of roads and layouts, a full town-wide survey would be required to establish which roads have a need for additional calming measures, and which types of measure would be appropriate. It is apparent from existing research that measures which physically slow traffic, and which are of the 'vertical' type, rather than those which provide visible encouragement/deterrent such as cameras or VAS, provide more substantial reductions in speed, and therefore reducing the potential for accidents.

Research carried out by Traffic Choices BS1 has supported the view that, in general, vertical measures such as speed cushions or speed tables are more effective at reducing speeds, and therefore reducing the potential for accidents.

#### **Percentage effectiveness of traffic calming in reducing accidents**

Chicanes	29%
Road narrowing	29%
Speed cushions	44%
Speed table	44%
Speed humps	44%
Speed watch	No evidence to present
Cameras	15 – 20% injury 20 – 30% fatal or serious injury
Vehicle Activated Signs	31 – 34%

A request will be made for Highways to carry out a speed survey around the town, to determine which roads require further speed reducing measures.

### **75/19 SECTION 106 UNCOMMITTED FUNDS**

There are two uncommitted S106 contributions for Stotfold that are nearing their spend-by dates:

MB/09/00054/FULL Land adjacent to 22 Kingsway, Stotfold. For Informal Open Space. £187.42. Spend-by date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

MB/09/00054/FULL Land adjacent to 22 Kingsway, Stotfold. For Outdoor Sport. £586.72. Spend-by date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

These funds need to be used by the spend-by date, or they will be returned to the developer. Due to the timescales involved, and no scheduled meetings during August, these will need to be small and achievable projects.

Members considered a proposal to use the Informal Open Space money to provide a bench for The Green, and the Outdoor Sport money to provide a scoreboard and two spectator benches for the Pix Brook Play Area MUGA. Options and prices for these items were considered by members. Any funds required above the S106 amounts will need to be met by the committee.

**RESOLVED** that an application to release S106 funds associated with MB/09/00054/FULL for Informal Open Space and Outdoor Sport is submitted for the following:

- Outdoor Sport – two spectator benches (total £600 plus vat) and a scoreboard (£295 plus vat) from Play & Leisure (costs include delivery). Benches are to be sited outside the MUGA, facing inwards along the longest side. Scoreboard is to be fitted to the fencing on the inside of the MUGA, on the back-boundary fence.
- Informal Open Space – one ‘Sturdy’ bench, rainbow colours with appropriate footings (£347 plus vat) from Broxap (costs include delivery). Bench is to be sited close to the newly installed play equipment/climbing frame on The Green.

Additional funds above the S106 sums are to be met by EMR Rec Rolling Improvements.

#### **76/19 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN – FORWARD PLAN PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES**

Members considered the proposed items in the Forward Plan (as part of the draft Corporate Strategic Plan) relative to this committee – to identify their priorities and timescales in which this committee aims to achieve them. Although some items may be ongoing and longer than the four year plan period, the end date should not exceed March 2023, however a note may be added to the description to indicate it will be longer. Priorities are Low, Medium or High.

The following will be submitted to the Town Strategy Committee for inclusion in the draft Corporate Strategic Plan:

Description	Timescale	Priority
Riverside Playing Field – ascertain future of MUGA	April 2020 to March 2021	Medium
Riverside Playing Field – extend car park	March 2020 to April 2021	Low
Outdoor fitness – provision of MUGA and outdoor fitness equipment at Arlesey Road	March 2022 to April 2023	Low
Equipped play areas – produce a programme of refurbishment/replacement of older play equipment	July 2019 to March 2023	High
Transfer of assets to Town Council – complete transfer of Prince Charles Avenue play area and open space	July 2019 to March 2021	High

Transfer of assets to Town Council – complete transfer of Greenacre Park public open space and equipped play area	April 2020 to March 2021	High
Transfer of assets to Town Council – complete transfer of open space associated with Taylor’s Road development	April 2022 to March 2023	Low
Public Rights of Way – successfully complete application to add Brewery Lane footpath to the Public Rights of Way Definitive Map	April 2021 to March 2022	Medium

**77/19 FIELDS IN TRUST**

Members noted information on the Fields in Trust scheme and Town Council assets which are registered with the Land Registry and as a Village Green. Members were asked to determine whether they wish to pursue investigations into registering any open space assets with Fields in Trust.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council pursues submitting applications to register Riverside Playing Field, Millennium Green, Centenary Wood and Norton Road Allotments with Fields in Trust protection. Applications are also to be submitted to Land Registry to update title documents for our assets showing our new office address.

**78/19 ‘WET AREA’ RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD**

Members considered correspondence received from Central Beds Council’s Ecologist, in response to the Town Council and Etonbury Green Wheel group’s wish to ‘refurbish’ the wet area at Riverside Playing Field to create a habitat feature in the wider Green Wheel. Information was given about CPRE’s Green Clean 2019 which is held in September. Applications can be made to take part, and if successful, a mobile reverse vending machine can be taken to identified locations and used to collect bottles and cans – you can earn 10p per item collected. It is suggested that the wet area at Riverside is put forward for the scheme. A suggestion has also been made by the Etonbury Green Wheel group to resurrect the wildflower area at Riverside, however the reason this didn’t work in the past is because the soil is too rich. The Town Council tried this for a period of around 10 to 15 years and spent a lot of time and money varying the mowing regime to try and make it work. It was ultimately unsuccessful and so was dropped.

**RESOLVED** that this committee and Etonbury Green Wheel group work to refurbish the wet area at Riverside Playing Field – a plan of proposals and work required is to be submitted to this committee. Central Beds Council’s Ecologist is asked to submit an application for the wet area at Riverside Playing Field to part of the CPRE Green Clean 2019 scheme.

**79/19 ALLOTMENT TENANCY FEES**

Members considered the current allotment plot tenancy rates, and whether to apply an increase for the allotment year commencing 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, giving the required one year’s notice.

Rates for current allotment year ending 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 are £50 full plot, £25 half plot, from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 they will increase to £52 full plot, £26 half plot. Any increase applied from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to Norton Road Allotments will also apply to Common

Road Allotments being managed by the Town Council on behalf of the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field.

As having a previously declared interest, Councillors Mrs Hyde and Talbot did not vote on this item.

**RESOLVED** that from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 there will be no increase in allotment fees for Norton Road and Common Road and will therefore remain at £52 for a full plot and £26 for a half plot.

## **80/19 GENERAL WORK**

**RESOLVED** that the following is actioned:

### Central Beds Council – Highways

- The Green, outside no. 45 – category 1 pothole
- Church Road, outside the Academy of Central Bedfordshire – middle of the road, opposite entrance gate
- Malthouse Lane – the single file traffic sign has slipped down very low on the post – approaching Ford Bridge from the direction of The Green

### Town Council office

- Write to owner/occupier of 47 Hitchin Road to request that they cut back their overgrown hedge between their property and Hunters Close, as it is causing an obstruction to the adjacent footway
- Large holes have been dug (probably by a dog) on Millennium Green, which are causing a trip hazard. These are to be filled
- A bike trailer has been left on Riverside Playing Field – remove

## **81/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**