

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022, AT 7.25PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

---

## Committee Members present:

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

## Also present:

Mrs K Elliott-Turner – Town Clerk and a staff member attending virtually

---

### **87/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors B Collier and G Russell.

### **88/22 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Talbot declared an interest in items 5, 6 and 19 due to his wife being a tenant at Common Road Allotments and his participation in the Pix Brook flood team. 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.

### **89/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

### **90/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

#### Clerk's Report

#### Allotments

The Allotments Administrator has provided members with a copy of her report for the Norton Road Allotments, together with some supporting documents, for information. She has also provided a copy of the report on the Common Road Allotments (managed by the Town Council), which is being presented to the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field (allotment owners) at their next meeting later this month.

#### Vandalism

Unfortunately, over the last couple of months, we have seen an increase in vandalism at our recreation grounds and open spaces. There have been incidences of bin fires at Arlesey Road playing field, Riverside playing field and Pix Brook play area. These are all very similar, in that small fires are set within the litter bin, and then aerosol cans are thrown in, which subsequently explode. Central Bedfordshire Council's Safer Communities Team and GUH Youth Participation Officer have been made aware, as have Bedfordshire Fire Service's Arson Reduction Officer.

We have also seen a cluster of incidences where items have been thrown in either Pix Brook or the River Ivel, with a bollard and bicycle being thrown in Pix Brook

and one of the metal benches from Riverside Playing Field being pulled out of the ground and thrown in the River Ivel. With the exception of the bicycle, which is being removed by the IDB during their current works, all items reported have been removed – the bench has been re-installed, more securely.

And unfortunately, very unpleasant wording has been drawn/sprayed on play equipment at The Green and Riverside Playing Field. The handyman is removing this graffiti.

#### Staffing cover

The Clerk is arranging suitable cover for the Handyman's upcoming pre-booked holiday.

#### Central Bedfordshire Council Free Tree Giveaway

The Clerk has signed us up for a free tree giveaway – when we have events or a stall somewhere, we take details of people who are interested in planting in their gardens, and they sign up to a 'care agreement' and when the trees are issued, we can host a tree collection day.

#### Matters Arising

Minute 80/22 - MUGA container at Riverside Playing Field – after having difficulty in finding someone to remove the container due to its location, a company has today agreed to remove it at a cost of £400. The electrics will be disconnected before its removal, and it will be emptied by the Handyman. Any costs involved in this process are following approval by committee to remove the container at the earliest opportunity on health and safety grounds. It was noted that the leaf blower is currently not working, and the Handyman is trying to get it operational.

Minute 77/22 – the three tree guards for Jubilee trees have arrived – x2 are self-colour, and x1 is galvanised, not black as ordered. There is an approximate £36 difference for the galvanised guard, which can be requested back from the supplier.

Minute 66/22 – the Allotments Administrator, Councillor Cooper and the farmer of the land adjacent to Norton Road Allotments will be meeting on site 13<sup>th</sup> July to measure perimeter and discuss boundary options. Proposals and quotes will be provided to committee at a future meeting.

Minute 79/22 – a site meeting is being arranged with the developer's ground works team, and Councillor Mrs L Anderson and our Landscape & Grass Cutting Contractor will be asked to attend, to assess the condition of the site. A further meeting will be arranged with the developer Taylor Wimpey, Central Bedfordshire Council's S106 Officer, Ward Member Steve Dixon and Councillor Mrs Anderson to discuss a proposal for the town council to take on the land in its current state, subject to receipt of a calculated sum of money to allow us to maintain and get it to a suitable standard.

In the meantime, we have received responses to some of our original questions, as follows:

Q we have been informed that residents are currently paying a maintenance contract, can you confirm what this covers?

A This covers the grass cutting and the bin emptying (*plan 1*)

- Q Councillors noted that trees that are currently displayed on the Indicative Masterplan for the area have not yet been put in
- A Not yet put in, as they are waiting for the correct tree planting weather in the autumn
- Q A lot of work is needed to make the green areas in any fit state for the town council to consider its adoption.
- A The ground work team are going to be visiting the site next week. An email has been sent asking for contact details, and Councillor Mrs L Anderson and Rik Golder will be asked to undertake a site meeting at the same time to determine the condition and works required.
- Q Pedestrian link from Riverside Recreation Ground – ideally, we would like 2 bridges, one for maintenance vehicles and one for pedestrian. Please clarify the layout.
- A They are not planning to do a path or bridge, and they have not been asked to do so

A request was made for a future agenda to consider provision of one or more bridges over the ditch from Riverside Playing Field to the open space, however any works determined cannot take place until we have adopted the open space.

## 91/22 ALLOTMENT TENANCY RATES

Members considered allotment tenancy rates for period 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024, giving required one year's notice.

Past and current allotment fees:

Tenancy period	Full plot annual rate	Half plot annual rate
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 to 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 (set last year)	£52	£26
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 to 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	£52	£26
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 to 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021	£52	£26
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 to 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020	£52	£26
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 to 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019	£50	£20

Any rates increase applied to Norton Road Allotments will also apply to Common Road Allotments, which are managed by the Town Council on behalf of the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field.

Members noted that the rates had been held for some time, and that costs are increasing, including addition of grounds maintenance at both allotment sites to future grounds contracts, and consideration is also being given to improving site security at Norton Road Allotments.

**RESOLVED** that the allotment rates for period 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 are increased to £70 for a full plot, and £35 for half plot.

## 92/22 HITCHIN ROAD REC – TRACTOR SHED

Members considered a report from the Clerk regarding tractor shed security, fire safety, increasing storage space of the tractor shed, plus additional storage.

### Security

To improve security for storage at the tractor shed, and to replace the now unstable and unsafe tractor shed door, members considered quotes to replace with a security roller shutter.

**RESOLVED** that the quote from The Shutter Repair & Maintenance Co. Ltd at £1,630 plus vat is accepted.

#### Fire safety

There is a current issue with fire prevention, with an open beam ceiling through to the adjacent corridor and changing rooms. Members considered installing suitable fire board from top of internal wall to roof, between tractor shed and corridor, which will slow down the spread of fire. Professional advice will be sought as to what is required, and either the Handyman will carry out the work (workload depending) or the services of an appropriate contractor will be engaged to carry out the work.

**RESOLVED** that appropriate fire prevention boarding is to be installed between the tractor shed and adjacent corridor, leaving the open beams for storage. Professional advice is to be sought as to requirements, and either the Handyman or a contractor is to be engaged to carry out the work.

#### Increasing storage space

To maximise internal space for equipment storage and workspace, members considered removal of the internal flood equipment storage section (sterling board constructed with open ceiling).

**RESOLVED** that the internal storage space is removed to increase council storage and workspace within the tractor shed.

#### Emergency flood equipment storage

Following removal of the internal storage space, members considered replacement storage for the community flood emergency team. A proposal was considered to use a flat pack version of a storage container, to be sited to the side of the changing rooms, rather than the shipping container style units due to the current difficulty in obtaining such units at the present time and the flat pack units are a more cost-effective option.

**RESOLVED** that a 4m x 2.1m galvanised self-assembly storage unit, powder coated in green, with additional locking bar, shelving units, touch up paint and a suitable base to sit it on, to house the flood equipment. An application for up to £1,000 is to be submitted to the Ward Member grant scheme towards the costs.

### **93/22 EXECUTIVE ACTION – PLAY INSPECTION TRAINING**

Members noted executive action taken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to book the Handyman on the RPII Training of Routine Inspectors course with exam at £320 plus vat.

### **94/22 REPAIRS TO THE SWING ON THE GREEN**

Further to the Handyman's play inspection findings that the bolts on the 1 bay 3 seat swing unit at The Green are beyond repair, they have been removed for safety. Members considered a report with quote to repair the unit, and noted that the wear to the bolts had not been picked up by any past year ROSPA inspection reports.

The 1 bay with 3 seats no longer complies with current safety standards due to the close proximity of each seat and to the adjacent upright support bars. Therefore the unit will be reduced to 1 bay 2 seat.

**RESOLVED** that the quote from CPM Playgrounds Ltd to reduce the 1 bay 3 seat swing to a 1 bay 2 seat swing is accepted, at £520 plus vat.

#### **95/22 PLAY INSPECTIONS**

- i) Members noted the Clerk's report giving information about The Play Inspection Company, who they are and the services they provide, after moving away from ROSPA.
- ii) Members noted the Clerk's report on types of visual inspections and the purpose for each.
- iii) Members noted The Play Inspection Company's Annual Inspection Reports for all town council owned play items.
- iv) Members noted that CPM Playgrounds Ltd have been asked to carry out repairs as identified in the Annual Inspection Reports.
- v) Members considered taking out a subscription to Cloudy IT's Play Inspection App and their Open Space Inspection App – initially on a 12-month basis to assess suitability, and using staff issued mobile phones, rather than tablets. This will allow an audit trail of the inspections carried out, works identified, works carried out, and will therefore provide the evidence required. It links to the office Teams system as a 'dashboard' so that it can be monitored, and actions updated as required.

**RESOLVED** that an annual subscription for Cloudy IT's Play Inspection App and Open Space Inspection App is taken out, for 1 year, and then reviewed, at £240 plus vat.

#### **96/22 FOOTPATH FROM ROECROFT LOWER SCHOOL TO GREENACRE PARK**

Further to agreement by committee to a permanent access being created from the Roecroft Lower School emergency gate to link to the existing tarmac path in Greenacre Park, our solicitors advise that there are no legal implications in terms of creating a permanent access, however it is recommended that a licence permitting this access is drawn up between the two parties. Now that Greenacre Park is in the ownership of the Town Council, the school has been advised that they may install their double gate. Members considered a quote to install a new link tarmacked path - Roecroft Lower School will contribute towards the cost.

**RESOLVED** that the quote from Driveway Rejuvenations Ltd in the sum of £1,950 plus vat is accepted, to create a new link tarmacked path from Roecroft Lower School emergency gate to the existing path on Greenacre Park.

#### **97/22 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS – FRONT BOUNDARY HEDGE CUTTING**

Members considered a quote to cut the front boundary hedge of Norton Road Allotments this autumn. Specification: to cut back front, top and inside of entire front hedge, up to and on either side of the main gate, removing all arisings from site.

**RESOLVED** that the quote from MJ Granger at £440 plus vat to cut the Norton Road Allotments front boundary hedge, as per specification, is accepted.

#### **98/22 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS – UNAUTHORISED WEED SPRAYING**

Members considered a report that a tenant at Norton Road Allotments has weed sprayed a large section of the inside perimeter boundary of Norton Road

Allotments, without permission from the council, appropriate herbicide training or licence, leaving a large section of almost bare soil.

**RESOLVED** that the tenant is to be advised that it is a legal requirement for a trained person with the correct certification to carry out herbicide spraying on public land. We note that the tenant has carried out herbicide spraying on town council land adjacent to their leased plot, without permission or appropriate licence, and as this is illegal, should this be repeated, their tenancy will be terminated with immediate effect.

#### **99/22 REQUEST TO SITE CAR WASH AT ARLESEY ROAD CAR PARK**

Members considered a request to site a car wash facility in the Arlesey Road car park.

**RESOLVED** that a response is provided to thank you for their interest, however there is a car wash in the local vicinity, opposite the Arlesey Road car park.

#### **100/22 STREET TRADING CONSENT APPLICATION**

Members had initially been asked to consider making comment on a Street Trading Consent Application from an ice-cream vendor, however because of the short timescales, and the deadline for the statutory period for street trading consent applications unable to be extended to allow for this meeting to consider, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, returned a comment on behalf of the council – ‘no objections’.

Members noted the executive action taken to return comment on the Street Trading Consent Application.

#### **101/22 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – THE GREEN/ASTWICK ROAD**

Members considered proposed traffic calming measures for The Green/Astwick Road. The proposal includes a roundabout at the junction of The Green and Astwick Road, speed cushions, realignment of kerbs, removal of unused bus stop layby. Work is proposed to commence in September. A potential issue with parking was highlighted, where people are now taking to parking diagonally in the layby opposite the bus stop, rather than one behind the other, which although allows for more cars to park, means that part of their vehicles often stick out into the road.

**RESOLVED** that we support the proposed traffic calming measures for The Green/Astwick Road, however we request that the roundabout is flat and not of the raised hump type.

#### **102/22 FOOTBALL CLUB FENCING TO TRAINING AREA**

Following agreement by committee for the Football Club to erect boundary fencing and gates to their training area at the rear of the stadium, a planning application has been submitted, together with an application to release S106 funds. Members noted a plan showing the location of the proposed fences and gates.

#### **103/22 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD MUGA REFURBISHMENT**

There has been great difficulty in obtaining quotes for resurfacing the hard court of the MUGA and installation of new fencing, which is being funded by the Community Asset Grant and Section 106. If the total project cost goes above the grant allocated, there is sufficient available in the Section 106 to make up the

deficit. The work to resurface the court will include a new layer of tarmac, new court lines, after dealing with the tree roots, drainage, sockets for tennis nets, etc. The fencing work will replace sections behind the goal ends, provision of a new full height dividing fence between the two courts with two gates, and similar fence with gates dividing the hard court and the slabbed area. A quote has been obtained to carry out the surfacing and the fencing work, however adjustments need to be made to include a section which was missing from the quote.

**RESOLVED** that the project to refurbish the MUGA continues, with the Clerk permitted to apply for additional Section 106, above that matched by the Community Asset Grant, to meet the remaining costs.

#### **104/22 JUBILEE TREES**

Members considered a report with details from Central Bedfordshire Council's tree officer regarding trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. We are unable to proceed with our previous request for x3 trees (Oak and x2 Limes) as the species do not fall within their tree planting giveaway, and therefore members considered a revised proposal for x5 trees under their tree planting grant (min. of 5 trees up to a woodland).

Members wish to continue with our plan to plant x3 trees – Oak and x2 Limes, particularly as the tree guards have already been purchased, but that council purchases them, or we seek sponsorship from local businesses.

A poll will be undertaken with residents to ask where they would like Jubilee trees. The results will be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council as part of the Tree Planting Grant.

The Tree Planting Grant scheme provides funding (or match funding) to increase tree, shrub and hedge planting in our area. Projects can vary in size from at least 5 trees, up to larger areas of new woodland. Once locations have been proposed, if they are on Central Bedfordshire Council owned land, permission will be sought from Highways, and a check for utilities will be carried out on the locations proposed. Planting would be from October to March, and therefore the application and appropriate permissions/checks should be underway very shortly. Once the grant has been approved and all relevant checks/permissions completed, a 'planting' event can be arranged.

Residents should be aware that under this scheme, if they have put forward a location, it may be identified as not suitable, and that also the newly planted trees will need to be watered regularly, and so people will be asked to 'adopt' a tree to keep it well watered.

**RESOLVED** that costs are obtained to purchase x3 trees (x1 Oak and x2 Limes), as originally agreed, for consideration at the next meeting. In addition, residents are asked to suggest possible locations for Jubilee trees under the Tree Planting Grant scheme. The results of this will be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in an application for the town.

#### **105/22 JUBILEE BENCHES**

This committee's previous decision was to site x3 Jubilee benches in the following locations:

Prince Charles Avenue – green space to left on entering the road  
The front of the Greenacre Centre – exact location not determined  
Millennium Green – alongside the river

This decision has been picked up by residents, who have expressed puzzlement as to why these locations were chosen (members were provided with an item of correspondence in this regard at the last committee meeting), and the Clerk has attempted to explain the reasoning. A suggestion has been made by a resident that locations such as Hitchin Road Recreation Ground and/or The Green would be more suitable locations, as people will sit on these. Concern has been expressed over having benches in residential areas – Prince Charles Avenue and outside the Greenacre Centre.

The Community Safety Team and the GUH Youth Participation Officer advise that benches will always attract a degree of antisocial behaviour wherever they are sited, but when located in residential areas they are of course more visible and may potentially attract anti-social behaviour. They suggest siting the benches where they might be used most, such as in popular play areas or dog walking routes which naturally gives more surveillance.

It has also been noted that council did not ask residents where they might like the benches to be positioned.

**RECOMMENDED** that the previous decision to site Jubilee benches at Prince Charles Avenue, the front of The Greenacre Centre and Millennium Green is rescinded, and that the question of proposed locations is put to residents:

“We have x3 Jubilee benches, and we have considered siting them in these areas – Millennium Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Common Road Allotments, Prince Charles Avenue and in front of the Greenacre Centre. You may also have other suggested locations, please let us know where you think the benches could be sited”

The outcome of the engagement with residents to be considered at the September committee meeting.

#### **106/22 OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE – INCREASING BIODIVERSITY**

Members noted a report from Councillor Mrs Anderson on our open space maintenance, with a view to increasing biodiversity. Her report noted the Environment Act, which increased the strength of the Biodiversity Duty placed on all public authorities, which requires us to look strategically at our operations from time to time (at least every 5 years) and assess what action we can take to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The key to increasing biodiversity is decreasing the number of cuts, although it is acknowledged that our recreation grounds need to be in a condition capable of supporting ball games, picnics, etc, but there are areas ‘out of play’ which could be left.

#### **107/22 OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS**

Members considered a proposals report from Councillor Cooper and the Clerk for maintenance of our open spaces, with a view to increasing biodiversity.

The report outlined areas currently maintained under the Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract and frequency of cuts. Councillor Cooper and the Clerk have



identified areas where wildflowers could be sown or left to grow where they are already growing well, to encourage biodiversity. These would be a starting point and would fit in with budgets.

**RESOLVED** that the following maintenance proposals are introduced from the start of next financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023):

#### Arlesey Road Recreation Ground

No herbicides to be used around the edges of the playing field, as plan provided to members. No herbicides to be used in the swale or Vaughan Road bank. Reduce cuts in these areas and define cutting season. The rest of the playing field/pitches to be maintained to include weed spraying as required and a minimum of 16 cuts.

#### Hitchin Road Recreation Ground

This playing field and pitch area isn't weed sprayed as a matter of course but could do in future years if required. Boundaries (hedging) must be kept maintained.

#### Riverside Playing Field

The 'pond' area to have a wild managed area – redevelopment plan required before rejuvenation works start on the pond area, to include pond depth, species preferences, maintenance plan. Regenerate old field/ditch boundary to the north of the site. Regenerate west boundary from the car park to boundary with former Roker Park site.

#### Greenacre Park & open spaces

A – rotavate area as shown on attached plan. Create 1.5m grass strip to the edge of the footway. To the rear, after rotavating, apply a meadow grass/flower mix. Determine maintenance regime.

B – rotavate area as shown on attached plan. Create 2.5m grass strip to the edge of the footway. After rotavating, apply top dressing to the rest of this area and a meadow grass/flower mix. Determine maintenance regime. Maintain rear shrub boundary.

C – grassed areas bounding Campion Avenue to be cut as verge maintenance levels to the top of ditch banks. On the Buttercup Road grassed area and to rear of school, mow to the top of the ditch banks, leaving two 'wild' managed areas as shown on the attached plan. Determine maintenance regime of these two 'wild' areas.

D – Gentian Gardens/Valerian Way junction, maintain existing wildflower area.

E – Corner of Gentian Gardens – strim around wooden posts and 0.5m behind. Leave wildflowers on steep part of bank. Determine maintenance regime.

F – Cornflower Crescent/Gentian Gardens – strim around wooden posts and 0.5m behind. Leave wildflowers on steep part of bank. Determine maintenance regime.

G – mow grass as verge on the flat surface to edge of footway. Leave bank to base of slope as wildflower and strim x2 a year.

## Cemetery

Whilst this will fall within the Cemetery Committee's remit, for information, it is proposed to leave existing areas of wild primroses and bluebells, currently in the Old Section, and to consider creating a 'wildflower' area to the right of the Walled Garden of Rest, with mown paths leading to memorial benches. Both proposals will be considered at the July Cemetery Committee meeting.

A proposal to construct a community garden (flowers and herbs only) at 'Crown corner' in the grassed area between the corner hedging and the fenced play area, was not agreed. It was felt that it is not the right place for a community garden, and there were concerns about finding people to set it up and ensure it is maintained going forward. It would also be in close proximity to agreed storage for football goals.

## **108/22 LANDSCAPE & GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT**

Further to the previous item regarding open space maintenance and biodiversity, members considered maintenance specification (relevant to this committee) for the Landscape and Grass Cutting Contract (period 2023 to 2026).

During the period of the current contract, we have added work to it, which needs to be reflected in the new contract. The Clerk also proposes adding further items and clarifying some of the existing items.

**RESOLVED** that the draft specification for the Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract for 2023 to 2026, relevant to this committee, is approved, with the addition of the following:

### Additions

- That the contractor has a waste carrier licence and to dispose of all arisings off site.
- Strim around lighting columns, planters, bollards, etc, rather than weed spray
- Blow paths clear after strimming and cutting

### Clarify on existing contract

- Plant up floral displays in planters on High Street, Brook Street and Brook Street car park
- Maintain shrubberies on the High Street (x3), around Greenacre Centre including hedging, Greenacre Park near the play area, Pix Brook Play area, Prince Charles Avenue around the play area, Simpson Centre, Memorial Hall including the hedging
- Weed spraying of footways around the town, to include adopted sections of new developments
- To ensure that tenders include costs for additional cutting when required, to include adopted sections of new developments

### Additional work

- Norton Road Allotments – strim and keep clear central path and track, areas in front of plots by the track, two grass sections either side of the gate inside front boundary, pathways to the rear of plots, along rear of plots, turning circle and maintaining archways to lower plots
- Common Road Allotments – strim and keep clear central path and track, areas in front of plots by the track, two grass areas at the entrance (one is an orchard), pathways to rear of plots and along the rear of plots, keeping car park

weed free and boundaries maintained, keeping car park free of overhanging branches.

- Arlesey Road car park – keep weed free and free of overhanging trees/shrubs. Maintain shrubberies at entrance of car park
- Any outcomes of biodiversity decisions on previous agenda items
- Strim x4 times a year (in growing season), a strip of verge leading up to the black ‘Stotfold’ sign on Norton Road

## 109/22 HIGHWAYS REPORTS

Members considered a Highways Report from Councillor Smith, Highways Representative:

Further to the update in June 2022 further dialogue has been undertaken with Scott Terry of CBC.

It is disappointing that no work was carried out during June on the issues listed.

I am in regular contact with Scott about these and other issues and the current status can be found below. I hope to meet with Scott in the coming weeks to go over these and other works in person, further updates will be provided once this has taken place.

Status update:

Site	Issue	Action
Silver Birch Avenue	New Overlay failures	Contractor has been chased, no date to rectify.
The Green	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	Assured this is on the schedule of works, waiting for completion.
Regent Street	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	Assured this is on the schedule of works, waiting for completion.
High Street, Brook Street to Crossroads	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	Assured this is on the schedule of works, waiting for completion.
Mill Lane	Potholes, Poor surface in general	Worst Potholes made safe; Mill Lane has been put forward to the Structural Maintenance team to be added to their 5 year programme.
Regent Street	Pothole around Gulley (near shops)	This has been picked up by a safety inspection to be repaired.
Arlesey road cycle path	Poor surface	Put forward for the next rejuvenation scheme, no current timescale.

Other issues are to be addressed with no current update:

- Malthouse Lane, lack of Kerb meaning constant repair required.
- White Lining around Stotfold requiring reinstatement.

The above is not an exhaustive list, and no work is currently planned but Central Bedfordshire Council will be reminded of their priority. Any confirmed action will be included in the table above on future reports.

Councillor Smith confirmed that outstanding work to complete resurfacing of Baldock Road to Norton Road and the mini-roundabout takes place from 22<sup>nd</sup> July. No plans as yet for resurfacing the rest of High Street.

## **110/22 PROJECT UPDATES**

### Arlesey Road MUGA, play and outdoor gym project

The Clerk has met with the new surveyor on site recently. The contracts have been signed by Kompan (play equipment and outdoor gym equipment) and Jupiter Play (MUGA and ball wall). A pre-start meeting is being arranged with both contractors, the Play Officer, surveyor and the Clerk. A start date will then be agreed, with the gym equipment likely to be installed first as it is furthest away from the car park, and then working back. They are looking at possible area for their site compound which cause as least disruption as possible to the football club and use of the car park, with the current suggested location being the area of scrub at the end of the car park which was never returned to original condition after the build and therefore cannot currently be used as overflow parking.

## **111/22 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 other parties

- Terry Seymour to remove the bunting from around the Brook Street Car park, as complaints have been received about the noise they create when it is windy. The bunting on the fence at The Green and Hitchin Road Recreation Ground have already been removed by the Handyman
- Taylor Wimpey/Persimmon Homes – there are large weeds now growing out of the road in Willowherb Way, which need removing
- Central Beds Council Public Rights of Way Officer – footpath 11 from Brook Street to Memorial Hall car park. There is a lot of vegetation growing from a back garden over into the footpath

A query was raised about the condition of Little London footpath, which has been reported as overgrown with vegetation. The Public Rights of Way team will be attending site shortly to cut it back.

A query was raised about a skip on Queen Street which has been there for some time, with no lights or signs on it. Highways has confirmed that the householder has a licence to site the skip on the road, they have been asked to put warning signs on it (no requirement to have lights), and so they will be asked again.

## **112/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Future agenda item – street name sign on ‘Little London’ (The Green end), as not everyone knows where it is but has been known as such for many years.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**