

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Councillor Mrs Bundock and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

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**34/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence, as all Committee Members were present.

**35/17 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON ITEMS 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.

**36/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

There were none present.

**37/17 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Minute 19/17 – Following a request from Whyatts Amusements Fun Parks to use Hitchin Road Recreation Ground for a children's fun park, investigations have been made into supply of water, and it is deemed not suitable to provide from the changing rooms. The close proximity of the fun park to adjacent properties is also now deemed not suitable. They are considering alternative dates for The Green.

Minute 22/17 – the consultation with residents in the vicinity of the bus stop by on the has closed, with four objections, however due to the nature of their objections, Councillor Cooper has been asked by Nick Doolan to speak with the residents as their complaints fall outside of his remit, e.g. the money for the bus shelters can only be spent on this purpose, not directed elsewhere within the town.

Minute 23/17 – a meeting is to be set up between the Committee Chairman and the Co-op Area Manager to discuss the possibility of modifying the kerb island at the entrance to the car park, and to consider re-siting the vehicle entrance to Mulberry Close.

Minute 26/17 – The Committee Chairman has met with Mr Osborne to discuss donating materials to enable a compound to be constructed to house the manure he leaves at the Norton Road allotments. He is happy to provide materials and will construct the compound.

Minute 30/17 – After checking with ROSPA to ensure that sufficient run-off space would be provided once bow-top fencing is installed around the inclusive play equipment on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, it has been established that the area is deemed too small for fencing, due to its close proximity to the football pitch, and does not allow sufficient run-off for equipment within the fenced area, nor for those playing football. Therefore, the quote from Steelway Fensecure has not been accepted. The resident who made the original request will be notified.

Minute 32/17 – Councillors Saunders, Collier and Cooper are to investigate ownership of land adjacent to the Mossman Centre boundary fence, which is very overgrown with brambles. Our Landscape Contractor will be asked to provide a quote for the next meeting to clear the brambles.

**38/17 CENTENARY WOOD – BEAR HUNT**

Members considered a request from Teasel to hold a Bear Hunt in Centenary Wood on 18<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 2pm. They plan to hide stuffed bears in the trees which the children have to spot – they will remove the bears afterwards.

**RESOLVED** that permission is given to Teasel to hold their Bear Hunt on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**39/17 MILLENNIUM GREEN & THE GREEN – MAY MILL WEEKEND PARKING AND USE OF TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE**

Members considered a request from Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust to use Millennium Green as parking for their Annual Mill Steam Fair & Country Show taking place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Parking will be marshalled and free of charge. They also ask permission to use The Green as overflow parking, if required, and to continue to use the temporary footbridge as an additional access point.

A proposal was put that as we provide Millennium Green and The Green free of charge for their event, the Mill is asked to make a donation to our Christmas Lights Fund.

The motion was considered, debated and fell at the vote.

**RESOLVED** that Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust are permitted to use Millennium Green as parking for their Annual Mill Steam Fair & Country Show on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, and to use The Green as overflow parking if required, and to use the temporary footbridge as an additional access point.

**40/17 THE GREEN – CAR BOOT SALE**

Members considered a request from the Friends of St Mary’s Church to hold a car boot sale on The Green on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 1pm to 4pm. Funds raised will be used for restoration work on St Mary’s Church.

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in this item as Church Warden.

**RESOLVED** that permission is given to the Friends of St Mary’s Church to hold a car boot sale on The Green on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**41/17 REQUEST FOR PARKING RESTRICTIONS – BROOK STREET (FORMER PIG & WHISTLE PUBLIC HOUSE DEVELOPMENT)**

Members considered a request from a resident for this Council’s support in her request to have parking restrictions installed in Brook Street, outside the new development of the former Pig & Whistle public house. A copy of the resident’s email, response from Central Beds Council and supporting photographs was provided for Members.

When considering the planning application for development of the former Pig & Whistle site, our Planning Committee did request yellow lines, however clarification is to be sought as to whether it was a planning condition when permission was granted – Highways matters are not usually conditions of planning permission. If yellow lines were a condition of planning permission, then they should be enforced. If not, then a review of parking in that general area is required, to identify works not completed as part of the town improvement works, and the continued non-compliance of the one-way system. We will not be supporting her request for new yellow lines, if not already approved by planning.

**RESOLVED** that if yellow lines were a condition of the planning permission for the former Pig & Whistle site, then they should be enforced. No additional request or support will be made by this Committee if they were not a condition, however a site meeting with Highways will be requested to identify works not completed as part of the town improvement works, of parking in the general area of the Brook Street/Coppice Mead/Pig & Whistle site area, and to address the continued non-compliance of the one-way system.

**42/17 WATERS END – REMOVAL OF LARGE BRANCHES**

Following this Committee's request for fencing work and branch removal work at Waters End, a quote has been received from A1 Trees to remove the two large branches overhanging the grassed area (and adjacent property) at Waters End, at £300. Once this work has been completed, the Handyman and Landscape Contractor will provide a quote for the required fencing work.

**RESOLVED** that the quote from A1 Trees to remove the two large branches overhanging the grassed area (and adjacent property) at Waters End, at £300 is accepted.

**43/17 MCDONALDS BALDOCK SERVICES**

Members considered an offer by McDonalds at Baldock Services to work with us and be more involved with the community. Their Business Manager, Nicola Parrish has advised that they are looking to help improve Stotfold in any way they can, may be by painting underpasses or planting flowers, etc. anything they could do to help, as they would like to do more to help their local town and get involved with the community.

As Members were unsure what sort of support/improvement work they might have carried out elsewhere, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the McDonalds Baldock Services Business Manager is thanked for her kind offer to support the community, and ask what sort of things they have assisted with elsewhere. This will enable us to work together to identify possible work they could carry out.

**44/17 REPORTING OVERGROWN HEDGES, ETC**

Following receipt of a large list of properties with overgrown hedges/shrubs encroaching onto adjacent footways/roads, the Assistant Clerk has written to respectfully request that they cut them back. However, she has received notification from residents at 7 properties that the letter should not have been for them, e.g. living in a top floor flat with no garden or hedging. A copy of a letter from a resident who received one of our letters asking them to cut back their hedging is provided for Members' information. The office asks that if we are to send out such letters, could photographic evidence please be supplied, with the date taken, so that it can be forwarded to the correct address, thus avoiding upset to residents if not their property. Members noted that the letter sent out by the office could be modified slightly to assist in reducing offence to residents – the letter will be amended by the office.

**RESOLVED** that when Councillors report overgrown hedges/shrubs, they must provide evidence to the office, which will be included when sending out the letter requesting that they cut back overgrowth. Where a Councillor is unable to take a photograph, they are to advise the office so that a photograph can be taken following a site visit with the Councillor.

#### **45/17 BUDGET & RESERVES REVIEW**

Members considered the Budget & Reserves Review report as at month 11. It was noted that there has been a significant expenditure for street lighting this financial year, and subsequently both the Street Lighting Maintenance and Repairs budget and the Street Lighting Earmarked Reserves are overspent. Earmarked Reserves cannot be a negative at the end of the financial year, sufficient sums need to be vired to provide a positive figure.

**RESOLVED** that the sum of £10,000 is vired from the Rec Rolling Improvements Earmarked Reserves to the Street Lighting Earmarked Reserves. Show the recent expenditure for hedge cutting at Norton Road Allotments from Allotments Maintenance & Repairs budget to Allotment Hedging Earmarked Reserves. Any remaining funds in this Committee's budget at the end of this financial year, it is vired to the Rec Rolling Improvements Earmarked Reserves to increase funds to enable upgrade of play equipment.

With regard to the high expenditure this year on street lighting, our Lighting Contractor is asked to provide an update on his lighting programme of works in order to establish potential costs for next financial year.

#### **46/17 GENERAL WORK**

**RESOLVED** that the following is actioned as appropriate:

##### Central Beds Council - Highways

- High Street – there are a series of kerbside potholes and disrupted surfaces between the pedestrian crossings
- High Street – a line of holes on the centre line of the road opposite the public toilets
- High Street – road hole on junction with Barndell Close
- High Street – road hole at no. 34 on centre line
- High Street – road hole at no. 41
- High Street – road hole kerbside at no. 35
- High Street – deep pothole at no. 18 – cat. 1 defect
- Roads are not being swept properly – Regent Street and Church Road are very noticeably bad, with mud, leaves and weeds. This is affecting the road drains – not just in these roads but in many areas. The Green – Rook Tree Lane – we were told these roads would be done regularly to stop flooding, but some drain grids are blocked with mud and leaves
- The Green towards Rook Tree Lane – right side, long holes with loose debris
- Junction Taylors Road/Astwick Road – potholes to Fen End along the centre line

##### Central Beds – Environmental

- Some fences on the public footpath from High Street to The Crofts were vandalised the night before this meeting – some obscene graffiti, with swastikas, heil hitler, etc.

#### **47/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

The Chairman advised that she had recently met with Hags play equipment supplier to obtain a quote for play equipment at The Green. They looked at a 4m high climbing net for older children, plus a multi-piece unit. Suggested location is the close to the entrance opposite The Crown public house, on the right as you go in, along the front boundary. This will be away from marked pitches and is furthest away from the houses immediately adjacent to The Green at the rear of the site – there are properties fairly close to the suggested location for the play equipment, however there is

a road in between and so noise nuisance would be lessened. This area is in public view and so would also provide natural surveillance. Approximate cost is £18,500. We will also need to factor in grass matting and installation costs, and the total cost should be in the region of £30,000. It is suggested that this comes from available Section 106 money, and any additional funds required to come from this Committee's Earmarked Reserves. Quotes for the play pieces will be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.44pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**