

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL 2015 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	A Cooper
S Hayes	Mrs J Hyde
B Saunders	L Stoter
J Talbot	

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

39/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs Hyde

40/15 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Clarey declared an interest in agenda item 9 as she is a school governor of St Mary's Academy.

41/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Mrs Pam Manfield confirmed that the petition regarding the Old Roecroft School playing fields would be presented to the Council meeting of Central Bedfordshire Council on Thursday 9th April.

42/15 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 25/15 – Central Beds Council Independent Road Safety Audit has not yet been completed and so the previously postponed Town Improvements walkabout has not yet been rescheduled.

Minute 25/15 – A site meeting has been set up with Cliff Rowe of Vine Management and John Oldfield of the River Ivel Drainage Board on Monday 20th April at 9.30am. Councillors Collier, Cooper and Talbot will attend to discuss the weir and channel at Pix Brook and the new gantry and debris prevention grid.

Minute 27/15 – Central Beds Council have confirmed that the CCTV van is still allowed to operate outside school where there is a traffic order and ticket cars parking on zig zag lines. Walking enforcement officer would be used to combat illegal parking around the town.

Minute 27/15 – a meeting is to be arranged with St Mary's Academy representatives, road safety advisors from Central Beds Council and Stotfold Town Councillors to discuss parking and road safety concerns outside St Mary's Academy.

43/15 2015 BIG TIDY UP

Members considered a date and time for this year's Big Tidy Up Event and it was

Resolved that the Big Tidy Up would be held on Saturday 19th September at 10.00am. The Football Club will be asked for permission to use the tea hut.

44/15 EXECUTIVE ACTION – PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT COURSE

Following previous approval (min 71/14) for the Handyman Contractor to attend a play area management course at a cost of £30, the course was unfortunately cancelled. Members were asked

to approve attendance by the Handyman Contractor at a more detailed course, which includes an exam at the end, at a cost of £227 +vat, examination £95 no vat.

Resolved that executive action taken by the Clerk in booking the handyman on the ROSPA play management course is approved at a cost of £227 + vat and examination at £95 no vat.

Further resolved that the handyman is congratulated on passing the course examination

45/15 FORD BRIDGE SIGN

Members were asked to consider a previously circulated quotation to supply a resin sign to be placed on the Ford Bridge and confirm the wording to be used. Permission has been obtained from Central Beds Council to place the sign on the brick part of the bridge.

Resolved the oval sign with a green background and gold lettering is erected on the Ford Bridge at a cost of £138.60 + vat, with the following wording "Replacement Ford Bridge constructed 2014 for Central Bedfordshire Council". The handyman is to fix the sign on the brickwork on the riverside of the bridge.

46/15 SITE MEETING – RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD CAR PARK AND FOOTPATH

Councillor Mrs Cooper gave the following report on a meeting held on Tuesday 17th March at the Riverside Recreation Ground with the Public Rights of Way Officer, Andrew Gwillam.

Drew looked at the gap created in the Armco barrier, following our addition of a new swing barrier to prevent unauthorised vehicle access from Riverside car park and onto the recreation area. He was happy with the present surface of stones despite it being a little uneven. He suggests we remove the metal posts that the end of the barrier was fixed to that the handyman removed, and reposition it to leave a gap of approximately 5 feet width. This, he says, is sufficient to accommodate buggies etc. He will have money available in his 2015/16 budget to do some work on this part of the Kingfisher Way. Initially he will remove/lower 2 kerbstones on the left hand edge of the car park and then lay a suitable path surface to curve around left hand end of the new swing barrier and to line up with/join the existing bark path surface. This work will be about 15metres in length. Ultimately Drew is looking to improve the entire length of the Kingfisher Way along/through Riverside Recreation area and onto Little London pathway with hopefully a tarmac surface or scalping if finance is less forthcoming. He notes we have a suitable base surface to put these onto.

Section of Kingfisher Way near river on opposite side of road – Drew noticed wire fence is coming down and will notify the landowners.

Drew suggested we keep getting onto CBC/Amey to remind contractors who rebuilt the bridge to come and scarify the seeded area and put more seed down. Growth is sparse at present and this work needs to be done very soon for optimum growth in Riverside Recreation Area and on the verges. The soil on the verges needs to settle properly and traffic is causing ruts in it. Drew doesn't think that posts will be very effective, they would probably get knocked down. One suggestion is to ask CBC to put in white plastic posts at their expense as these are easier to see. We also need to remind CBC of work to be done to riverbed and bank area.

Ask Cliff Andrews what he intends spending his money on that is coming to him because of the Taylors Road development by Taylor Wimpey.

Note – 2015/16 is the transition year between section 106 and CIL funding for projects. CIL money will be placed in a central pot and officers will have to put in bids for "their" projects.

Members considered the notes from the meeting and it was

Resolved that a letter is sent to Central Beds Council to ask if they either build up the banks on the approach to the Ford Bridge or put in posts to stop people parking on the verges.

Councillor Cooper requested that his suggestion to put in post and rail fencing along the verges is considered by this committee if Central Beds Council are unable to repair the verges.

47/15 ST MARY'S ACADEMY – SCHOOL TRAVEL SURVEY

A copy of the School Travel Survey report recently undertaken by St Mary's Academy regarding travel to and from the school was noted by members and the Chairman confirmed that a meeting to discuss these issues was being arranged.

48/15 PETITION FOR ROAD SAFETY MEASURES ON ROOK TREE LANE

Copies of a petition from residents/carers/parents of children attending St Mary's Academy requesting an assessment by Central Beds Council or this Council into the road safety in the area of the school was previously circulated to members. The Chairman confirmed that a meeting to discuss these issues was being arranged.

49/15 GREEN WHEEL

Copies of the minutes of the Green Wheel Meeting were circulated to members and the contents noted and it was

Resolved that a letter is sent to the secretary of the Manor Farm Co-operative to enquire whether Stotfold Town Council to take over the lease of the field (known as the beetroot field) to use for agricultural purposes.

50/15 GENERAL WORK

Resolved that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- Rook Tree Lane – junction with Home Close – 2 road holes.
- Queen Street – near to 12a and the junction of Mill Lane, road hole previously reported is now dangerous.
- High Street – road hole in front of car park at The Haven.

Lighting Contractor

- Street light at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground nearest the footpath comes on really early

Handyman

- Common Road/Princes Street – post and rail fencing needs repairing.
- Trim back brambles by Estate Agents on Hitchin Road
- Remove pot of paint that has been spilled in front of Estate Agents

51/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

A weed spray of gutters around the town has been carried out by Central Beds Council and the gutter clearing vehicle has been out. Amey are repairing the street lights at the Hitchin Road Roundabout on the A507. New traffic monitoring equipment has been fitted in the High Street.

The Chairman thanked all the committee members for their hard work over the past four years and wished them every success in the forthcoming elections.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.50pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED