

MINUTES OF A MEETING THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs A Clarey	B Collier
A Cooper	Mrs J Hyde
S Jackson	C Phelps
B Saunders	J Talbot

Also present: Councillor Ms E Wearmouth and the Town Clerk

208/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes.

209/16 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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.

210/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

211/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 195/16 – the Explorer Scouts have planted seeds, which have grown and were planted in the four planters (parade of shops and Brook Street)

The Explorers Leader advises that there are tomatoes (ones for growing in a pot), bushy sweet peas, lobelia, alyssum, geraniums and a few other bits that the Scouts bought that they were growing at home. Once the plants have established, they will see if they need to add anything else.

The previous sponsorship plaques have been removed from the planters at Brook Street, and all four planters will be fitted with new plaques to advise that they are being maintained by Stotfold Explorer Scouts.

Minute 178/16 – following a request to Central Beds Council for the litter pick schedule for Stotfold, they advise that they are unable to provide us with the schedule as they are not able to release contract sensitive information. If we advise which roads are being missed or neglected, they can arrange for them to be cleared and maintained. With regard to the additional litter/dog waste bins this Committee requested at the April meeting, they will be inspecting the areas concerned shortly. It may be that they empty the existing litter bins twice a week and monitor how that goes before looking at installing an additional bin. They will keep us informed of their monitoring. With regard to our request for an additional litter/dog waste bin in Mowbray Crescent, Councillor Cooper has measured up the suggested location, and forwarded to the Waste & Recycling team at Central Beds Council.

Minute 203/16 – A new MUGA caretaker has been taken on, Pete Hefford will be working with Doug Holderness to clean and keep the MUGA tidy. They have both been advised of this Committee's decision to keep the MUGA open and not hireable, as have the regular hirers of the facility. With regard to the condition of the facility, unfortunately it has been subject to further vandalism, with the goal posts being damaged. Once the facility is permanently open in July, these will be removed and goal lines will be painted on the wooden boundary boards.

212/16 ROSPA INSPECTION REPORTS

The annual ROSPA inspection has been undertaken and a copy of the report is available on file. The Clerk outlined key points identified in the reports for each recreation ground as requiring attention. Works include:

- Replacement of worn shackles and chain links to swings – across all areas.
- Repair to wet pour surfacing under some items – across all areas.
- Urgent repairs to the BMX track surfacing where holes have now appeared – Riverside Playing Field.
- The ROSPA report advises that the set of junior swings (2 bay 4 seat) at Riverside Playing Field is at the end of its useful life and should be removed.
- The risk rating for the skate park (Riverside Playing Field) is listed as high – bolts are missing from ramp plates, welds are cracked, surface requires repair at ramp transition points, recommends replacement of ramp surface following damage caused by recent arson.
- Wooden bollards – slalom at Riverside Playing Field in very poor condition with large splinters – Clerk's recommendation is to consider removal.

The Handyman has been asked to carry out other minor repairs identified such as topping up soil levels, replacing damaged swing seats, repairs to wooden bench and to advise the Clerk once completed.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will carry out their annual summer walkabout to inspect play areas, also referring to the ROSPA report, and will produce a report and costs for consideration of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- Councillors Mrs Cooper and Hayes are to carry out an inspection of our open spaces, play areas and play equipment, in conjunction with the ROSPA report and to provide a review report, together with suggestions for improvements, repairs, etc.
- the wooden bollards at Riverside Playing Field are removed and ground made good
- replacement shackles are to be stainless steel, which although more expensive, have a longer life
- the person who repaired the skate park previously will be asked for their opinion on repair of the ½ pipe following arson damage, together with costs for consideration

Members expressed concern about the age and condition of the play equipment at the Riverside Playing Field, in that it is dated, some is damaged and does not cater very well for younger children. It was noted that this playing field was intended to be directed at older children, rather than youngsters. It was felt that the play equipment at the Riverside Playing Field could be improved or replaced and brought up to date. Ward Member, Councillor Saunders will provide an update for the next meeting on Section 106 monies available to update this play equipment.

213/16 USE OF THE GREEN AND RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD

Members considered a request from Stotfold Football Club to use The Green for parking and an area on Riverside Playing Field for a tug of war as part of their Inter Club Sports Day on 17th July 2016, from 9.30am to 6.00pm.

Councillor Saunders declared an interest in this item as he is a Member of Stotfold Football Club and did not take part in voting.

RESOLVED that permission is given to Stotfold Football Club to use The Green for parking and an area of Riverside Playing Field for a tug of war, on 17th July 2016 from 9.30am to 6.00pm, subject to the usual requirements regarding marshalling, surface damage.

214/16 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Central Beds Council

- Road holes in the centre of the road between nos. 19 to 23 Church Road. There is also a category 1 defect outside no. 19, plus several others increasing in size. This has been previously reported.
- A warning sign “pedestrians crossing”, which was knocked down by a vehicle, is currently lying outside the front boundary of MJ Ryalls Building Supplies on Norton Road, Stotfold, and should be removed.

Vine Technical Services – for developers of Land South of Stotfold

- Grass has been cut on verges within the development, however only about 1 – 2m in. As it is unclear who is responsible for which areas of green space within the development, the Clerk will ask for a map to clearly identify areas of responsibility.

Rik Golder – Landscape Contractor

- Cut back the epicormic growth at the base of the two Lime trees at the Regent Street/Common Road entrance of The Green.
- Remove the two sycamores which have self-planted and are growing at the bottom of a fence in Olivers Lane (Rook Tree Lane end).

Neal Saggars – Handyman Contractor

- Fill in and seed the dips in the football pitch at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, whilst there is no football.

Town Council

- Write to occupants of properties which back onto Olivers Lane (Church Road end) to ask that they cut back their overgrown shrubs/trees from the Olivers Lane area.
- With regard to the previously reported overgrown shrub outside the old BT exchange building on Regent Street (opposite Church Road junction), a letter is to be sent to the last known landowner to advise that we will be cutting it back as it is a health and safety issue – it is currently unclear who the landowner is. Rik Golder is to be asked if he is able to carry out this work, if not, a quote is to be obtained for consideration.
- Councillor Mrs Cooper will provide plants and plant up the flower tub outside the chemists.
- The basket swing on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground does not turn. The Clerk advised that this has not yet been fixed, together with the ‘witches hat’ climbing frame. The companies providing both items will be contacted with regard to their warranty period, with a request for them to be repaired as soon as possible.

215/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.13pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED