

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE
GREENACRES CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor Dhaliwal, Councillor Mrs Bundock (Highways Representative), 3 members of the public, the Assistant Clerk and Locum Clerk

231/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Clarey and J Talbot.

232/16 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in Item 10 of the agenda as she is a member of the Co-Op Smallholdings Group that tenant the land. 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.

233/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Nothing at this point in the meeting.

234/16 CLERKS REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence Received

Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 3 2016 is available from the office

Matters Arising for Information

Minute 219/16 – the basket swing and cone climber are to be repaired shortly, at a cost of £1,087 plus vat. The relevant broken aspects of each piece of equipment are not covered under warranty.

Minute 202/16 – we have been advised that we were unsuccessful in our bid for the Tesco Bags of Help grant for outdoor gym equipment at Arlesey Road. The reason given was that the ‘application did not demonstrate the need for the project as strongly as others’. They received almost 3,000 applications in this round, and have now changed their programme criteria, with the maximum amount that can be applied for now £5,000. This is now a rolling funding programme, whereby you can apply all year round, applications can take up to 6 months to be processed and a decision made. Differing from the previous funding scheme, this funding programme will fund up to 100% of a project, and you can add funds to theirs for a larger project.

235/16 LETTER FROM RESIDENT REGARDING BARRIERS, FOOTWAYS AND DROPPED KERBS

Members were asked to consider a letter from a resident regarding 'zig-zag' and other barriers, general unfriendliness in Stotfold to disability scooter and wheelchair users, 'other obstacles', 'other obstructions' and dropped kerbs at junctions. After lengthy discussions and clarification on points from the resident it was

RESOLVED that a comprehensive list of problems under the headings of Barriers, Dropped Kerbs and Hedges is to be compiled from the resident's letter and information from the I.G. Group. This is to be presented to the next meeting of the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands and Lighting Committee for consideration.

FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter is sent to Stephen Bown at Central Beds Council outlining issues raised and requesting a meeting and walkabout in Stotfold after the next meeting of this Committee.

236/16 REQUEST FROM RESIDENT REGARDING GRASS VERGES IN ASTWICK ROAD

Mr Dawes spoke to the Committee regarding parking on verges outside his property in Astwick Road. He confirmed that the grass verges were now ruined and was concerned that come Autumn and Winter the area would become a quagmire. He re-iterated that he would be willing to maintain the verge and install a small barrier to stop parking. The Chairman thanked Mr Dawes for bringing this item to the Committee's attention, but noted this problem was happening throughout Stotfold. Members considered action taken by Stevenage Borough Council in issuing penalty notices on residents that park on the verge and it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Saunders would ask Central Beds Council for information regarding issuing fines for parking on verges in trial areas in Central Bedfordshire.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Highways Department at Central Bedfordshire Council is contacted to enquire if bollards could be installed at Astwick Road.

237/16 REQUEST TO USE MILLENNIUM GREEN FOR PARKING

Members considered a request from Stotfold Watermill & Nature Reserve to use Millennium Green for access and parking during the weekend of 8th & 9th October 2016 for their annual Working Steam Weekend.

RESOLVED that permission is granted to use Millennium Green for parking during the weekend of 8th & 9th October.

238/16 REQUEST TO USE THE GREEN FOR PARKING

Members considered a request from Stotfold Football Club to use The Green for parking on Saturday 5th November 2016 for their Annual Bonfire & Firework Display. They require The Green to be open from 5pm.

RESOLVED that permission is granted for the Football Club to use The Green for parking from 5pm on Saturday 5th November

239/16 EXECUTIVE ACTION – USE OF BROOK STREET CAR PARK

Members were asked to approve executive action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to permit Stotfold Cider Press to use Brook Street car park for their event, Stotfold Apple Day on Sunday 2nd October with access to the toilet block for power and water. Arrangements re: Parking to be as last year – no one in car park from 8.00am to 7.00pm on Sunday 2nd October.

RESOLVED that the executive action taken by the Clerk is approved.
Councillor Hayes will open the toilet block on the day of the event.

240/16 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT RAISED TABLE ON NORTON ROAD

The Committee considered Central Beds Council's proposals to construct a raised table incorporating a courtesy road crossing for pedestrians and cyclists on Norton Road. Raised table will be at a nominal height of 75mm and approximately 8m long, including ramps. Copy of Notice and site drawings were provided for Members.

RESOLVED a 'NO OBJECTIONS' comment is sent to Central Beds Council by the deadline date of 16th September 2016, and members would ask that drainage gulleys are left on either side of the raised table to prevent rainwater pooling at the sides, which freezes in winter.

241/16 NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER – FOOTPATH NO. 6

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in this item as she is a member of the Co-Operative Small holdings that tenants this land. Councillor Mrs Hyde confirmed that the footpath is being diverted to allow part of the land to be used for the expansion of St Mary's Academy. Councillor Mrs Hyde left the meeting at this point. Members considered the footpath diversion and it was

RESOLVED that 'No Objections' comment is sent to Central Beds Council.

Councillor Mrs Hyde returned to the meeting.

242/16 RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

Councillor Saunders spoke regarding a special motion bearing names of five councillors, to reconsider and further discuss content of 221/16:

'Following a site visit by a Central Beds Council Officer to the Riverside play area and a discussion on the use of S106 monies and taking into account information previously forwarded from the Arlesey Road working party, we the undersigned would ask that minute 221/16 of the meeting of July 13th is sent back to the Committee for further discussion and re-consideration.'

Members considered the request and after debate it was

RESOLVED that Minute 221/16 stands from July 13th Meeting

243/16 ARLESEY ROAD RECREATION GROUND – USE BY STOTFOLD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Members were asked to consider the use of the Arlesey Road Recreation Ground by Stotfold Junior Football Club. A map of the area being discussed was supplied for members.

RESOLVED that a letter is sent to Stotfold Junior Football Club stating:

1. Re-assurance of security of tenure
 - Non exclusive rights for pitches
2. Approval of two containers in positions agreed by Stotfold Town Council. Costs of moving to be paid by Stotfold Junior Football Club.
3. The toilet block cleaning and consumable supplies to remain the responsibility of Stotfold Junior Football Club. Stotfold Town Council will have right of access and be responsible for insurance.
4. Licence to be reviewed annually.
5. Charges will be per team per season at previously agreed rates.

244/16 TREE WORK – 9 HITCHIN ROAD

Councillor Cooper updated the Committee regarding a dispute with the owner of 9 Hitchin Road who recently purchased a strip of land from the Town Council to incorporate into their rear garden

An overhanging branch has been removed by our contractor at our cost and as agreed with the householder who has subsequently requested us to carry out more removal work to allow erection of their fence. It was offered to them that we have a further limb removed at no cost to the householder (or us) as agreed with our contractor as a goodwill gesture. The resident has declined this offer and presented a quotation from another contractor for full felling of the tree and stump grinding in the expectation that we would pay these costs.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cooper write to the resident confirming that no offer has been made to pay for further work to the tree which is rooted in the land they now own and that the offer made on Friday 9th September to remove a further limb at no cost was declined by them.

Should they decide to have the removal and stump grinding carried out as the quote they have received then that is their choice to make and the Town Council will bear no part of that cost.

245/16 GENERAL WORK

Small deep hole in the road at no 41 Baldock Road

Blocked drain, no 24 Baldock Road

Hole in road at junction with Norton Road and Murrell Lane

Hole in road at junction with Queen Street and Baldock Road

Series of road holes and defect Cats eye at nos 19 and 23 Church Road

2 street lamps reported to be out – already dealt with by contractor

256/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE

Central Beds Council has been cutting footpaths at Millennium Green. The River Ivel

Drainage Board has mowed the banks of Pix Brook.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.16pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED