



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, VALERIAN WAY, STOTFOLD, SG5 4HG ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 19:00**

**Present:**

Cllr M Cooper (Chair), Cllr L Anderson (Vice Chair), Cllr S Hayes, Cllr J Hyde, Cllr B Saunders, Cllr B Woods, Cllr J Talbot.

**Also Present:**

E. Payne – Town Clerk (Virtual)  
A. Leadbeater – Public Realm Manager

**Apologies:**

Cllr S Buck (Mayor), Cllr J Headington, Cllr J Smith.

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Buck, Smith and Headington.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**3. PUBLIC SECTION**

There were no members of the public present.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. It was noted that in the previous minutes circulated with the agenda there was an error for item 6.1 for the tree survey which had been amended in the version of minutes being signed. Under this item, Cllr Talbot pointed out that he had requested a review of the trees at the end of Thatch Cottage at Brook End and not Brook Street.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** that, after amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES, FOR INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Members received the Clerk's report which was noted. Members sought clarification on the weighting for the Rangers Relocation criteria. It was confirmed that the Town Rangers will be consulted on the final location for their location. Cllr Talbot asked whether it was feasible to use the tractor shed at Hitchin Road for flood equipment if it is vacant and the existing container relocated to another site for storage. This will be considered when the scoring is completed.



Cllr Hyde asked about the anti-social behaviour at the Memorial Hall. Was there going to be a report to this committee? Members discussed the benefits of the patrols and considered that it may be something that they want to continue in future incidents.

**Action:** Report on ASB and Riverside and Memorial Hall to next relevant committee.

## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1. Streetlights Repairs

Members received a report on street light repairs. Members discussed the pros of LEDs vs sodium; the unmetered power supply and whether the church yard lights are included in the inventory.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) *To implement the street light upgrades over a phased period over 4 years to allow sufficient funds in the budget for electricity and capital costs.*
- b) *Further costings for this approach to be taken to the next meeting.*
- c) *Areas which are particularly badly lit are to be upgraded first.*
- d) *Street light tree trims to be in the first phase.*

**Action:** Members to advise the Clerk of which streetlights need to be updated in the first phase.

### 6.2. Notice Boards

Members received a report on replacement notice boards. Members raised concerns that the public would not be able to put up their own notices and it was suggested that they could come to the Town Council for the Town Rangers to erect notices.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotes from Quote B from Greenbarnes Ltd at a cost of £7,201.11.

### 6.3. Snow Angels

Members received a proposal regarding setting up a scheme to help vulnerable residents clear snow and clear pavements in the locality.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to set up a Snow Angels Community Volunteer Group.

### 6.4. Law Commission - Cemetery and Burial Consultation

Members received a report on the cemetery and burial consultation. Cllr Hyde suggested that those Councillors who are interested in the topic form a group with a proposed response to be agreed at the next meeting.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to

- a) *Set up a Task and Finish Group to compile a response to the consultation with Cllr Hyde, Talbot and Woods supported by the Cemetery & Allotments Officer.*
- b) *Publicise the consultation to the public so they can feed back directly.*

**Action:** Publicise the consultation in all social media and printed media.



**6.5. Pitch Power Inspections**

Members received a report on the Pitch Power inspections. Cllr Anderson commented about the continued use spray herbicide. The comments were that the spraying was June and July, but this is not good for pollinators and should be April and May. Arlesey Road should only be the pitches and avoid the swale and the hill. Cllr Cooper commented that that Hitchin Road the pitch area is now just grass, and the ground cover plants are around the perimeter of the pitch.

**DECISION:** It was **RESOLVED** to note the improvements through the Pitch Power grant.

**Action:** Advise the contractor not to spray during June and July.

**Action:** Write to contractor and feedback the comments on the improved condition of the pitches. Treatment should be on pitches only.

**7. HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Cllr Talbot reported that streetlight with ANPR and 30mph sign is intermittent. This will be reported via Fix My Street.

**Action:** Report faulty streetlight.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Work Programme was noted.

**9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Cllr Anderson reported that the IDB is proposing to merge the Beds and Bucks boards.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 11 December 2024.

The meeting closed at 20:15

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:** .....

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):** .....