

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2021, AT 7.21PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

A Cooper, Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, J Talbot

Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner, Councillors Mrs L Anderson

82/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Buck, Mrs Clarey, Collier, Russell and Saunders.

83/21 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of members interests. There were no requests for dispensation. 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.

84/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

85/21 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 63/21 - The replacement plaques for the public art in Greenacre Park will arrive within the next 2-3 weeks – this is to correct grammatical errors and missing letter 'f' on several plaques.

Minute 72/21 - quotes for clearance work at Riverside Playing Field MUGA will be considered at the December meeting.

Minute 74/21 – awaiting requested evidence of income and losses during the Covid-19 period from Stotfold Junior Football Club.

Minute 43/20 - The Chairman met Richard Lawrence (BRCC) and his volunteers at Arlesey Road yesterday where they were planting bulbs on the banked area to the rear of Vaughan Road. Planting has been kept away from where people might walk. Tree are being planted on the next two Tuesdays, and Councillor Hayes will take photos for our records.

86/21 ADVERTISING BANNERS

RESOLVED that

- i) Executive action taken by the Clerk in permitting one of our hall hirers to erect a banner notifying of their relocated venue, on the fence of at The Green for one month, is approved.

- ii) The draft Banner Policy is approved, with an amendment to allow right of appeal on decisions made by the Clerk, to be considered by the committee.

87/21 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD TREE & HEDGE WORK – REVISED QUOTE

Members considered a revised quote for reduction of front boundary hedge at Riverside Playing Field to a height of 1.5m, and to raise the crowns of trees along the car park to 4m. To remove all arisings from site.

RESOLVED that the quote from Steve Dear Trees to carry out the above work, at £1,380 plus vat, is approved.

88/21 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOM – KEY DEPOSIT

Members considered introducing a key deposit scheme for the changing rooms for football teams and other users wishing to use the changing room facility. The deposit would be refundable on return of the keys.

RESOLVED that a key deposit is taken for the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground Changing Room keys, at £30 to cover cost of replacement key, and is refundable on return of the keys.

A future meeting is to consider replacing the missing door handle on the changing room outer door with something substantial.

89/21 TREE SURVEYS

Members were previously provided with tree inspection reports and maps for the following locations: Pix Brook Play Area, Riverside Playing Field, The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Heron Way, Waters End, Simpson Centre and Centenary Wood. Quotes are being sought for 'red' and 'amber' works for consideration at the December meeting.

It was queried whether all amber works are required, and whether habitat areas could be created instead of the tree surgeon removing all arisings from site.

90/21 PUBLIC REALM WORKS

Members were reminded that if they have any matters that are to be reported to other parties or are repair/general maintenance work for the council, these should not be held until the next committee meeting but should be reported to the office in the first instance.

Reporting repair/general maintenance to other parties

- Although this has been reported by the office to Highways, an urgent message needs to be forwarded to advise that where the metal bollard by the side of the parade of shops was recently knocked out of the ground, it has now lifted the adjacent tactile paving, which is causing a significant trip hazard, with one pedestrian already tripping and falling.
- Town Council street light by the Shawmer Farm development on Hitchin Road is missing its head. This is now a dark area to walk.

91/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

92/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

93/21 MUGA CARETAKERS

Members considered a Confidential report from the Clerk on MUGA Caretaker roles and future requirements.

RESOLVED that the MUGA Caretaker roles will continue as current, and they will be asked to include litter picking not only in the MUGA but also the immediate surrounds.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.56pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: