

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015 AT 7.45PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor Dhaliwal and the Assistant Clerk

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**52/15 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Nominations were called for; Councillor Mrs Cooper was proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations it was:

**Resolved** that Councillor Mrs Cooper is elected Chairman of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee for 2015/2016.

**53/15 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Nominations were called for; Councillor Hayes was proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations it was:

**Resolved** that Councillor Hayes is elected Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee for 2015/2016.

**54/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**55/15 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in agenda item 6 – Matters Arising – Minute 49/15 as she is secretary to the Manor Farm Co-Operative.

**56/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None.

**57/15 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**Clerk's Report**

The new resin sign for the Ford Bridge has been manufactured and is ready to be installed. The Handyman has expressed concerns regarding fixing the sign and Members noted his concerns

**Correspondence received**

Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 2 2015 (available for Members)

**Matters Arising**

Minute 42/15 – the Central Beds Council independent Road Safety Audit has not yet been completed and so the previously postponed Town Improvements walkabout has not yet been rescheduled. Senior Officers at Central Beds Council have now been asked to chase the improvement works project team and assist with the provision of the Road Safety Audit report in order that the walkabout can be rescheduled.

Minute 42/15 – A meeting is being arranged for the beginning of June with St Mary’s Academy representatives and Members of this Committee to discuss road safety concerns in the area of the school. The original intention was to meet with the road safety officers of Central Beds Council, however they advise that as they have received a petition from residents about road safety concerns (previously provided to this Committee – April), this petition will be formally submitted to Central Beds Council on 29<sup>th</sup> June and therefore they are unable to meet to discuss the matter before that time. However, we are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes about the petition.

Minute 49/15 – a request has been sent to the Manor Farm Co-operative to enquire whether the Town Council is able to take over the lease of the field (known as the beetroot field) off Malthouse Lane.

## 58/15 SITE MEETING – FORD BRIDGE

Members considered the following report prepared by Councillor Mrs Cooper:

Notes of the meeting held at Riverside Playing Field – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Present: Angus Clow – Amey  
Mary Cooper – Chair – Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee  
Alan Cooper – Member – Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee

At a previous Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee Meeting several Councillors had concerns about the general state of the area around where the new Ford Bridge on Malthouse Lane had been constructed last year (2014). This amounted to general dissatisfaction on the visual appearance of the area and traffic concerns on a narrow road.

Malthouse Lane is narrow, almost single width only road. Vehicles are pulling onto the re-instated grass verge to allow others to come over the bridge and pass. The verge is subsequently sinking and newly seeded grass is being eroded.

Mr Clow will consider installing a passing bay with a grass-crete structural base pending further inspection of the area later in the year. This would have budgetary implications for the Highways Department.

Grass verge area adjacent to Riverside area that was radically disturbed by construction works has poor sparse grass growth. Mr Clow will get this raked and re-seeded again to supplement existing growth in the Autumn. (It is too dry now to do successful seeding).

Area of re-seeding inside Riverside adjacent to and on bank down to the river has poor and sparse grass growth. Mr Clow will get this area raked, possibly top soiled and re-seeded in the Autumn. (It is too dry now to do successful seeding).

Councillor Alan Cooper commented on the very visible differing levels of the river bed, especially on the Mill side of the new bridge. Mr Clow will investigate this.

Mr Clow will get a new piece of wood affixed to fence on Riverside boundary, near to bridge. In the meantime, the Handyman has been instructed to repair several damaged fence rails.

**Resolved** that a letter is sent to Stotfold Junior Football Club requesting that they ask parents and spectators to refrain from parking along the verges of Malthouse Lane

#### **59/15 ROSPA INSPECTION REPORT**

The annual ROSPA inspection has been undertaken and a copy of the report is available on file. Matters identified in the report as requiring attention include replacement of worn shackles to swings and repairs to wet pour surfaces where required. The Handyman has been asked to work through these items and report once completed.

**Resolved** that The Chairman and The Vice Chairman of this committee would undertake a further inspection of the play equipment to ensure all works have been carried out

#### **60/15 LITTER BINS**

Members considered purchasing 3 x new litter bins for Riverside Recreation Ground and 1 x litter bin for Brook Street/High Street junction and it was

**Resolved** that 4 x Lynsey Litter bins from Street Furniture Direct are purchased at a cost of £229.80 + vat.

#### **61/15 SITE MEETING – PIX BROOK AND DEBRIS PREVENTION GRID**

Councillor Collier confirmed that a meeting with the River Ivel Drainage Board had taken place to discuss issues regarding the Pix Brook and debris prevention grid. Councillor Collier confirmed that the old Pix Brook channel has been cleared and will be cleared on a monthly basis by the developer. The new gantry is actually catching more debris which is causing concern for householders next to the gantry as they are worried about flooding.

#### **62/15 DEBRIS COLLECTION GANTRY**

Members considered the permission given by the River Ivel Drainage Board which would allow Stotfold Town Council to paint the debris collection gantry at our cost and it was

**Resolved** that the gantry is not painted at this time.

#### **63/15 PIX BROOK/HOWARD CLOSE BRIDGE**

Vine Technical Services, contractors for Taylor Wimpey on the Land South of Stotfold development, have been in discussions with Central Beds Council to arrange their adoption of the bridge known as Pix Brook bridge, linking the new development with Howard Close.

Central Beds Council have refused to take ownership of the bridge, giving the following reasons:

- No significant benefit in terms of Highways, Rights of Way or Leisure
- The slight risk of any injuries from playing in the brook. Current Central Beds Council thinking is to shy away from owning any waterbodies or works associated with waterbodies
- No obligation for Central Beds Council to take on the bridge

Vine Technical Services have asked that the Town Council considers adopting the bridge should Central Beds Council continue to refuse.

A copy of the relevant section of the Section 106 document relating to the bridge is provided for Members' information. Commuted sums due still need to be confirmed as there appeared to be some uncertainty in previous discussions between the developers and Central Beds Council, and the Section 106 document is not clear.

Implications for the Town Council if it were to adopt the bridge could include insurance, maintenance and repairs – costs and feasibility (i.e. painting if required and timber replacement), bridge replacement after time, health and safety concerns regarding the Brook.

At a previous site meeting regarding Pix Brook, Vine Technical Services had asked that the Town Council might wish to try and convince Central Beds Council that they should adopt the bridge, and

to this end, Councillor Collier (as previous Mayor) wrote to Richard Carr, Chief Executive of Central Beds Council, to request that the decision regarding adoption of the bridge is made by Councillors and not at Officer level. The response from Richard Carr advises that they are exploring whether the bridge can be included in the developer's current application for adoption of nearby roads/footpaths (section 28 agreement).

Members thanked Councillor Collier for his hard work researching the S106 document and for writing to Central Beds Council, and it was

**Resolved** that Stotfold Town Council do not take on the ownership of the Pix Brook/Howard Close pedestrian bridge.

**64/15 ARLESEY ROAD COMMUNITY USE WORKING PARTY**

The Arlesey Road Community Use Working Party – Councillors Collier, Saunders, Hayes and Stoter, met on 21<sup>st</sup> April to discuss ideas for community uses for the Arlesey Road site – sport, recreation, leisure, other. An initial list of possible uses was compiled, with Members allocated uses for further investigation into the need for such uses, any potential costs, and possible users. Funding sources were discussed, with further investigation to be carried out. The public will be consulted on their views for community use, once research on initial ideas is underway. An article will be included in the July and September edition of the Stotfold News for this purpose. Councillor Saunders confirmed that a meeting with an archery group has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> June onsite at Arlesey Road to discuss their requirements and the suitability of the site. Further investigations have been made with The Hive at Shefford with regard to soft play and a meeting will be arranged with the owner of The Hive.

**65/15 ARLESEY ROAD – KITE FLYING**

Members considered a request from DRN Powerkites to use the Arlesey Road site to fly their power kites and it was

**Resolved** that a meeting would be arranged with the group to see what equipment they use and the space required for the activity.

**66/15 USE OF THE GREEN – CLASSIC CAR & HOT RODS SHOW**

Members considered a request from the organisers of the above event to hold their annual car show on The Green on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

**Resolved** that the organisers of the Classic Car & Hot Rods Show are permitted to use The Green on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. The organisers are to be made aware of complaints regarding exhibitors speeding along Regent Street.

**67/15 MUGA – PURCHASE LEAF BLOWER**

Members considered purchasing a petrol leaf blower for use at the MUGA and it was

**Resolved** that a petrol leaf blower from Stuart Brown is purchased at a cost of £320.00 + vat.

**68/15 GREEN WHEEL**

Copies of minutes of the last meetings of the Stotfold Green Wheel Group and the Stakeholders Group were provided to Members. A letter has been sent to the Manor Farm Co-operative with regard to the tenancy of the Beetroot Field. Members discussed the request that wild flowers are not mown by the grass cutting contractor at the Norton Road and Hitchin Road underpasses. It was suggested that the Central Bedfordshire ecologist, should advise which plants should be cut around.

## 69/15 GENERAL WORK

**Resolved** that the following is actioned as appropriate:

### Highways

- Rook Tree Lane – junction with Rook Tree Close numerous road holes at junction
- Brayes Manor – Very badly worn vehicle access at No 21
- Mill Lane – Road hole on manhole at Mill Cottage and another at access to Arc Progress
- The Green – road hole at junction with Regent Street
- Regent Street – Footway damaged on vehicle access at no. 36 and 40
- Meadow Way – resident of 2b Regent Street created a vehicle access to the rear of the property some years ago and has no dropped kerb.
- Hyde Avenue – Road holes at nos.8 and 27, shrub on the footway adjacent to No 88 should be removed.
- Church Road – Road hole at no. 19
- Regent Street/Rook Tree Lane – blocked drain, hole in tarmac patching repair has been carried out but the area is sinking.
- S1 and S14 Vaughan Road lights not working.
- Columns at the Brook Street roundabout not working.
- Howard Close – 2 columns next to pedestrian bridge are not working

### Handyman

- Removal of graffiti on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground
- Fill in hole in goal mouth in Hitchin Road Recreation Ground.
- Remove glass from gravel at entrance to Riverside Recreation Ground

Councillor Mrs Bundock's road survey is to be sent to Mr Corofola and Mr Freeman at Central Beds Council for their information.

## **70/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

The Chairman noted that Hertfordshire County Council are cutting bus services in Hertfordshire, which could have an effect on bus services in Bedfordshire that go to Hertfordshire towns.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.31pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**