

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD AT 8.00PM

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: Paul Redwood, Teasel Treasurer & the Administration Assistant

139/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

140/16 DISCLOSURE 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.

141/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

142/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence

Town Centre Enhancement works

Members were informed of an email received from Kelley Russel of Amey advising that there are a number of snagging issues which have not been completed, mainly due to weather and material availability. The office will arrange a meeting in February with Amey to clarify all snagging issues.

Play Area behind new Greenacre Centre and Grange Drive

The Chairman advised that an email has been received from Cliff Rowe, Senior Project Manager at Vine Technical Services advising that the play area will be constructed after the community hall has been completed. The contract has already been let and the equipment purchased. With regard to opening up Grange Drive the developers have no objections to opening this up subject to agreement from Central Bedfordshire Council. The manhole rings can be removed and two pinch points would be constructed as traffic calming measures. A diagram was provided. Members were in agreement that in principal Grange Drive should be opened up, obstructions removed and road made safe for driving.

Matters Arising

Minute 129/15 – Central Beds Highways have been chased regarding their road safety assessment on Norton Road. A response was given to the resident who originally raised the concern with Highways; the Town Council was not included in this correspondence however a copy is being forwarded. In brief, the next stage is for a petition to be put together by residents; the matter is to be considered at a Town Council meeting at which a Highways Officer is to be present; the Highways team will put together a consultation on possible options, with the support of the Town Council; the results of the consultation will be considered, together with available budgets, any existing traffic calming measures and any future measures already agreed; the outcome of that will be reported to the Town Council and residents. Once

the awaited correspondence has been received from Highways, the Clerk will contact the resident concerned regarding a petition and future actions required by this Council.

Minute 129/15 - quotations for new wet pour surfacing in front the basketball hoop at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, and other areas for wet pour surface repair, are being sought and will be presented to the February Committee meeting for consideration.

Minute 129/15 – In response to the urgent request for the Hitchin Road roundabout to be re-marked, Highways advise that they are currently building up a list of sites which require road marking refresh for spring/summer. They advise that road marking refresh for the A507 will require input from the Transportation Team as they need to be sure what is put back is to current regulations. The request information has also been forwarded to Paul Mason, Head of Highways for his assistance. A member of the public has contacted Stotfold Town Council recently about the lack of markings and it was noted that the A507 line markings need to be refreshed.

Minute 132/15 – Central Beds Council advise that the two replacement planters will be delivered and available to go on site towards the end of February. Business owners on the parade of shops, near to the boundary with India Lodge, have been asked for their permission to site the planters in that location.

Minute 137/15 – Terry Seymour Electrical Contractor advises that the leaning lighting column outside the Mill car park has been hit, but is solid and does not move. He advises that no action is required.

Minute 137/15 – In response to our query as to why the footpath by the Chequers public house on Rook Tree Lane/Queen Street corner has not yet been repaired, despite being advised that it would be completed before the end of last summer, Highways confirm that an order for the work has been raised and will be carried out as soon as possible. Members felt this should be a matter of urgency as this is now dangerous.

143/16 TEASEL UPDATE AND FUNDING REQUESTS

A report from Paul Redwood was previously circulated to members requesting funding for equipment and insurance for Teasel.

- Funding for items requested:
- Stihl Brushcutter FS460 C-EM
- 300mm 3-blade Brushknife
- Stihl Brushcutter Blade fixing kit 3

50% Insurance cost

Funds currently available in the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget £894.00, total requested £841.30.

Resolved that the above items are purchased at a cost of £841.30 (+ vat) from the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget.

Willows along Kingfisher Way

The Teasel report on the condition of the Willows has been forwarded to the Public Rights of Way team at Central Beds Council, as riparian owners. The River Ivel Drainage Board advise that these trees are not their responsibility. Members discussed the tree on the bank adjacent to Centenary Wood and it was

Resolved that any future work necessary to this tree should be considered in the next financial year and this should be considered on the June agenda.

Paul Redwood advised in June 2015 that he was stepping down from the Nature Reserve team. No permanent Chairperson has been appointed and there will be a rotating Chairperson. Liz Anderson is first

Paul Redwood left 8.38pm

Resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Paul for all the work he has done for Mill Meadows. The area is of great benefit to the local community for informal recreation purposes, free of charge.

144/16 ARLESEY ROAD

The committee considered the number of grass cuts required for the forthcoming financial year (starting 1st April 2016) before seeking grass cutting quotes for a one year period for this site only.

The committee were advised that currently the Town Council has no lease on the land, therefore no right to be on the land and as such it was felt it would not be right to consider tenders until the lease is in place. Currently only a Tenancy at Right is being offered, this does not provide the Town Council with any security and has no notice period. If a contractor was appointed the Town Council would be committed for the period. The working group are meeting on 21st January, prior to the meeting with Central Bedfordshire and they will push for a lease to be drafted. The Junior Football club are currently using the site and the office will find out from Adrian Lear what has been agreed in their lease.

Resolved that the grass cutting contract would be considered after the meeting with Central Bedfordshire.

145/16 BOWLS CLUB FERTILISER CONTRIBUTION

As per the Bowls Club lease, the Town Council is required to 'reimburse the Trustees [of the Bowls Club] with 80% of the cost of fertiliser used on the bowling green subject to the Landlord [Town Council] being provided with proper receipts to support the Tenant's [Bowls Club] outlay in that regard'. In December 2015 the Bowls Club requested the sum of £1286.40 as 80% contribution and it was

Resolved as per the lease £1,286.40 is paid to Stotfold Bowls Club as re-imburement for the cost of fertilizer.

Further resolved that a meeting will be arranged with the Bowls Club to negotiate a set yearly amount for fertiliser to help with budgeting.

146/16 PLANTER PROJECT – EXPLORER SCOUT GROUP

The fuchsias in the planters at the Brook Street/High Street junction are in poor condition but some are trying to shoot again, although very early in the year. Those that do not grow well will be removed. The centre plants are growing well and will remain. Daffodil bulbs have been planted and are starting to come up, but can be planted around.

Arcade Flowers have confirmed that they are not supplying plants for the two planters this year, and are happy to support the Explorer Scout Group who are very keen to plant them up and the new ones at the parade of shops. The Group will be meeting on 11th February to plan their project. They have suggested a period of one year initially to see how it goes. They would like to put a feature plant in the middle (of the parade of shops planters) with the Explorers growing and planting seasonal bedding around the edge. They are keen to start as soon as possible, and would be keen to attend a future meeting of the Committee as part of their project. They will forward a copy of their insurance certificate and a risk assessment document nearer the start time. Members were asked to approve supply of two central feature plants and sufficient soil for the two new tubs and it was

Resolved that centre plants are purchased and the Handyman will be asked to remove the plaques on the tubs located by the Brook Street car park as Arcade Flowers are no longer providing the plants.

147/16 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

- White gates on Norton Road as you enter Stotfold could do with painting. These gates are the responsibility of North Herts District Council – request that they give them a facelift in the Spring
- Corner of Malthouse Lane – lots of dog walkers are depositing dog mess bags and residents have had waste thrown over into their gardens. Request that Central Bedfordshire Council install a dog waste bin on the public footpath side at the entrance to the field on Malthouse Lane (next to number 73a).
- 61 Rook Tree Lane – Road hole and verges are being damaged by the work being undertaken to the property.
- Church Road – Road hole adjacent to the Academy of Central Bedfordshire, this is located close to the one which was recently repaired.
- 2 drains blocked between The Crofts and Alexander Road. When it rains they overflow.
- Regent Street – bus stop past the junction with Whitecrofts is near invisible due to overgrown hedge.
- The gutters between Rook Tree Lane and St Mary's School have been cleared but there are a lot of leaves on the pathway. Particularly bad area is by the horse field just before St Mary's School.
- Litter pick is needed on Footpath 11 from the Pig & Whistle site up to the Memorial Hall car park by the Street cleaning team.
- Footpath number 11 adjacent to Pig & whistle site. Ask the Rights of Way Officer what he has negotiated with the developers and extra street lighting for public safety when walking in area as it is very dark.
- Waters End, small grassed area needs 4/5 replacement posts to which chain link fence is attached around boundary. Also on side bordering the watercourse 3 large growths of ivy are coming through the chainlink fence and starting to bow it out. Ivy to be cut back to reduce the weight on the fence.
- Litter is being deposited in the shrub beds either side of The Avenue. Handyman to litter pick.
- Ford bridge, Malthouse Lane. There is a lot of rubbish in the side ditch. Ask Street cleaning team to remove.

148/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that David Alderman Central Bedfordshire Council has funding available for tree planting in Stotfold. Amey would do the planting.

Councillor Collier advised that in the planning application for Roker Park it states that the MUGA will need to be re-located. This was detailed in the noise report of the site. Councillor Collier requested that a letter be sent to Rowan Homes asking if and how they will do it and if they will pay for the relocation.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.23pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED