

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2017, 7.18PM 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	S Jackson
B Saunders	J Talbot

Also present: Councillor Mrs S Bundock and the Town Clerk

1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Phelps.

2/17 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.

3/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

4/17 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

5/17 EXECUTIVE ACTION – PARKING ON THE GREEN

Members were asked to approve executive action taken by the Clerk to permit the Football Club to park on The Green on Sunday 22nd January 2017. This is to accommodate extra vehicles likely to be generated as a result of a commemoration event taking place at the Football Club for the late Alan Syme who was a key member of the Junior Football Club.

RESOLVED that the executive action taken by the Clerk in allowing the Football Club to park on The Green on 22nd January 2017 is approved.

6/17 BUS STOPS RAISED KERBS

Correspondence has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council's Senior Public Transport Officer regarding funding for improvements to bus stops in Stotfold, installing raised kerbs at three stops – The Green, Rook Tree Lane opposite Home Close and Rook Tree Lane adjacent to Mill Lane, and painted bus stop boxes on the road at The Green and Rook Tree Lane adjacent to Mill Lane. The stop opposite Home Close already has a painted box. Depending on the amount of funding left, there is a possibility that a bus shelter at The Green with a Real Time Passenger Information Screen could be installed, to improve local information about the bus service.

Members discussed the proposals and it was felt important to clarify that the bus shelter for The Green should be located opposite the Coach and Horses Public House. With regard to the Real Time Information, this should be the type that links to individual buses to give accurate information on the bus location. Hard copies of timetables should also be retained at these bus stops.

RESOLVED that that Committee agrees to the proposed raised kerbs at bus stops on The Green, Rook Tree Lane opposite Home Close and Rook Tree Lane at the Mill Lane end. The Committee agrees to the siting of a bus shelter at The Green, should funding allow, and clarifies that it should be located at the stop opposite the Coach and Horses

Public House. As the Town Council owns the land to the rear of the bus stop, discussions should take place regarding use of that land to site the bus shelter, if required. Committee also agrees to the proposed painting of bus stop boxes at the stops at The Green and Rook Tree Lane at the Mill Lane end.

7/17 CLEARANCE OF LEAVES AT THE MUGA

Following notification by one of the MUGA caretakers that the pile of leaves they clear from the MUGA during their caretaking duties is now very large and is not breaking down quick enough to prevent difficulties in accessing the entrance to the facility. They also advise that the hard court surface of the MUGA has become very slippery from tree sap and leaf detritus.

Quotes will be obtained for the next meeting to pressure wash the hard court surface of the MUGA, and to remove the pile of leaves at a time suitable so as to prevent damage to the Riverside Playing Field surface. Central Beds Council's Seasonal Vegetation Clearance Team will also be asked if removal of the leaves is something they could do.

8/17 GRANGE DRIVE – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Members were provided with evidence from Facebook posts that residents have requested installation of a pedestrian crossing in Grange Drive, as the walking route to Roecroft School is now dangerous with the volume and speed of traffic using the road.

Members discussed the situation at length and debated suggestions to improve the safety of pedestrians in the Grange Drive area.

RESOLVED that a request is put to Central Beds Highways to consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing within the Grange Drive entrance area, adjacent to the High Street, in the interest of pedestrian safety. This is in light of public concern – a copy of the comments from residents is to be passed to Highways. Request a site meeting to discuss suggested location.

9/17 VANDALISM AT WATERS END GREEN AREA

Members were asked to consider information from a resident of Waters End regarding damage to the fence alongside Pix Brook, young people climbing on trees adjacent to their property and overlooking by sitting on two large branches close to their property. This also brings a safety issue if the branches were to snap as they are very flexible. Members noted that someone has also been trying to remove the chain link fencing by the entrance gate to the green area, the Handyman will be asked to re-string the horizontal supporting wires to strengthen the fence.

RESOLVED that the Handyman and Landscape Contractor will be asked to provide a quote to remove the two branches referred above and to repair the fence running alongside Pix Brook.

10/17 TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

Councillor Saunders, as Ward Member, advised that he was in receipt of the latest snagging list following the Town Centre Improvement Works – the document is dated 6th May 2015. Copies were not circulated to Members as the list includes many items which do not relate to the improvement works, and are general snagging works around the town.

Our Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafola will be going through the document to establish what is general highways work and what is specific to the Town Centre Improvement Works project. It was noted by Members that drainage money was pooled with the improvement works budget, however much of the drainage work was not done – this needs checking with Mr Carafola.

11/17 LIGHTING – HOWARDS CLOSE TO LAND SOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Members discussed the situation regarding a lack of lighting in the Howard Close/Land South bridge area, and the non-functioning lights in Howard Close. It was noted that there are two black painted, non-illuminated, bollards at the Howard Close end of the bridge, and as it is so dark in that area it is almost impossible to see them, which is dangerous for pedestrians using the bridge at night.

There are two lighting columns in Howard Close which the office has been trying to establish the ownership of for some time. Neither lights are operational, and there is a possibility that they haven't been connected to the electricity supply.

RESOLVED that our Lighting Contractor, Terry Seymour, is asked to investigate the two non-operational lighting columns in Howard Close in the bridge area, and ask for a quote to get them working again.

12/17 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Public Rights of Way Officer

- The Public Footpath sign at the Arc Progress entrance on Mill Lane is on the ground and needs re-fixing
- Footpath to Poggles Wood, off Mill Lane, is overgrown with brambles, resulting in people walking in the adjacent field

Terry Seymour, Lighting Contractor

- A blanking shade is required on the lighting column in footpath 11, to the rear of Hallworth Close bungalows, as the light shines into the adjacent property's windows

Central Beds Council

- Removal basal growth on crab apple tree outside 91-93 Vaughan Road, 94-96 Vaughan Road, 45-47 Common Road
- All trees in Fen End in footway verge need urgent trimming
- Lower branches/basal growth – The Crofts/Church Road junction
- Basal growth – False Acacia – verge outside 20 Brayes Manor
- Tree crowns need lifting opposite 8 to 16 Grange Drive – these trees grow very close to the footway/verge
- Opposite 27 Hazel Grove – basal growth around verge tree, plus branches need tidying
- Highbush Road/Hyde Avenue junction near to Hyde Avenue sign – large shrub in verge overhanging footway, road sign – needs trimming
- Outside 5a Hyde Avenue, long grass growing on footway
- Seasonal vegetation clearance required 1 to 15 Highbush Road
- Please inspect condition of road verges on Highbush Road, many used for parking. Local residents regularly complain about this.

Central Beds Council – Highways

Potholes:

- Mill Lane/Rook Tree Lane junction
- Common Road near no. 27
- Vaughan Road/Trinity Road junction area

- Castles Close/Common Road junction
- Brayes Manor – all footways in a poor condition. Please inspect them.

Town Council office

In relation to the list being produced identifying areas where there are overgrown hedges/shrubs on footways, the office is asked to write to owners/occupiers to respectfully request that they trim back to their boundaries. Properties are in Vaughan Road, Ivel Way, Astwick Road, Fen End, Queen Anne's Close, Church Road, St Mary's Avenue, Upperstone Close, Arlesey Road, Millwood Court, Coppice Mead, Hyde Avenue, The Avenue, Hitchin Road.

Anglian Water

- The cover of a water meter is missing, road junction adjacent to 40a Brook Street.

13/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

As Chairman of the Town Plan Implementation Group, Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that the group is continuing to add to the list of shrubs and hedges which have overgrown into footways. She reminded Members that at the last meeting, copies of the Green Wheel Master Plan were provided, and asked if there were any alterations required. None were advised.

The Police Crime Reduction team have recently taken Operation Salcoats to Arlesey and a request was made for them to visit Stotfold. Operation Salcoats is a monthly operation run by Bedfordshire Police's Crime Reduction Team with the support of volunteers from Community Watch schemes – including Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch and Street Watch, plus Special Constables and Cadets.

The Clerk advised that invitations to tender for the Council's three contracts – Handyman, Landscape/Grass Cutting and Handyman, are currently out, and will be considered by the Establishment Committee at the end of this month.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED