

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.49PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper

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

Also present: Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

117/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none, as all Committee Members were present.

118/17 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none.

119/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

120/17 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

121/17 CHARGES LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

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

RESOLVED that charges levied for 2018/19 year are increased (or reduced as appropriate), and set as follows:

Activity	Charge 2018/2019
Football Club - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£40
Junior – charge per season per team	£95
Junior Football Club	
The Green - charge per season per team	£80
Junior Football Club	
Riverside Playing Field - charge per season per team	£85
Dean’s Fair/other circus/fair visits	
Charge per non-opening day	£30
Charge per opening day	£60 (this has been reduced)
Arlesey Road playing field (once Town Council lease with Central Beds Council completed)	
Adult - charge per game	£80
Junior – charge per season per team	£95

Whilst discussing charges, Members felt that the adult charges for the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground should remain as per 2017/2018 charges, but this will be reviewed once the facility has been upgraded.

122/17 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

123/17 TO CONSIDER SALARIES FOR THE MUGA CARETAKING STAFF 2018/2019

RESOLVED that the wages for the two MUGA caretakers is increased by 20p per hour for 2018/2019.

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

124/17 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Expenditure

MUGA – Maintenance & Repairs

Expenditure has been low this year, although the Billy Goat surface vacuum will likely require a service before the end of the year. A hole in the fence at the back of the facility on the 'Little London' footpath side remains, as every time it was repaired, it was vandalised immediately and cut open as a short-cut through. At a future meeting, Members may wish to consider the future of this facility, whether it remains, or needs a refurbishment (grass mat surface was recently replaced)

Open Spaces – Teasel/Centenary Wood

Following the budget complications last year to assist Teasel with equipment replacement after their break-in and theft of tools, etc, Teasel advise that they have been able to claim almost all the sum of money the Town Council forwarded as an early payment. Once the sum has been confirmed, calculations will be made to ascertain exactly how much is now available for Teasel's use for the remainder of the current financial year.

With regard to the vandalised fence at the MUGA, Members felt that no further attempt to repair it should be made.

RESOLVED that the Handyman is asked to tidy up the hole in the fence, and create a proper entrance (no gate required).

125/17 ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2018/2019

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

Following a recent spate of thefts from the Norton Road Allotments, it has been noted that there are large gaps in the front boundary hedge, and a plot holder has requested that these are filled to help deter would-be thieves. Prices will be obtained to reinforce the hedging.

A query was raised over the amount of water being used at the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground changing rooms, compared to the Bowls Club (which is re-charged to the Club), and investigations will be made.

It was noted that the Agency Grant received from Central Beds Council, as the contribution towards verge cutting which the Town Council carries out on behalf of Central Beds Council, has not increased

for some years. This figure is based on a calculation of area cut, and this needs to be updated as we have taken the cutting of more grassed verges.

Estimate figures for 2018/2019

Estimated running costs:	£111,632
Less estimated income:	£ 6,450
Total	£105,182

Earmarked Reserves

Rec Ground Rolling Improvements	£ 8,500
MUGA	£ 3,000
Allotment Hedging	£ 400
Total	£11,900

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The provisional sum of £105,182 is submitted as this Committee's budget request for 2018/2019.
- ii) The sum of £11,900 is submitted as this Committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2018/2019.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for consideration prior to approval by full Council.

126/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Councillor Mrs Hyde requested that consideration of taking on land as part of the development to the rear of Aspen Gardens up to the River Ivel is taken at the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs Clarey advised that the Town Plan Implementation Group is currently investigating the urban footpath which runs alongside the old Roecroft Lower School playing field through to Home Close. She will be discussing this further with the Clerk and Councillor Mrs Hyde, as the Chairman of the dormant Rights of Way Working Group.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.04pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED