

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023, AT 7.17PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.

---

## Committee Members present:

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

## Also present:

Mrs K Elliott-Turner – Town Clerk and one member of the public

---

### **18/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor J Talbot.

### **19/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of members interests or 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.

### **20/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

Not at this time.

### **21/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee meeting held on 11th January 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

### **22/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Nothing to report.

### **23/23 POSSIBLE 'REDUNDANT' STREET FURNITURE**

Members considered a request from a resident for possible 'redundant' street furniture to be removed – by other parties. The items are two Victorian 'stink pipes' on Baldock Road and High Street and a bus stop post on Baldock Road.

Bus stop post - although the public service buses may no longer use the stop, it is possible that services such as the Wanderbus may do.

'Stink pipes' - Anglian Water advise that they will need to carry out a site visit to establish if they are still operational.

Our Highways Representative, Councillor Smith will work with the office to establish whether these items are in fact 'redundant'.

### **24/23 VEHICLE BARRIER – SORRELL DRIVE**

Members considered a quote to install a new vehicle barrier (gate) on Sorrell Drive, to allow access to maintenance vehicles, such as the River Ivel Drainage Board. As this area has been adopted by the Town Council, we are to meet the costs of the new gate. Quote £1,645.87 plus vat.

Councillor Cooper advised that when he and Councillor Hayes attended a site visit with the IDB last year, they were told that the IDB would be meeting the cost of the gate. Barry Cannon of the IDB confirms that this is a misunderstanding and that because the town council owns the land, we have to meet the costs.

**RESOLVED** that a proposal is put to the IDB to split the costs equally.

#### **25/23 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOMS – FIRE ESCAPE**

**RESOLVED** that the quote from David Grahame Construction at £2,168 to install a new fire escape and ramp in the changing rooms to provide a second means of exit in an emergency, is accepted.

#### **26/23 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOMS – EMERGENCY LIGHTING**

**RESOLVED** that the quote from Terry Seymour Electrical contractor to install emergency lighting in the changing rooms at £550 plus vat, is accepted.

#### **27/23 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

A complaint has been received from two Norton Road Allotment tenants about the newly installed palisade entrance gate, who feel it is too heavy, and that the wind catches it and blows it into people. It has also been reported that when the wind blows and the gate moves, the lock panel has hit a tenant in the face. Investigations have been made as to the claims about the gate, and any remedy which might be necessary.

It is felt that the gate is not too heavy to operate and it does not move significantly enough, by the wind or general drift, to be of concern. Initial investigations looked at hydraulic openers, although the gate width would be too heavy for this and would put strain on the automation. A suggestion from a tenant that sections of the new palisade gate are removed and replaced with mesh are also not practical, both in terms of feasibility and finance.

The method for pinning back the gate - originally a stone, and then a tube for the holding pin, has been removed by persons unknown.

**RESOLVED** that a new tube will be installed and painted for visibility. The lock panel will also be painted or similar, as suitable, to make it more visible. A 'caution' notice will be displayed about how to use the gate correctly and safely. The situation will be monitored going forward.

#### **28/23 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND – MAPLE TREE**

Members considered a request from the Bowls Club for the council to perform some 'gentle pruning' of the large Maple tree located in the recreation ground, very close to the boundary of the Bowls Club, as branches are overhanging the club car park.

**RESOLVED** that because it is nearing the start of nesting season, this matter will be left on the table for future consideration, and in the meantime the Bowls Club are able to prune branches overhanging their car park as required.

#### **29/23 HIGHWAYS REPORT**

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

## 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	Contractors visited on 11 <sup>th</sup> January, but CBC were unaware of this so road clearance wasn't undertaken. CBC aren't aware of what work was completed so will try and find out.
High Street, Brook Street to Crossroads	Blocked Drains/Gulley's	No further update. Activity has been noted in the area, but we don't know exactly what has been completed.
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. Delayed until February 13 <sup>th</sup> at the earliest. We have been told that senior management need to make some decisions but not what these decisions are.
Brayes Manor	Pavement repair	CBC have agreed that Pavements need to be resurfaced, no current date for repair. No update.
Regent Street	Pothole near Meadow Way	Have been promised that this is on the schedule for repair. No repair yet, adding multiple reports to fixmystreet to try and move this along.

Other issues being, or to be, addressed:

Speed limit signs on the High Street: Highways improvement are blocking any banner sign requests so this is a work in progress. They have promised to review the speed limit signage. No update

School line markings near St. Mary's: These are on the schedule to be repainted but no date yet. No update

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. As of 03/01/2023 the consultation A00368

Church Road, Walnut Close, Upperstone Close, Stotfold, has been published. This closes on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The result should be the introduction of waiting restrictions on these junctions.

Result of above consultation not yet published.

Tansy Avenue/A507 Junction: A consultation is planned on adding waiting restrictions to the entry of Willowherb Way/Tansy Avenue. No date for this currently.

A temporary barrier is in place for the ditch near the green wheel bridleway on Astwick Road (near Astwick). It was hoped this would have been replaced with a permanent barrier but no date is currently available.

### **30/23 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.

### **31/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Query as to when kissing gate for Millennium Green is to be replaced.

A more suitable location has been identified for the 'tractor bridge' from Riverside Playing Field to Jubilee Meadow which would avoid removing large trees.

A Central Bedfordshire Council notice in the Memorial Hall car park states that people may only park there for up to 6 hours to use the EV charge points. We were assured that EV parking spaces were not for exclusive use of EVs, this would not be enforceable and there were no restrictions on parking times. A query will be raised with Tom Price, project co-ordinator for the Stotfold EV charge points.

Arlesey Road play equipment and MUGA - this project is not yet complete and the items have not been signed off, however contractors are aware that they are being accessed despite the fencing.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.57pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**