

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUND, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018, 7.25PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE
CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: Mr P Redwood, Teasel Treasurer and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

1/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Clarey.

2/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS 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.

3/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None.

4/18 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 137/17 – the two benches to be installed at The Green have now been installed. One is to be sited in the fenced children's play area to replace the present older bench. The other is to be sited near the two new pieces of recently installed play equipment on the front boundary.

Minute 112/17 – the three-way 'springer' has been installed within the fenced children's play area at The Green.

Minute 136/17 – The tree work to the large Willow in Centenary Wood will commence week beginning 8th January by 4Seasons Tree Specialists.

Minute 138/17 – The extended height fencing to the MUGA at Pix Brook Play Area was installed 8th and 9th January.

The new post and rail fencing at Waters End grassed triangle abutting the Pix Brook was completed in December by the Handyman and Landscape Contractor.

5/18 TEASEL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE REQUEST

Paul Redwood, Treasurer of Teasel gave the following report:

The Teasel Steering Group has asked that I thank the Council for providing much needed financial support following the break-in. Without your support we would not have been able to replace the equipment which enabled us to carry on.

We have installed an alarm system that we brought from a specialist supplier. It has been in place for about 2 months without any problems. There is also an option that will call up to three people; if the first person deals with it the system will not ring the next person. Roger is trialling this part and so far it has worked.

The other protection is via a system that Earnest Doe can supply and we will be adopting this on all new equipment and then on the older items.

Whilst we are still going through Zurich for our insurance they have changed the underwriter, the service is all through one nominated individual which makes them much easier to deal with. As well as better service the price has come down by approx. £120.

As in past years we request that half the premium be paid by the Town Council (£258.76). We have already had the other 50% from the Mill Trust.

Having undertaken a full audit we have now put together the list of items that we request be bought through the Town Council. The cost excluding VAT is £1,398.35.

With regard to Kingfisher Way, we understand that a contract has been given to remove the dead wood on the large Willow down by the bridge in Centenary Wood. That is seen as the most dangerous of the Willows, but it would be good to have them all looked at for safety.

In Millennium Green, the cross-over point by the River Ivel is compacted down and in need of MOT or similar, we estimate about one ton. We do not have a trailer that is strong enough to take the weight. Any help would be appreciated.

Members considered the list of requested items to be purchased by the Council to enable Teasel to continue its work in areas of the town, on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the list of requested items is purchased, at a total of £1,398.35 (excl. vat), together with 50% of Teasel's insurance costs at £258.76.

With regard to the compacted and boggy area on Millennium Green, this Committee will investigate supplies of MOT and means to get it to the specific area on Millennium Green. With regard to other trees along Kingfisher Way which Teasel feel need maintenance work, these are on a public right of way and so will come under the remit of either Central Beds Council's Public Rights of Way team, or as they are on the banks of the River Ivel, may be the responsibility of the River Ivel Drainage Board.

6/18 PERMISSION TO USE THE GREEN – STOTFOLD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB TOURNAMENT

Members considered a request from Stotfold Junior Football Club to use The Green for car parking for their tournament this year, required Friday evening through to Saturday evening on 6th to 8th July 2018.

RESOLVED that subject to there being no clashes in use of booked space, usual requirements regarding non-damage to grass and entrance surfaces, and provision of parking marshalls, permission is given for the Junior Football Club to use The Green for parking on 6th to 8th July 2018.

7/18 LETTER FROM STOTFOLD MILL – STREET LIGHTING IN MILL LANE, STOTFOLD

Members were provided with a copy of a letter from Stotfold Mill, expressing the willingness of the Mill to join the Town Council in sharing the costs of extending the number of street lamps further along Mill Lane.

Members discussed whether additional lighting was required, particularly as Mill Lane is supposed to be a 'Quite Lane' with no unnecessary street clutter such as lighting and signage. However, Members were prepared to consider the possibility of installing x2 additional lights, but as the street lighting budget this year will be very stretched to meet outstanding electricity debts and usual installation and maintenance costs, a quote will be obtained from our Street Lighting Contractor and brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that a quote is obtained to install x2 new single head columns on Mill Lane, in the right-hand verge going from the last column outside the Mill car park towards the Cemetery, up to the tight corner. The next Committee meeting will consider whether this is something we wish to pursue.

8/18 GENERAL WORK

The Clerk advises that the new online reporting system for potholes now requires reports to be very specific, in terms of the location of the pothole in the road – rather than just outside a certain property, and requires details of depth and circumference. The mobile phone app was an accurate method of reporting potholes as it recorded your location by the pothole when submitting the report. This app no longer operates.

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- Ditches at Wrayfields/Malthouse Lane are full of debris and no longer take away excess water from the roads, causing flooding of the roads and adjacent fields. This matter has been reported repeatedly over the last 7 years and needs urgent attention to clear out the ditches
- Pedestrian safety bollard is out of the ground - High Street, in front of the parade of shops
- Church Road – large road hole opposite the Academy of Central Bedfordshire, close to the footpath leading to Church Road – situated in the centre of road
- Rook Tree Lane – area of patching needed to road from nos. 8 to 10 – centre of road
- Rook Tree Lane – deep road hole outside no. 6. Reported as urgent last week, and was repaired, however it has now started to disintegrate
- High Street – large road hole repaired badly, disintegrated. A complaint was made, but still needs repair

- Make a complaint about the very poor repairs being made to road holes – ask why they are not using bonding agent, as the hole filling easily breaks up and becomes loose within the hole
- Ask Ringway contractors when they are due to complete works to re-mark the Stotfold A507 roundabouts and roads off, as these are on their schedule of works
- Ask Highways Area Steward, Nick Carafola, why we no longer receive Highways 5 Year Programme of Works

Environmental

- Dog waste bins in some areas are not being emptied – one in Olivers Lane is currently overflowing

Public Transport

- As we are nearing the end of this financial year, are there funds now available to install the agreed bus shelter at The Green?

9/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.05pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED