

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.10PM 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	

Also present: Assistant Clerk, Ms Caroline Jenkins

96/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Russell and J Talbot.

97/19 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.

98/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

99/19 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Members expressed their ongoing concern regarding the vehicle entrance to St Marys Church, Stotfold. The Town Council have asked Central Bedfordshire Council to look into resurfacing the driveway, to be told this is not under Central Beds Jurisdiction, and this is the responsibility of the church. However, Central Bedfordshire Council have in the last few days mended a pot hole in the driveway.

Members asked for written proof from Nick Carofalo, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Area Steward, as to who is responsible for the upkeep of the Church driveway. The driveway itself is in great need of being resurfaced, but also has a public footpath running through it.

100/19 TO CONSIDER CHARGES LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2020/2021

Members considered charges levied for the current year and previous two years.

RESOLVED that charges levied for 2020/2021 year are set as follows:

Activity	Charge 2020/2021
Casual Football charge - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£45
Junior – charge per game per team (excluding SJFC)	£25

Stotfold Junior Football Club – (The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Riverside Playing Field, Arlesey Road) charge per season per team	£80
Dean’s Fair/other circus/fair visits Charge per non-opening day Charge per opening day	£30 £60
Arlesey Road playing field Casual Adult - charge per game Casual Junior – charge per game	£45 £25
Commercial use of The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Arlesey Road, Riverside Playing Field and any other open space under responsibility of the Town Council for non-football or fair/circus use	£10 per session, per site used

Councillors agreed that Car Boot Sales and the Annual Classic Car Show would incur no charges to hire The Green.

101/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman proposed that the press and public are temporarily excluded whilst confidential matters pertaining to staff issues are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting for the following item.

This was passed by Members

102/19 TO CONSIDER SALARIES FOR THE MUGA CARETAKING STAFF 2020/2021

RESOLVED that the wages for the two MUGA caretakers are increased by 2.25% per hour for 2020/2021. This should accommodate any increase in the minimum wage.

The press and public were readmitted after the conclusion of this item.

103/19 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Lighting – Electricity

Last year, expenditure for our street lighting electricity stabilised, having repaid outstanding sums due in last financial year. However, British Gas have again stopped collecting sums for street lighting electricity, and this is being investigated.

Brook Street Car Park & Toilet – Electricity

Again, having resolved the issue of paying appropriate electricity charges for the public toilets, British Gas have stopped collecting the required sums. This is being investigated.

Expenditure

Electricity invoices have been received for the public toilets at the Arlesey Road site. Whilst construction is ongoing, the contractor has been invoiced accordingly. The clerk has resolved an outstanding issue regarding non-receipt of invoices for the water supply to the public toilets. A meter reading has been received and the account is currently being transferred into the Council’s name. Again, usage by the contractor whilst the build is

ongoing will be invoiced accordingly. Once the toilets are made available to the public, cleaning will be undertaken by the Handyman, as per his contract, together with supply of toilet materials. The Handyman will also commence litter picks of the open space once the build is complete.

Income

Arlesey Road playing field

Consideration is to be given to how we will charge users of the Arlesey Road drained pitch area, and general public open space, i.e. football.

Earmarked Reserves (EMR)

Committee has agreed to pursue expansion of the car park at Riverside Playing Field, with the intention to spread costs over two financial years. The first year's £20,000 was included in a new EMR line, with a further £20,000 being budgeted for 2020/21. Works are to be undertaken during 2020/2021.

104/19 ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2020/2021

Members were previously provided with a copy of the figures for the first six months of the current financial year and undertook an appraisal before the estimates of the general running costs for the Committee were considered.

Estimate figures for 2020/2021

Estimated running costs:	£129,261
Less estimated income:	£ 7,315
Total	£121,946

Earmarked Reserves

Rec Ground Rolling Improvements	£ 25,000
Street Lighting	£ 10,000
Riverside Playing Field Car Park	£ 20,000
Norton Road match fund works	£ 22,500
Total	£ 77,500

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The sum of £121,946 is submitted as this Committee's budget request for 2020/2021.
- ii) The sum of £77,500 is submitted as this Committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2020/2021.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for collation with other Committee requests, in order to produce a draft Council budget and Precept request for approval by full Council.

105/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Members discussed the 2 newly installed bus stops on Norton Road. The bus stop on the road going towards Letchworth has been located at on the brow of the hill leaving Stotfold. It was stated that from this position, no traffic can be seen approaching from Letchworth. It was felt by members to be in a dangerous position. Members asked if the bus stop can be moved to be level with the bus stop on the other side of the road.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Chairman expressed her thanks to councillors for attending the Mill Event at the weekend, providing a presence at the event by the Town Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.52pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED