

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2018, 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
A Cooper	S Hayes
Mrs J Hyde	S Jackson
J Talbot	

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

23/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Collier and C Phelps.

24/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none. Members were reminded that if at any point during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

URGENT ITEM THAT WILL NOT ADMIT OF DELAY

The Clerk advised that the Committee's usual annual March agenda item to review budgets and earmarked reserves had been left off the agenda in error. **Members agreed that as this is an annual Committee agenda item and it was important to consider the Committee budget and reserves status before the end of this financial year, as an Urgent Item that will not admit of delay, it was included for consideration at this meeting.**

25/18 BUDGET & RESERVES REVIEW

The Clerk went through the budgets and reserves status report as at month 11 in detail, circulated to Members, and answered questions. It was noted that there has been a significant expenditure for Street Lighting Electricity this financial year, due to recovery of a significant outstanding amount by our electricity supplier, and an increase in expenditure for Street Lighting Maintenance & Repairs due to a large number of repairs and replacement columns this financial year. Subsequently both the Street Lighting Maintenance and Repairs budget and the Street Lighting Electricity budget are significantly overspent. These significant overspends, should not remain a negative at the end of the financial year, sufficient sums need to be vired to cover the deficit.

RESOLVED that the sum of £5,310 (Street Lighting Maintenance & Repairs budget overspend amount) is vired from Rec Street Lighting Earmarked Reserves (having sufficient funds available) to Street Lighting Maintenance & Repairs budget.

As no additional sums have been included in next financial year for Earmarked Reserves Street Lighting, as it currently stands quite healthy at £11,390, if the overspend figure for Street Lighting Electricity budget is taken from this amount it would leave no Reserves for this purpose, and would still be insufficient to cover the overspent, it was therefore:

RECOMMENDED that the sum of £14,471 is vired from General Reserves to Street Lighting Earmarked Reserves to cover the overspend in the 2017/2018 financial year.

26/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

27/18 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence

Teasel - Willow in Centenary Wood

Members were advised that the Chairman had received correspondence and photos from Teasel's Secretary querying work to the Willow tree at Centenary Wood. The Chairman has visited the site, following work carried out early January, in response to a request by Teasel's Treasurer, Paul Redwood in his report to the Committee. Quotes were sought, and advice received from tree surgeons as to work required and in particular in relation to any deadwood. The advice was that the tree is in good health and no significant works were required, deadwood was removed and limbs overhanging the road were removed.

CPRE – AGM

An invitation has been received to send two representatives of this Council to the CPRE AGM taking place on Tuesday 17th April at the Bedford Corn Exchange, 7pm. The topic will be on 'how we should value, protect and enhance the natural environment around us'. Councillors A Cooper and Mrs M Cooper will attend.

Matters Arising

Minute 14/18 – the double gate at the Pix Brook Play Area has been padlocked for maintenance access only, however the chain/padlock has been cut to re-gain access. The intention has been misunderstood, in that the drop-bolt on the larger gate is to be dropped into its retaining slot and then bolted into place, rather than the two gates being locked together, thus retaining pedestrian access through the smaller pedestrian gate.

Minute 5/18 – following a request by Teasel for assistance to supply and put down road chippings in the compacted and boggy 'cross-over point' by the River Ivel on Millennium Green, the Chairman has made investigations into who might be able to take the required amount of chippings to the area and using a suitable vehicle. Members were unsure of exactly what the problem is and where the problem area is located - it is believed to be in the entrance point between Great Close Meadow and Millennium Green. As tenant of Great Close Meadow, Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest, and explained that she had no issue with the chippings being laid. Members felt that they need more clarification from Teasel as to exactly where they wish chippings to be laid, and who is to help spread them out.

Minute 22/18 - Councillor Mrs Hyde advised that following the February Committee meeting where she explained that due to unauthorised access to fields behind the Common Road Allotments, via the bridleway, the Public Rights of Way Officer had agreed to install a locked vehicle gate and kissing gate, this is now being reviewed due to the size of farm vehicles requiring access – a 'slam post' is being considered.

28/18 SOUTH GREEN – REAR OF GREENACRE CENTRE

The developers have asked for our preference in terms of lighting of the footpaths around the public open space. Options from the developers are: solar powered columns, connect to the Town Council's supply, feed pillar and private network, full DNO supply. Advice was sought from our Street Lighting Contractor as to the best option. Together with his professional opinion on each option, he has requested that the columns are of the centre hinged drop down type for easy access in the winter, as he would need to access across the open space, rather than the usual access with a cherry-picker for street lights on a public highway. He also suggests that we use the LED type of lantern as it is more efficient, but still gives good light coverage, and that they are spaced no further than 26m apart. Members discussed the pros and cons of each option, and it was:

RESOLVED that the developers are advised that we wish to have the lighting supply for the open space connected to the Greenacre Centre electricity supply, via a separate meter, with lighting columns provided to the specification detailed by our Lighting Contractor.

29/18 BIG TIDY UP

Keep Britain Tidy no longer promotes the former 'Big Tidy Up' campaign but has introduced a new 'Great British Spring Clean' campaign held in March. At the last Tidy Up event in September, participants commented that it would be preferable for the event to be held twice a year to help reinforce the importance of keeping your town tidy. It was suggested that a Stotfold Tidy Up is held on Saturday 15th September 2018, and that we take part in the Great British Spring Clean during March 2019, and in future years.

RESOLVED that a Stotfold Tidy Up takes place on Saturday 15th September 2018, and we take part in the Great British Spring Clean during March 2019, and in future years – date to be confirmed.

30/18 REQUEST TO USE MILLENNIUM GREEN FOR CAR PARKING – OCTOBER 2018 MILL EVENT

Having previously approved use of Millennium Green for parking during the May Mill event, plus The Green as overflow parking if required, Members considered the same request for the October 2018 event (13th & 14th).

RESOLVED that the Mill Trust is permitted to use Millennium Green for parking during the 13th and 14th October Mill weekend, and to use The Green for overflow parking if required.

31/18 REQUEST TO USE THE GREEN – ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR AND HOT RODS SHOW

Members considered a request from the Coach & Horses Public House to use The Green for their Annual Classic Car and Hot Rod Show taking place on 4th August 2018.

RESOLVED that the Coach & Horses is permitted to use The Green for their Annual Classic Car and Hot Rod Show on 4th August 2018, subject to the usual conditions regarding non-damage to surface, ensuring the event is fully marshalled, all litter is collected after the event and no glasses are to be taken onto The Green.

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- High Street – category 1 road hole, edge of road, outside no 106, previously repaired badly, now needs to be repaired and sealed
- High Street - blocked drain at no. 96
- High Street – large road hole on junction with Grange Drive
- High Street – category 1 road hole at entry to Regency Flowers, no. 47
- High Street – category 1 road hole outside The Haven, which is very dangerous and needs immediate repair. There are other small holes nearby
- High Street – strip of road holes on junction with Barndell Close
- High Street – there are numerous holes continually opening up on the central white line the length of the High Street. Most noticeable on the junction with Church Road, towards the parade of shops and towards the crossroads traffic lights. Some individual small holes are filled from time to time. These slots are dangerous to those on motorbikes
- Church Road – series of road holes, centre, one is category 1, nos. 13 to 23
- Church Road - large road hole, middle, previously repaired, at entrance to St Mary's Academy
- Rook Tree Lane – long line of road holes, middle, opposite no. 13 and at junction with Home Close – patch required
- Rook Tree Lane – further patch required no. 8 to 10, due to previous poor repair
- Rook Tree Lane – substantial water on the road indicates blocked drains close to entry to Olivers Lane. We were told at the end of last year that all drains in Stotfold were being cleared
- The Green - patch required nos. 87 to 89 due to previous bad repair
- The Green – category 1 road hole, edge of road, opposite nos. 103 to 105, previously badly repaired
- Regent Street – Category 1 road hole, edge of road, at no. 97. This needs immediate repair as it is dangerous
- Regent Street – road hole around drain grid at junction with Jasmine Court
- Regent Street – road hole, centre, at junction with Meadow Way
- Regent Street – road holes at junction with Marschefield, patch required
- The Green – at junction into Regent Street, outside the pink house, large road hole
- Olivers Lane – Rook Tree Lane end – broken up surface caused by development along Olivers Lane, this is now very dangerous and is a significant trip hazard

Planning Enforcement

- Rook Tree Lane – due to the ongoing development, there is a significant amount of mud on the road and footways, verges are being damaged, drains are blocked, and the bus stop is often blocked by developer's vehicles

Highways Area Steward

- A meeting is requested with Nick Carafola, Highways Area Steward, to highlight the significant problems Stotfold is experiencing with road holes and poor road hole repairs. He is also asked to visit to assess problems being experienced by those with mobility scooters and prams on footways around the town where there are obstacles, such as barriers. The list of footway obstacles produced by the Town Plan Implementation Group, together with the list from this Committee is to be put together, and where possible, map references are to be provided to assist Mr Carafola in identifying the areas.

Junior Football Club

- Following the purchase by the Town Council of new goal posts for Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, and installation of the post sockets by the Junior Football Club, it was noted some months ago that the sockets were proud of the surface an inch to an inch and a half. They were asked to lower the sockets, but they advised that this was just whilst the sockets were being installed. To try and mitigate any trip risk, the Junior Football Club have put up orange plastic fencing, with metal spiked posts around the sockets. Both the metal posts and the goal post sockets are considered by this Committee to be a health and safety hazard and as a matter of urgency the fencing and posts must be removed, with the sockets being reinstalled so that they fit level to the surrounding ground.

33/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Councillor Mrs Clarey referred Members to the previously circulated Green Wheel minutes for information, and in particular minute 3.7 Etonbury Wood and the large number of problems experienced there recently, including a homeless person, unauthorised vehicle access and vandalism. The next meeting of the Etonbury Green Wheel will be 4th May 2018.

It was reported that at a recent adult football match taking place at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground (3rd March), visitors to the area were subjected to very foul language from the players, resulting in two mothers with young children using the play equipment leaving the area. Football teams using any of our recreation grounds/playing fields are to be reminded that these are public areas, and they are warned to reduce their use of foul language.

We have been advised that road surfacing of Buttercup Road is to take place on Friday 6th April, which will be during the school Easter holidays. Access will be maintained at all times, with half the road being closed and surfaced, followed by the other half.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.17pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED