

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023, AT 7.20 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE.**

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Committee Members present:

Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), S Buck, S Hayes, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, L Anderson – unable to join remotely

Also present:

Ms C Jenkins – Acting Town Clerk  
H Child – Environmental Services Co-ordinator

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**117/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor J Hyde.

**118/23 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.

**119/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

There were none.

**120/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** The Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed at last week's Council meeting.

**121/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**REQUEST TO HAVE PICNIC BENCH MOVED FROM NEAR THE BOWLS CLUB**

Members had previously discussed the possible re-siting of the picnic bench on Riverside Recreation Ground, due to anti-social behaviour experienced by the Bowls Club.

**RESOLVED:** not to move the picnic bench for now as things have quietened down lately. Nicola King who was recently doing summer activities at the Rec. is well aware of the bench problem, along with other ASB in the town, as are the Police.

**REVIEW ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTION REPORTS**

Six of the eight parks have now been inspected to ascertain what work could be done by the Rangers and what repairs require more specialist intervention. This information has been passed to CPM Playgrounds to provide quotations for the repairs.

**RESOLVED:** Awaiting quotes from CPM Playgrounds for the repairs. All other recommendations will be scheduled for the Town Rangers to complete.

Playground inspection training is booked for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023.

### **SPEED INDICATION DEVICES**

The Town Council has purchased 2 new Speed indicator devices to be erected in the town. Locations to be identified and agreed next week.

### **GREENACRE BRIDGE HANDRAILS**

Handrails purchased and installed on Greenacre bridge.

### **BENCH FOR PENDLETON WAY OUTSIDE LARKSFIELD SURGERY**

Ryalls have offered to deliver the bench to site tomorrow, Town Rangers to install.

### **LITTLE LONDON FOOTPATH**

New sign has been erected, which has received lots of positive feedback for local residents.

### **CCTV FOR RIVERSIDE MUGA**

Shebang have installed the CCTV, awaiting SIM card to be installed.

## **122/23 CONDITIONS OF USE – RIVERSIDE MUGA**

Members discussed the conditions of use on the newly refurbished MUGA at Riverside Recreation Ground. A discussion document, outlining various options for consideration, together with an email from a resident, were provided prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED** The courts are accessible to all, on a free of charge basis. No pre-booking is required. Keys for the netball posts will be available from the office for a refundable deposit of £20.00. Regular users can retain the keys until they no longer need them.

#### **Tennis nets**

Town Rangers will put the nets up at 8am and take them down at 3.30pm Monday – Friday, between April and the end of September.

**Netball posts** will be available from 3.30pm onwards, Monday to Friday, and at weekends if the courts are not in use.

The posts will be secured to the perimeter fence with two padlocks and users will be expected to secure these after use.

## **123/23 RIVERSIDE RECREATION GROUND – BRIDGE**

It was also noted that the main height barrier and the Armco barrier in the Riverside car park were now too narrow for access by a tractor. It was felt possible to move the upright to the left of the entrance over to make a wider entrance and fit an extension to the overhead barrier. It was also noted to look at the surface in this area.

**RESOLVED:** that David Johannsen will be contacted and together with Philip Westrop, be asked to quote to create a culvert to allow vehicular access to Jubilee Meadow

To also arrange a meeting with Martin Davenport (countrywide) David Johannsen and councillors to discuss the management plan and work to be carried out.

## **124/23 ADOPTION OF JUBILEE MEADOW**

David W, Adoption Manager at Taylor Wimpey, offered to meet with Councillors on-site tomorrow at 10am.

**RESOLVED** Due to the short notice, it was agreed to defer for another date.

#### **125/23 JUBILEE TREE REPLACEMENT – PRINCE CHARLES AVENUE**

**RESOLVED:** The current tree is to be removed as soon as possible and the new tree will be ordered and planted in November 2023.

#### **126/23 ARLESEY ROAD OVERFLOW CAR PARK**

Quotes were obtained from Countrywide and Matta, which were uploaded before the meeting. The Football Club are liable (50/50) for the car park area maintenance under their lease, in partnership with 50% funding from the Football Club.

Under these terms, if they want us to put it down, we will need their contribution to it, as The Town Council will have no need for this service. Extending the car park facility is primarily for match day use, as they use both sides of car park, and the non-tarmacked area.

We have also asked to consider repairing the non-tarmacked area of the car park MOT 1 to consolidate the existing base. See quotations.

**RESOLUTION** Write to the Football Club, to state we have obtained two quotations for creating an overflow car park with a better surface, ie grass crete or Matta to assist you with match day parking. Obviously, funding is limited and we would like to invite you to a meeting with the Clerk to discuss the funding of this project.

#### **127/23 REQUEST FROM PLOT HOLDER TO RETURN TO PADLOCK AND KEY**

Members received a request from a plot holder to change the combination padlock on site back to a padlock with a key. It was noted that all other tenants were happy with the combination lock system.

**RESOLVED:** that the combination lock system would stay in place.

#### **128/23 MOVING OF FACEPLATE AT NR ALLOTMENTS GATE**

**RESOLVED:** The faceplate has been moved higher up.

#### **129/23 HEDGE LAYING AT NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

Members discussed a quote for £3687.50 + VAT (see quote). This would be subject to access from the farm side, so would have to go to Mr Richard Meredith Hardy for approval.

Now is an appropriate time to start this, subject to Mr Meredith Hardy giving permission to carry out work the way we are proposing to the hedge. There is potentially some grant funding for farmers to undertake the work.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Liz Anderson to pursue this.

#### **130/23 POND AND BUND AT RIVERSIDE REC**

Dredging will start in the second half of September, approximately 1m of silt to be removed. It was confirmed that to remove the silt, no lining will be involved.

**RESOLVED** IDB agreed to carry out work, free of charge.

#### **131/23 UPDATE ON COUNTRYWIDE CONTRACT**

The contract with Countrywide has been running for six months.

**RESOLVED:** We resolved to take out the pitch maintenance element of the Countrywide contract for Arlesey Road as this will be covered by work carried out by AA Sherriff & Sons to meet the requirement of the Pitch Power Schedule. AA Sherriff are more specialised in this area than Countrywide, who are more generalists.

**132/23 HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Potholes have been filled on Hitchin Road.

The Hitchin Road roundabout will be closed for construction work all weekend, from 8pm on Friday to 6am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, which will cause increased traffic through the town and along the High Street.

**133/23 PUBLIC REALM WORKS**

It was noted that the surface of the footpath, adjacent to the bowls club, is slowly breaking up. This has caused a few people to stumble.

It was also noted that the Streetlights in Trinity Road were still not working. This is a power problem and has been reported to UK Power Networks.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**