

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022, AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

Committee Members present:

S Buck (Chairman), Mrs L Anderson, B Collier, A Cooper, Mrs M Cooper, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, G Russell, B Saunders, J Talbot

In the absence of the Clerk, the Chairman took the notes of the meeting.

60/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

61/22 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.

62/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

63/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

For information, we are now using The Play Inspection Company to carry out our annual play equipment inspections, as they are cheaper than ROSPA and provide a more detailed inspection.

The transfer of Greenacre Park and associated open spaces within the development has now been completed, with commuted sums due now received. Outstanding works are being chased: replacement of damaged bow top fencing (at Greenacre Park), installation of missing bow top fencing (on Marigold Way boundary of Greenacre Park), and replacement of dead plants.

Councillor Saunders advised that he is chasing the developers to add the additional pieces of land at the top of Valerian Way/Comfrey Road to be transferred to the council, with possibly additional commuted sum.

64/22 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations were put forward for election of Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee, and it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor John Talbot is Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee for 2022/2023.

65/22 STOTFOLD BOWLS CLUB

Members considered a request from Stotfold Bowls Club (as our tenants) to erect sponsorship signate on the rear boundary (with the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground) – no bigger than 3ft square, within the Bowls Club curtilage and would not protrude above the current hedge height. They would also like to fix a vinyl banner no bigger than 6ft by 2ft on the apex of the club house facing onto Brook Street to advertise the club and to welcome anyone to have a go.

RESOLVED that permission is given for the Bowls Club to erect signage as requested, subject to any planning permissions being obtained, if required.

66/22 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY

Members considered a report from Councillor Cooper, following his meeting with the farmer of the land adjacent to Norton Road Allotments, and regarding the dividing boundary.

The farmer advises that he has applied for and obtained planning permission for two bungalows and four garages, with work to commence soon.

The hedging dividing his site from the allotments is a mixture of shrubbery and does not make a fantastic boundary. His plan is to remove this hedge and replace with a post and rail fence. A suggestion was made to lay the hedge, however there wouldn't be much of the hedge left once it is scrubbed out. Choices for the committee include the installation of a post and rail fence at no cost, or to obtain costs for mesh fencing, similar to that recently installed at Common Road Allotments. This would be funded by the town council, with a donation from the landowner. We have until harvest time to decide.

Quotes for mesh fencing along the farm site boundary will be considered by the committee at a future meeting.

67/22 STOTFOLD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB – GOAL STORAGE, THE GREEN

Members considered an updated request for goal storage location on The Green. Members requested that the club continues with the suggested goals chained together and ~~trial~~ **trial** it for a year. The Chairman is to meet with the Junior Football Club to discuss the matter, before bringing back to committee.

68/22 PROJECT UPDATES

The Clerk is to send out a report to members with updates on the Arlesey Road MUGA, play & outdoor gym and the Riverside Playing Field rejuvenation project at the earliest opportunity.

69/22 HIGHWAYS REPORT

A meeting is being arranged between our Highways Area Steward and the town council's Highways Representative, Councillor Jonathan Smith to discuss highways issues in Stotfold and the annual programme of works. Councillor Buck has also requested attendance at this meeting.

In Councillor Smith's absence at this committee meeting, Councillor Saunders advised that he has met with two highways officers regarding a plan for the Astwick Road/Regent Street/The Green junction. He advised that the bus stop is to be removed, and there is a proposal for road humps to be installed in Regent Street – at this stage, unclear if flat table or humped version. Brook Street junction

with Hitchin Road is to revert back to a T-junction, because the line of the current kerb is such that the roundabout doesn't work.

70/22 PUBLIC REALM WORKS

Members were reminded that matters for Central Beds Council can be reported via <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> and if they have any matters that are to be reported to other parties or are general repair or maintenance work for the council, these should not be held until the next committee meeting but should be reported to the office.

Refer to Central Bedfordshire Council action for repair/general maintenance

- Arlesey Road – there are still lighting columns not working on the Football Club side of the road.
- Pendleton Way cycleway – hedging needs cutting back. Also, where the cycleway leads to Fairfield, this also needs to be cut back.

Refer to other parties

- Astwick Road – send a letter to the joinery in Fen End, asking them to trim the Willow tree which is spilling over onto the footway.
- Councillor Cooper has visited the play area at Greenacre Park and addressed the missing bolts to the gates, however there are some bolts missing and the closes need adjusting. He suggests that the contractor is called back to repair both gates.
- IDB – debris is currently caught under the Brook Street bridge (Pix Brook) and needs clearing.
- X2 lighting columns not working - to right of no. 7 Hitchin Road on footpath to library, and one in Simpson Centre car park, opposite old police house. Report to the Town Council's Street Lighting Contractor.

It was noted that after a member reported potholes in Hitchin Road via Fix My Street, these have now been fixed.

71/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

A request was made for a report to committee on when we will be reviewing the Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract – contract comes to an end 31st March 2023, and request that this is done ahead of the budget calculations in order that the correct amount can be budgeted for next year.

A new padlock has been purchased for The Green gates – a letter of thanks is to be sent to Mr and Mrs Webster for being keyholders over a significant period.

A request was made for the committee to consider at the next meeting combination locks for The Green and the height barrier at Riverside Playing Field.

Members referred to the land behind Aspen Gardens, which we have been asked to adopt. This is to be considered at the next meeting, together with a report from the Assistant Clerk on a site meeting held with members. Next meeting also to consider the access bridges proposed between Riverside and the new field.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.20pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: