

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Sanjeev Kumar, Development Manager, Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire, and the Town Clerk

160/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Saunders.

161/16 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.

162/16 PRESENTATION ON 'BAGS OF HELP'

Sanjeev Kumar of Groundwork gave a presentation on the current funding opportunity being provided by Tesco, administered by Groundwork, which supports community green space projects.

From 5th October 2015, a 5p levy has been placed on single use carrier bags. Tesco is using part of this money to benefit green space improvement projects in England and Wales, administered by Groundwork. Three grants for such projects are awarded in every Tesco region in every grant round. The first round closed at Christmas, with the second round closing in spring 2016.

Grants are decided by public vote in store and successful grants are awarded for £8,000, £10,000 and £12,000. Town and Parish Councils are eligible to apply.

Grant criteria:

- Must be a capital project of community benefit and free to access by the public
- Must have the landowners permission
- Be based on an £8,000 project, describing how you could add value with grants of £10,000 and £12,000 if you were awarded one of those
- Tesco must be the primary funder (at least 75%)

Grants can be used for parks, green spaces, outdoor recreation areas, ponds, community woodlands.

Each grant application must:

- Be specific – activities, outcomes and outputs
- Show research and be realistic
- Show longevity and sustainability after funded

Use of volunteers is a plus point. Groundwork will provide Tesco Enablers for advice and assistance in grant applications.

After grant rounds close:

- Groundwork assess all applications
- A shortlist is given to a selection panel for each region
- 3 projects are put to public vote, for projects of a minimum £8,000

- Tesco customers vote in store over a 2 week period to determine the money each project is awarded.

Funding rounds still available: Spring 2016, Autumn 2016 and Spring 2017.

Members had an opportunity to ask questions with the following answers being given:

- Which Tesco region does Stotfold fall in? Sanjeev Kumar will find out, but advised that it is often the closest so would include the Tesco Express at Fairfield.
- How many applications were made nationally in the 1st round? Sanjeev will find out, but advises that it often takes time for awareness of the fund in the early rounds.
- Are schools eligible to apply as they don't have public access? If the application can show it has public benefit it would be eligible.
- With regard to needing the landowner's permission, does this cover leased land? Yes, as long as you have their permission.
- How do we know when the next round starts and the deadline for applications? Sanjeev will advise the Clerk once the date is known.

Sanjeev Kumar was thanked for his presentation and he left the meeting, after which Members discussed possible projects which might benefit from this fund.

Councillors Mrs Hyde and Mrs Clarey will contact St Mary's School and their Governors to see if they could make use of the fund, particularly putting costings together to make use of land adjacent to the school.

Sites such as in the green spaces around the new community building on the Land South of Stotfold and the Arlesey Road site were discussed, together with the Green Wheel project. The Green Wheel project has its own funding source and applying for this funding would not be practical at this time. The land around the new community building will not be finished for some time yet, and so is not considered suitable. The Arlesey Road site was considered the most appropriate site on which to base a project for this funding, particularly to provide some outdoor gym equipment.

RESOLVED that quotes and layout designs are obtained for consideration at the April Committee meeting to provide outdoor gym equipment for the Arlesey Road site. This is to meet the £8,000 grant target, and to meet the requirement to identify how the project could be improved up to £10,000 and £12,000, quotes are to be sought to provide fencing to the outdoor gym area and picnic benches. A funding application will be submitted for this project for the spring funding round.

163/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

164/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence

Correspondence has been received from a resident, Mr Lucas, expressing his concern regarding the congestion problems that opening up of Grange Drive may cause with additional traffic trying to enter and exit the co-op car park.

The resident has been advised that Grange Drive will be opened as part of the agreed design for the development.

Matters Arising

Minute 155/16 – the letter requesting reimbursement of payments made for grass cutting carried out last year will be sent once the lease has been agreed with Central Beds Council.

Minute 156/16 – the application for dog control orders at Arlesey Road as agreed at the last meeting will be submitted once the lease has been signed and the Town Council has responsibility for the site. Members requested that a ‘dogs on lead’ sign is added to the Churchyard.

Minute 157/16 – the Handyman has removed the springie horse from the play area at The Green due to potential finger entrapments. Quotes to replace the item will be considered in the new financial year, and will be included in the wet pour quotes.

Minute 157/16 – quotes for wet pour surfacing around various pieces of play equipment will be provided at the April meeting.

165/16 USE OF MILLENNIUM GREEN AND THE GREEN

Members considered the following requests from Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust:

- a) to use Millennium Green as parking (marshalled and free of charge) for their annual Mill Steam Fair and Country Show taking place on evening of Friday 6th, all day Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th May.
- b) to use The Green, should numbers require, for overflow parking – marshalled and free of charge
- c) to erect the temporary footbridge across the river from Millennium Green
- d) to relocate the temporary pay booths to Millennium Green, before visitors reach the footbridge
- e) for this Committee to contact the Police to express concern about the likely traffic congestion caused by the event and to request a Police presence.

Full risk assessments will be provided prior to the event.

RESOLVED that

- a) permission is granted to use Millennium Green as parking for the Mill May event (marshalled and free of charge);
- b) permission is granted to use The Green as overflow parking, if required, for the event (marshalled and free of charge);
- c) permission is granted to erect the temporary footbridge across the river from Millennium Green;
- d) permission is granted to relocate the temporary pay booths to Millennium Green;
- e) this Committee will contact the Police to express concern about the likely traffic congestion caused by the event and to request traffic control, particularly in the area of the A507 roundabout and the Queen Street/High Street junction, as high volumes of traffic travelling to this event can cause a back-up of traffic along the A507 to the A1 junction.

166/16 USE OF THE GREEN

Members considered a request from Stotfold Junior Football Club to use The Green for parking during their tournament being held at Roker Park on Friday 8th to Sunday 10th July. Anticipated times 4pm Friday to 5pm Sunday. These dates do not clash with any other event.

RESOLVED that permission is granted for Stotfold Junior Football Club to use The Green for parking during their July tournament. Parking must be free of charge and marshalled. Any damage caused to the surface will be chargeable to the Club.

167/16 BIG TIDY UP

Following a request by a resident at the last meeting that the Town Council takes part in the Clean for the Queen litter pick as part of the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations, this event took place nationally on the 4th, 5th and 6th March. The Town Council organises an annual Big Tidy Up event which was held in September last year. Members considered bringing the Big Tidy Up event forward to a date nearer the Queen’s birthday – Saturday 30th April. Members considered basing the event in a more central location.

including survey data which proves that the flood plain can cope with a 1 in 100 year flood, confirmation that work to reinforce the bank of 9 Coppice Mead will start at the beginning of this month (weather permitting), and confirmation that the responsibility for the maintenance of the flood plain transferred to the IDB on 7th March 2016 – a final certificate from the IDB confirms that the area has been constructed in accordance with the approved design and maintained correctly.

Members noted that the IDB has signed off the work even though it is incomplete. There are no ponds or low level bridge on site as per plans and a pile of debris in the area of the planned cycle path has been grassed over.

RESOLVED that a letter is sent to the Chairman of the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards, Doug McMurdo, to express our concern that the IDB has accepted responsibility for the area, however we do not consider that it is in accordance with the Woods Hardwick plans. We request a meeting with him and representatives of this Council to discuss the matter.

171/16 BUDGET & RESERVES UPDATE

Members considered the Budget & Reserves Review report as at month 11 and it was:

RESOLVED that as per minute 130/15, as there is likely to be sufficient funds in this Committee's total budget remaining at the end of the financial year, costs for tree work taken from this Committee's Rec Rolling Improvements Earmarked Reserves earlier in the year are to be returned. Any other remaining funds available in the Committee budget at the end of the financial year are to be vired to Earmarked Reserves Rolling Improvement Fund, with a view to upgrading or providing new play equipment.

172/16 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

- Ask Highways to install signage on both sides of Brook Street at the entrance off Hitchin Road to advise that it is a 'no through road' as large lorries are being sent down Coppice Mead and Hazel Grove by their sat-navs incorrectly, which is causing difficulty at the end when turning around. The same is requested for Pix Road.
- The Town Council's Handyman and Grass Cutting contractors are asked to clear and cut the Brook Street junction with Hitchin Road (right hand side going into Brook Street). An invoice is then to be sent to Central Beds Council Highways team as this is work that they should have had completed after the town improvement works.
- Handyman is to chop off the rotten bottom section of the wooden footpath sign on Millennium Green (currently propped on fence) and reinstall.

173/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

As Highways representative, Councillor Mrs Bundock advised that she and Councillor Saunders had met with our Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafalo. Matters discussed:

- They are now clearing our highway drains every 3 years, and currently concentrating on the problem areas.
- With regard to the town improvement work snagging list, some things on the list have been passed to Highways incorrectly
- A request was made for better signage at the Brook Street/High Street junction following the improvement works to make it one-way direction for vehicles, but two-way for cyclists. White lines are required on the road to indicate that drivers should expect cyclists to be coming towards them at that junction, and better signage would help.
- Regarding the Hitchin Road roundabout road markings, they are planning a programme of works to make sure that the road markings on the other A507 roundabouts match, however to do this requires total road closure under new legislation.

- Nick Carafalo advises that he spends more time in Stotfold and Arlesey than anywhere else that falls within his responsibility. This is because residents and the Town Councils press for issues to be resolved and complaints are correctly put to Highways.
- The contract with Amey ends at the end of this month, with the new contract with Ringway starting in April.

Members were notified of thanks given by residents for the installation of the dog bin on Malthouse Lane with the junction of The Green, and also for repainting the 'Stotfold' sign at the traffic lights junction (High Street/Regent Street corner).

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.02pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED