

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LAND & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: the Town Clerk

271/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson and Phelps.

272/16 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

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.

273/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None.

274/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

A copy of the Wildlife Trust – Local Wildlife magazine – winter 2016 edition was available for Members.

275/16 STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT COMMENCING 1ST APRIL 2017

Members were asked to consider whether to extend the current 3-year street lighting contract period to a 6-year contract. Members also considered the content of the work specification before inviting tenders.

RESOLVED that the Street Lighting Contract is extended from a 3-year period to a 6-year period, commencing 1st April 2017, and that the work specification for the contract is approved.

276/16 HANDYMAN, LANDSCAPE/GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS COMMENCING 1ST APRIL 2017

Members considered the specification of Handyman and Landscape/Grass Cutting contracts relating to this Committee. Options to include grass cutting at Arlesey Road in the Landscape/Grass Cutting contract, or to form a separate contract for this work were considered.

RESOLVED that the Handyman and Landscape/Grass Cutting Contracts are extended from a 3-year period to a 6-year period, commencing 1st April 2017 – subject to Cemetery Management and Buildings Management Committees also agreeing to the longer contract period.

Regarding the specification detail, a few amendments to the Handyman contract were put forward, including maintenance of Heron Way/Waters End; and the Landscape/Grass Cutting contract, including grass cutting of the Hitchin Road underpass and Common Road Allotments and landscaping/grass cutting at the Pix Brook Play Area (Western Play Area – Land South of Stotfold).

RESOLVED that the amended specification for the Handyman and Landscape/Grass Cutting contracts are approved.

Tenders will be invited for the two contracts as soon as the Cemetery Management and Buildings Management Committees have approved their sections of both contracts.

277/16 CHARGES LEVIED FOR 2017/2018

Members considered charges levied for the current year and previous two years.

Resolved that charges levied for 2017/18 year are increased, and set as follows:

Activity	Charge 2017/2018
Football Club - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£40
Junior – charge per season per team	£75
Junior Football Club	
The Green - charge per season per team	£60
Junior Football Club	
Riverside Playing Field - charge per season per team	£65
Dean's Fair/other circus/fair visits	
Charge per non-opening day	£30
Charge per opening day	£70
Arlesey Road playing field (once Town Council lease with Central Beds Council completed)	
Adult - charge per game	£40
Junior – charge per season per team	£75

278/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman proposed that the press and public are temporarily excluded whilst confidential matters pertaining to staff issues are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting for the following item.

This was passed by Members

279/16 TO CONSIDER SALARIES FOR THE MUGA CARETAKING STAFF 2017/2018

Resolved that the wages for the two MUGA caretakers remain as at the 2016/2017 levels.

The press and public were readmitted after the conclusion of this item.

280/16 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Lighting – Maintenance & Repairs

Terry Seymour's street lighting contract expires 31st March 2016, Members were asked to consider a figure for this budget line, although new contract will start after budgets have been set.

Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs

Low expenditure for the first 5 months, however this Committee was considering new fencing on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground – budget could help meet these costs?

Landscaping/Grass Cutting Contract (open spaces and verges)

Landscaping/Grass cutting contract (207/27), Verges (207/32) and Cemetery Landscaping/Grass cutting budgets show variations of expenditure against budget. The total overall across the two Committees and their budgets for this item are as budgeted, however the percentage allocation for the 3 individual budget lines has varied slightly from last year.

Arlesey Road playing field – Grass Cutting

Steward Bullard has a one year contract to cut the grass at Arlesey Road, ending 31st March 2016. In a previous item on this agenda, Members have considered the grass cutting contract – suggested that even if contained within the grass cutting/landscaping contract, the expenditure is listed under the Arlesey Road budget, rather than open space, to gauge initial costs for the facility until established.

Income

MUGA – income

No further income will be received for this budget line, as we have stopped charging for the use of the facility – it is now left open for anyone to use as they wish.

281/16 ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2017/2018

Members were previously provided with a copy of the figures for the first five months of the current financial year and undertook an appraisal before the estimates of the general running costs for the Committee were considered.

With regard to Earmarked Reserves, Members wished to include funds to increase the Street Lighting Funds, as they have fallen very low and there is insufficient available for replacement columns if required. Additional funds are to be added to the Allotment Hedging Fund as sums currently available will be used in forthcoming tree work. Funds are also to be added to the Recreation Grounds Rolling Improvement Funds to allow upgrade of existing play equipment on recreation grounds.

Estimate figures for 2017/2018

Estimated running costs:	£108,082
Less estimated income:	£ 6,450
Total	£101,632

Earmarked Reserves

Rec Ground Rolling Improvements	£ 5,000
Street Lighting	£10,000
Allotment Hedging	£ 600
Total	£15,600

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The provisional sum of £101,632 is submitted as this Committee's budget request for 2017/2018.
- ii) The sum of £15,600 is submitted as this Committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2017/2018.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for consideration prior to approval by full Council.

282/16 BT CONSULTATION ON PAYPHONE REMOVAL

BT is proposing to remove 81 payphones in Central Bedfordshire, three of which are in Stotfold – The Avenue, Kingsway/Trinity Road and Hitchin Road. The deadline for returning comments to Central Beds Council, who are undertaking the consultation as per Ofcom's guidelines, as part one of the consultation is Tuesday 15th November. The proposal document and consultation procedure

timelines was previously circulated to Members. At this stage, we are only asked to respond to each proposed removed payphone as an Object, Agree or Adopt – with comments and reasons.

RESOLVED that an 'Agree' response is returned for removal of the three payphones in Stotfold – The Avenue, Kingsway/Trinity Road and Hitchin Road.

283/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.46pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED