

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2022, AT 7.17PM 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, G Russell, B Saunders, J Smith J Talbot

Also present:

Mrs K Elliott-Turner – Town Clerk

135/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor B Collier.

136/22 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.

137/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

138/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee meeting held on 12th October 2022 are confirmed as a correct record.

139/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Work has started today on Arlesey Road, setting out the compound in readiness for installation of the MUGA, play and gym equipment.

140/22 CHARGES FOR 2023/2024

Members considered charges to be levied for the year 2023/2024, having previously been provided with details of past year charges.

RESOLVED that charges for 2023/2024 will be as follows:

Activity	2023/2024
Casual Football charge - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£50
Junior – charge per game per team	£30
Stotfold Junior Football Club – (The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Riverside Playing Field, Arlesey Road) charge for non-exclusive use by the club, per season	£5,000 per season
Dean's Fair/other circus/fair visits	
Charge per non-opening day	£33
Charge per opening day	£66
Arlesey Road playing field	

Casual Adult - charge per game	£50
Casual Junior – charge per game	£30
Commercial use (activity where a charge is being made or for profit) of The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Arlesey Road, Riverside Playing Field, Greenacre Park and any other open space under responsibility of the Town Council for non-football use	£10 per session, per site used
Car boot sales/Annual Classic Car Show (The Green)	FOC

141/22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

This item, and the following item falls because all staff salaries now fall within the remit of the Establishment Committee.

142/22 SALARIES 2023/2024 – MUGA CARETAKERS

As explained above, this item falls.

143/22 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

The Clerk circulated a report highlighting points of note in expenditure and item throughout the current financial year to date, and any action to take.

RESOLVED that

- i) expenditure for one-off drainage works spent at the beginning of the financial year are vired from Open Spaces Maintenance & Repairs to EMR Rec Rolling Improvements
- ii) unspent Centenary Wood/Teasel budget at the end of this financial year is to be vired to EMR Teasel.

144/22 COMMITTEE BUDGET SETTING 2023/2024

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 2023/2024

Estimated running costs	£91,720
Less estimated income	£12,315
Total	£79,405

With regard to the Street Lighting Contract and the Grass Cutting and Landscaping Contract, as these end 31st March 2023, next financial year's figures are unknown. The figure set for the Grass Cutting and Landscaping Contract includes work carried out under the remit of other committees also, and when the actual contract figure is known it will be apportioned across the committees accordingly.

The Clerk has asked the Street Lighting Contractor to provide up to date numbers and details of types of town council owned street lights, in order that an invitation to tender may be issued for a new contract next financial year. The Clerk is to chase again, and if not done within two weeks of that, we will pay for another lighting contractor to assess our lights and provide the information.

Earmarked Reserves

Rec Rolling Ground Improvements	£ 75,000
Rec Street Lighting	£ 10,000
Rec MUGA	£ 20,000

Allotment Hedging	£ 1,000
Rec Tree Work	£ 10,000
Rec Arlesey Road MUGA sinking fund	£ 20,000
Repay S106 MUGA	£ 4,000
Riverside Playing Field car park	£ 50,000
Total	£190,000

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The sum of £79,405 is submitted as this committee's budget request for 2023/2024.
- ii) The sum of £190,000 is submitted as this committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2023/2024.
- 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.

145/22 QUOTE – REPAIRS TO TARMAc PATH HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Members considered a quote to repair the tarmac path to the side of the Tractor Shed on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED that the quote to repair the tarmac path, from Driveway Rejuvenations, in the sum of £1,550 plus vat is accepted.

146/22 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD REJUVENATION PROJECT

The Clerk advised that work is underway today, however the ground is now much softer than in recent weeks, and she has been working to try and enable access for equipment and machinery via the adjacent former Roker Park development site. We have been unable to gain access via this route because a new builder is due to start work again imminently, also a newly installed mobile CCTV camera is now in the way of the swing of any vehicle which may wish to access this route. This will mean that the skip lorry and tarmac lorry will have to drive across the playing field, which will mean some reinstatement works at our cost on completion of the project.

Shortfall will be around £18,000 at town council cost, which may need to be flexible due to possible ground reinstatement works.

147/22 MUGA GAMES WALL – ARLESEY ROAD

Members considered a quote and options for games walls on the new Arlesey Road MUGA, once completed. Information provided for members included an option for a tennis games wall, and members felt that this would be ideal for the newly refurbished Riverside Playing Field.

RESOLVED that two games walls for Arlesey Road MUGA are purchased and installed, one on the inside of the MUGA and one on the outside with appropriate artificial sports surface, and a third, tennis games wall, for Riverside Playing Field MUGA tennis court.

148/22 HIGHWAYS REPORT

Members considered a report from our Highways Representative, Councillor Smith:

Some Gully work has been undertaken although the contractor is being chased as the High Street still hasn't been attended to, The Green was visited on 5th October

although CBC have requested a revisit as the work hasn't been completed to their satisfaction.

The work to install **traffic calming on the Astwick Road corner** near the junction with The Green has still not been started. Jenny Goddard, Senior Highways Officer, has updated with the following:

“The scheme is included on this years Annual Plan and is expected to be delivered before the end of the financial year. There is currently a provisional date for Start of Works in December, however we are still waiting for final clarification that this start date can be achieved.”

Whilst not in Stotfold, works are due to begin on **resurfacing/repairing the road edging in Astwick** on 21st November. This may affect access through Astwick to the A1 during the works.

Status Updates:

Site	Issue	Action
Silver Birch Avenue	New Pavement Overlay failures	Contractor has been chased, no date to rectify. Regularly chasing this issue. No update.
The Green	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	Contractor needs to revisit after initially marking as completed. Scott at CBC is chasing this for us. Another revisit required.
Regent Street	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	Road Closure is required so contractors can access drains and gulleys on both sides of the road. I have asked why this hasn't been planned yet. Awaiting answer. No date has been given for the work.
High Street, Brook Street to Crossroads	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	This was initially marked as completed in June but the contractor has since admitted that they didn't do anything. Scott has asked for this, The Green and Regents street be completed as soon as possible. Nothing yet.
Astwick Road Corner	Traffic Calming and Bus Stop removal	Scheduled for the end of September. This did not happen, still waiting for an answer as why this is the case and what the plan is now. Possibly December.
Brayes Manor	Pavement repair	CBC have agreed that Pavements need to be resurfaced, no current date for repair. No update.
Arlesey Road	Tree cutting	CBC have been asked to cut the trees back along Arlesey Road and cycle path as they are blocking signage, streetlights and some branches are at cyclist head height. No update.

Regent Street	Pothole near Meadow Way	Accepted as needing repair after inspection. No date for repair
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Other issues are to be addressed with no current update:

Speed limit signs on the High Street: We have asked if we can have extra speed limit signs to remind drivers of the 20mph speed limit. We can't put our own signs up but the Traffic Management Team have confirmed that they will review the speed limit repeater signs over the next few weeks.

High Street Potholes: I have noted that the potholes in the middle of the road on the High Street are getting worse. These have been reported on Fix my street. I am unaware of any date to resurface the High Street as Baldock Road was earlier this year.

School line markings near St. Mary's: These are badly faded and have been reported to Scott and the maintenance team at CBC.

Double Yellow Lines on the corner of St. Mary's Avenue and Church Road: We have been asked by a resident for Yellow lines to be added to the above junction. It can be almost impossible to see oncoming traffic in either direction when exiting St Mary's Avenue as cars park right up to the junction. I have asked the Traffic Management Team at CBC to investigate this for us.

Councillor Smith will investigate whether we could purchase/install a Speed Indicator Device along the High Street.

149/22 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.

Items reported for action

- There is an overhanging tree from 180 Hitchin Road, which is causing a hazard to pedestrians using the footway – a letter will be sent to the occupier asking them to cut it back
- Someone has cut trees/shrubs and left the debris in the car park at the Simpson Centre, in front of the library, which is now causing an obstruction of one of the parking spaces – the Landscape Contractor is to remove this

150/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.43pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: