

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.18PM

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor S Dhaliwal and the Town Clerk

122/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collier and Saunders.

123/15 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none. 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.

124/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

125/15 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence

For information, correspondence has been received Highways regarding a complaint by a resident about high speeds on Norton Road and subsequent traffic monitoring by Bedfordshire Police. A copy of the content is provided for Members’ information, which highlights the results of the Police Traffic Management Unit’s traffic data. As Norton Road has been recorded by the Police as a concern speed site for further monitoring, Highways advise that they will be conducting a road safety assessment within 20 working days (of 13th Oct). This should therefore be completed around the time of this Committee. If an update is available the Committee will be notified, or an update provided at the next Committee meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute 108/15 – the Handyman Contractor will be providing a quote to remove old peeling paint and re-paint the end façade of the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground changing rooms for the December Committee meeting. He will also be asked to look at the re-pointing required on some of the brickwork on the end façade.

127/15 BROOK STREET CAR PARK – PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Members considered a request from Days Bakery (through Councillor Pickering) for the Brook Street car park to have a restriction of ideally 2 hours parking only, or 4 hours parking, as they feel this car park should be a shoppers car park only and not be used by local residents parking long-term.

Members considered pros and cons of restricting hours for parking, noting that any restriction would have to be enforced by the Town Council.

Before considering this matter any further, enquiries will be made with local retailers to ascertain whether their staff use the car park for parking during the day, whether their business has noticed an increase in trade and if they feel this is due to the increase in size of the car park, and whether they would be in favour of a restricted parking time.

128/15 APPLE DAY EVENT

Members considered a request from Stotfold Cider and Perry Press for use of the Brook Street car park to hold an Apple Day event in Autumn 2016. Confirmation on date and details of the event will be forwarded nearer the time.

RESOLVED that the principle of holding an Apple Day event in Brook Street car park in Autumn 2016 is approved.

129/15 TREE/SHRUB CLEARANCE WORK AT THE AVENUE JUNCTION

Members considered a report produced by Councillor Mrs Cooper following a site visit with our Landscape Contractor, and quotations from two tree surgeons and the Landscape Contractor.

To fell x2 trees and heavily prune Laurel bush as per Councillor Mrs Cooper's report (available on file)

A1 Tree Surgery £620

4Seasons Tree Surgery £765

To clear unwanted growth and level ground surface after tree felling (using a hired mini-digger) and replant with shrubs

R Golder (Town Council's Landscape Contractor) £825 plus vat

RESOLVED that the quotation from A1 Tree Surgery in the sum of £620 is accepted and the quote from R Golder in the sum of £825 plus vat is accepted. Funds from the Town Enhancement Committee budget, as it was their request that this Committee consider the work. Any remaining funds required are to come from this Committee's Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs budget.

130/15 RECREATION GROUND TREE WORK

Members considered two quotations for tree work identified through the recent tree survey for the three recreation grounds – Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, The Green and Riverside Playing Field. Copies of the quotations, together with a report produced by the Town Clerk and Councillor Mrs Cooper identifying work from the tree survey, following a visit to each site, was provided to Members.

Total cost for works at the three recreation grounds:

A1 Tree Surgery £6,400

4 Seasons Tree Surgery £8,210 plus vat

RESOLVED that the quotation from A1 Tree Surgery in the sum of £6,400 is accepted. Funds from the Earmarked Reserves – Rec Rolling Improvements Fund. If there are any funds remaining in this Committee's budget at the end of the financial year, the same amount is to be returned to this Earmarked Reserve.

131/15 LAND SOUTH OF STOTFOLD SURVEY

At the last meeting, relevant items highlighted on the Town Plan Implementation Group's Land South of Stotfold survey were passed to the River Ivel Drainage Board for consideration or action. Members considered the remaining items on the survey, the majority of which are the responsibility of the developers for the site, and some are considered to be a health and safety concern.

RESOLVED that works on the Town Plan Implementation Group's survey of the Land South of Stotfold development, identified as being the responsibility of the developers, are to be passed to them for consideration and action.

132/15 REQUEST FOR NEW SURFACING – BASKETBALL HOOP

Members considered a request from a resident for surfacing to be put down in front of the basketball hoop at the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. This piece of equipment is well used and the ground in front of it is worn. This has previously been picked up by ROSPA in their annual inspections.

Members also discussed other areas where wet pour surfacing is required – this is to repair existing damaged surfacing and also to add small amounts of wet pour where natural surfacing is very poor.

RESOLVED that quotations are obtained for new wet pour surfacing in front of the basketball hoop at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. A list of other areas requiring repairs or new surfacing is to be compiled using the latest ROSPA report and the inspection report produced by Councillors Mrs Cooper and Hayes during the summer. Quotations for these items are also to be considered by Members.

133/15 ARLESEY ROAD SITE

Members were previously provided with a report from the Arlesey Road Community Use Working Party regarding their findings and recommendations following the September Open Day and questionnaire results (available on file). Members were asked to consider the Group's recommendations contained therein:

- 1) Once the main lease is signed and the land is the Town Council's responsibility, to provide:
Outdoor gym equipment and play equipment using the funds referred above (*in report - £38,981 S106 funds*);
Install a new pedestrian gate (disabled access kissing gate) in the front boundary close to Larksfield Surgery, picnic benches, barbecue units and soft landscaping using approximately £13,000 Earmarked Reserves from the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee, plus a trim trail if any funds remaining.
- 2) That the principle of archery and powerkiters using the site is considered, up to the start of the football facility build, with a review of use thereafter.

RESOLVED that the Arlesey Road Community Use Working Party's recommendations 1 and 2 are approved.

134/15 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- Ask for road markings at Hitchin Road roundabout to be re-marked as a matter of urgency. We have reported this on numerous occasions over several years, with no action. The road markings running east to west – from Stotfold to Fairfield, are very worn and one lane is devoid of markings altogether. We also request that signage is installed to show drivers which lane they should be in, as the faint markings are very close to the roundabout and are frequently not visible due to stationary vehicles on top of them. This is particularly required since the roundabout doesn't follow conventional Highway Code use, and the two roundabouts on the A507 in close proximity and serving Stotfold differ in their lane markings. Whilst undertaking the re-marking on the Hitchin Road roundabout, the Norton Road roundabout also has poor condition road markings, particularly on the Norton Road side and should be undertaken at the same time.
- Alexander Road – road sign is loose in the ground
- Mulberry Close – road sign is loose in the ground
- Vaughan Road – deep road hole opposite no. 103
- Hitchin Road – large road hole opposite no. 67 appears to have been previously marked, but not repaired

- High Street – road hole in front of Satchells Estate Agents

Anglian Water

- Complaints received again about a foul smell from the road drain at the sub-station on Hitchin Road, opposite Waters End junction.

Handyman

- 2 wooden posts down on the verge opposite the Roecroft Centre.

125/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Following our repeated reports to Highways about the sunken drain on Regent Street, the repair on the drain situated close to the Regent Street/Rook Tree Lane junction seems to be quite comprehensive. Work is still continuing.

After speaking to a Member, the town improvements scheme project manager advises that he has a list of some 200 snagging items still to get through following last year's improvement works.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.24pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED