

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2017, 7.10PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: 1 member of the public and the Assistant Clerk

103/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Talbot.

104/17 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none. Members were advised 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 time.

105/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

106/17 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 95/17 public consultation is still underway as to areas where they feel parking on verges and footways is a problem.

Minute 97/17 quotes to increase the height of the fence to the rear of the MUGA at Pix Brook Play Area are still being obtained.

Correspondence

A copy of the CPRE Countryside Voice Summer 2017 edition is available for Members.

107/17 USE OF MILLENIUM GREEN – STOTFOLD MILL WORKING STEAM WEEKEND

Members considered a request from the Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust to use Millennium Green as parking for their steam weekend – 7th and 8th October. Parking will be marshalled and free of charge. They also request use of The Green as overflow parking, if required, and support from the Council to request a police presence. Lastly, they have asked if we have no objections in them using the temporary footbridge between the car park and event field. Copy of correspondence provided for Members.

RESOLVED that the request from the Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust to use the Millennium Green be agreed, with the usual management of parking and traffic, especially at the peak times of arrival and departure. Town Council Office to also notify Police and ask for their presence on the day.

108/17 ANNUAL HIGHWAYS REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bundock, as Highways Representative, has carried out her annual inspection of the road/footway condition around the town. Copies of the report were provided for Members.

Mrs Bundock was thanked by the Committee for all her time and hard work in compiling the inspection. This will be forwarded to Mr Nick Carofola, Highways Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council for information.

109/17 TEASEL REPORT

Members received a report from Paul Redwood, Teasel Treasurer, regarding the theft of equipment earlier in the year, the Kingfisher Way and their new Secretary. Members noted that Teasel will reimburse the Town Council for the replacement items purchased from their insurance claim.

Members were asked to consider his request that the large Willow in Centenary Wood is assessed for its condition and safety. It was agreed that the Willow needs serious attention as they can snap and the trunk is reported to be leaning at an angle, overhanging the road.

RESOLVED that at least 3 quotes were to be obtained by the office to assess the tree to make safe, if necessary to pollard the tree by an expert.

110/17 HITCHIN ROAD REC TRACTOR SHED

Members were asked to consider a quote from the Handyman to improve the interior of the Tractor Shed to provide him with a suitable space to use as a workshop/storage area, whilst also creating an expanded space for emergency flood equipment. To remove all steel supports, timber frames and chain-link wire (no longer required). Dismantle blockwork and re-build extended framework to allow more space for flood defence materials, cover studwork with plywood, install new door to allow exclusive access for Town Council £1,300.

Members all felt that the Handyman needed an undercover workspace, as working from his van was not ideal. Also it was felt necessary to have a workshop that was weatherproof alongside the storage for the flood defences.

RESOLVED that quote from Handyman of £1,300 was agreed by all Members.

111/17 HITCHIN ROAD REC CHANGING ROOMS

It was reported to the Committee that two of the football teams/clubs currently using Hitchin Road Rec for football have expressed their wish to have full changing and shower facilities available, which we have made unavailable due to the poor condition of the building and fittings. From the Junior Football Club, we have an offer for their members, totally at their cost, to supply materials and labour to refurbish the building internally. Should we permit them to do this, it will still not bring the building up to any modern building regulations or efficiency standards.

Members considered demolition of the changing room end of the building and potential replacement with a purpose-built drop on site unit, with a possible net cost of £28 to £36K. It was felt that the present facilities were not suitable for the basic standard that was required for the lower league teams. There is only one changing room for both the home and away teams and the structure itself leaks and is not water tight.

Some members were concerned about the aesthetic look for the new purpose built unit. It was confirmed that while the unit is metal based and not pleasing to the eye, it is watertight and provides the standard facilities required, toilets, working showers and 2 separate changing rooms, plus facilities for referee and linesman.

RESOLVED To investigate further into the costings of demolishing the existing changing rooms and replacing with a purpose- built drop on site unit. The Town Council will also look into the possibility of grants available from various sources.

112/17 AWARDS FOR ALL £10K GRANT – STREETSCAPE

Members were asked to consider 3 options for play equipment to be installed at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground on the rear of the site, backing onto Coppice Mead and adjacent to the Changing Rooms. Costs for total project to be met by Awards for All – grant application through Streetscape. Copy of options provided for Members.

Members noted that two of the options for equipment were very similar to pieces that are already installed at the Hitchin Road Ground. These pieces of equipment have also been recently approved for use by RoSPA and will be available for continued use. Members agreed to purchase 4 smaller items for use by younger children, plus an additional item to be installed at The Green to replace equipment that has been removed.

RESOLVED that 4 small “springers” to be used by smaller children for Hitchin Road recreation ground are sourced from Streetscape using the £10k Awards for All Grant. Also, an additional “springer” to be purchased to replace equipment removed from The Green.

113/17 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD – CAR PARK & PITCH

Members discussed that due to ongoing proposals for relocation of football pitch (as per Council), from Land South of Stotfold to another location, this may involve extending the existing car park at Riverside Playing Field (as a potential relocation site). The extended car park would also be required as a result of the development of Roker Park for housing as existing players use the Football Club car park as well as the Riverside Playing Field car park when using the area for practice.

Members were asked to approve:

- a) Extension to the car park (required regardless of decision on b) (quotes to be obtained). Copy of plan showing proposed extension provided for Members.
- b) Agree to the Riverside Playing Field being an allocated site for the relocated football pitch.
(Lead on this item - A Cooper)

Members discussed the relocation of the football pitch and agreed that the possibility of obtaining a grant to eventually install showers and changing rooms at the Riverside Recreation ground would be researched.

Members also discussed whether the plan to extend the car park provided enough spaces for the use of the site. It was also looked into the possibility of removing trees to provide extra space for parking.

RESOLVED that a further plan be drawn up to provide at least 16 -20 more car parking spaces for the Riverside Recreation Ground, possibly in an “L” shape, but not to interfere with existing equipment or the riverside area.

FURTHER RESOLVED to agree with the re-location of the football pitch to the Riverside Recreation Grounds, detail of location and facilities to be further discussed and agreed.

114/17 ALLOTMENT FEES

Members were asked to consider a request by the office regarding tenancy fees for Norton Road Allotments:

- a) When a new tenant takes on a plot where there are only a few months of the tenancy year left, they currently pay full fees – even if a couple of months are left, and then pay full fees again in a few months’ time. Members are asked to consider where only 4 months or less remain before the end of the tenancy year, tenants are charged ½ allotment tenancy fees for the remainder of that year.
- b) We have repeated problems where vacating tenants leave their plots in a very overgrown condition. Tenancy rules require the new tenant to take the plot as they find it, however sometimes it has been very difficult to let those types of plots. Members are therefore asked that where the office

is trying to let a very overgrown plot, the tenancy fees for the remainder of that tenancy year are left to the discretion of the office as to fees level.

RESOLVED that both the above items regarding allotment fees are agreed by the committee.

115/17 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Weeds in Pix Road – on the pavements and breaking the surfaces

Overhanging trees outside 9 highbush Avenue- sprouting foliage from truck

Astwick Road/Fen End – area is very overgrown, particularly a Willow tree and Sycamore tree need attention and cutting back.

Brook Street/Melbourne Close – apply for a left-hand arrow sign to be fitted to Streetlight no 2

Footpath sign is down between Mill Green and

Red Light not working on Traffic Lights at Crossroads of High Street/ Arlesey Road, Travelling from Arlesey.

116/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Members were reminded that the Big Tidy Up was being held in Stotfold at the Greenacre Centre on Saturday 16th September at 10am. Any help would be very much appreciated on the day.

A big thank you was given to Councillor Mrs Mary Cooper for re-planting and tending the planters outside the Pharmacy and the Parade of shops.

Item for next agenda – Purchase of 2 new seats for The Green.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED