

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	S Hayes
B Saunders	L Stoter
J Talbot	

Also present: The Town Clerk

1/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper and Mrs J Hyde.

2/15 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Nothing to declare. 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.

3/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

No members of the public present.

4/15 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk’s Report

Following a complaint from a resident about the puddles now forming on the High Street since completion of the improvement works, particularly in the area of the Co-op and nursery, an Amey representative advises that some of the puddles on High Street are the result of accumulated tolerance issues in planned works, whilst others weren’t envisaged and may be due to the road having been locally widened leading to the road edge being lower than the general course of the road gutter. This may require the installation of a new gully to overcome the problem. All of the puddle issues will require action by a surfacing contractor as well as, in some instances, sub-surface drainage works. Unfortunately winter is a bad season for surfacing works as inclement weather does not promote durable surfacing and extends the time needed to install materials. The puddle in the area of the Co-op/nursery appears to be down to a blocked gully and a request has been put through for it to be cleared as soon as possible.

Members queried where the money set aside for High Street drainage works had gone. In the 2012/13 highways programme the sum of £60,000 had been designated for such works, however we were verbally advised that this was put off because of the town improvement works. Councillor Saunders advised that he would chase this sum of money and the matter would also be taken up with our Highways Area Steward.

Matters Arising

Minute 120/14 – the River Ivel Internal Drainage Board representative is currently unavailable and so a site meeting to discuss Pix Brook, adjacent channel and weir levels has not yet been arranged.

5/15 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD – LEASE

The lease for the lower half of the Riverside Playing Field (car park end) was for 42 years from 25th March 1975. Although two years still remain on the lease, it is imperative that the lease is extended at this stage due to the relocation of the mobile mast. To recap, the Vodafone mobile mast is currently situated in the Roker Park site and is to be relocated to the Town Council owned area of Riverside

Playing Field. In order to permit Vodafone access across the Central Beds Council owned section of the Playing Field from the road/car park end, an extension to the lease needs to be granted.

Resolved that an extension to the lease with Central Beds Council of Riverside Playing Field is to be requested.

6/15 BENCH – HIGH STREET

Correspondence has been received from PCSO Jeeves to advise that over the New Year period she attended a criminal damage report to a vehicle parked in the new lay-by on the High Street. She was advised by residents that the adjacent bench is attracting youths and drunk people late at night – breaking bottles, kicking footballs, etc. She has therefore asked that this Committee considers removing the bench.

Members were advised that an adjacent resident has not experienced any issues with the bench, and has also been monitoring the situation since we received the notification from PCSO Jeeves, with still no issues occurring.

Resolved that the bench is left in situ, and the situation will be monitored.

7/15 TEASEL – EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Members considered a request from Teasel to purchase equipment to assist in clearing areas of Millennium Green, on behalf of the Town Council. Funds currently available in the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget £971.00

Funding for items requested:

3 bypass loppers £20.83 each (+ vat)

4 bypass secateurs £16.66 each (+ vat)

Total £129.11 (+ vat) postage free of charge

Resolved that the above items are purchased at a cost of £129.11 (+ vat) from the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget for Teasel to use in clearing areas of Millennium Green, as directed by the Town Council.

8/15 GENERAL WORK

Resolved that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- Pix Road – a resident has complained that the double yellow lines do not go far enough into Pix Road, resulting in vehicles parking too close to the junction, hindering visibility on the junction. Request that these lines are extended.
- Letter is to be sent to our Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafolo, to thank him for his work in getting the bollards and lighting columns working at the Hitchin Road roundabout.
- C131 (Fairfield side of the A507 roundabout) 6 consecutive lighting columns are not working, starting at column no. 56 on the eastern side of the road. Some of these columns also do not have tops on.
- Elliot Way (Fairfield), near the bus shelter, another 3 lamps are not working.
- 3 drains are blocked on Regent Street – corner of Regent Street/Church Road, Regent Street/Jasmine Court and Regent Street/The Green. A hole forming in the area of the Regent Street/The Green blocked drain has now grown and is 3” deep at its deepest place and may indicate sinkage in the road surface.
- There are 3 or 4 lighting columns working intermittently on the footpath between Taylors Road and Silverbirch Avenue.

- The Crofts road sign on one side is too worn to be readable.
- Alexander Road sign to one side is too worn to be readable.
- The Avenue at High Street end, road sign is obscured by shrubs and very faded
- Church Road, resident at no. 31 is crossing the footway to park with no dropped kerb
- Alexander Road – footway trips at no. 19
- High Street – still has a number of road holes along the central white line from Church Road to The Avenue. Some patching done beside other holes left undone.
- Church Road – 2 drains between the junction with The Crofts and junction with Alexander Road not working properly – previously reported more than once.

CBC Environmental team

- Regent Street has a lot of litter on the opposite side of the road to One Stop shop, heading towards The Green.

9/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Members were advised that following a query about the fencing still in situ in the verge by the new Brook Street/Hitchin Road roundabout, the Central Beds Council town improvements team advise that they are waiting for National Power to put in cabling to serve the roundabout lighting.

The requested walkabout to inspect the recent town improvement works has been deferred until all works are complete.

The bench at the bus stop has now been built and installed by Mr Sagers. He is to be thanked for his good work.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.56pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED