

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: the Assistant Clerk

48/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor A Clarey and the Town Clerk

49/17 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Mrs J Hyde for item 8 as she lives adjacent to this area. 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.

50/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none present.

51/17 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

The Committee noted the following items:

Minute 37/17 – The Co-op Area Manager has been asked for a site meeting to discuss the arc of pavement at the entrance to the Co-op car park. He was advised of our concerns and of our suggested works to remedy. Their Estates Surveyor advises that they have carried out their own site survey with colleagues from Facilities Management, Risk and Operations departments and they are proposing some alterations and improvements. The arc acts as a traffic calming measure. The issue is that some drivers short cut the turn into the car park. Their contractors are going to alter the in arrow to sweep further over to the left and also install an additional arrow for when exiting the car park. These works should be undertaken shortly and the impact on the driving route will be monitored. We have been given the contact details for the Regional Facilities Manager who attended the site meeting and has a thorough understanding of this road junction, should we have any further concerns.

Minute 37/17 – Councillors Cooper, Collier and Saunders are to investigate and confirm ownership of the corner area of Littlebury Close with the Mossman Centre. In the meantime, as there were concerns about the overgrown brambles which need clearing from this area, the Landscape Contractor advises that he is unable to carry out the clearance work now until autumn due to the nesting season, but will cut back individual overhanging bramble branches which are currently causing a concern.

Minute 37/17 – Councillor Cooper has spoken to the four residents who objected to the provision of a bus shelter at The Green bus stop (opposite Coach & Horses public house). He has also spoken with Nick Doolan, Senior Public Transport Officer who advises that just before the end of the financial year, two bus shelters elsewhere in Central Bedfordshire were demolished after vehicles collided with them – this has used up the funds that were to be used for The Green. However, the work to provide the bus shelter will be added to the programme of works, to be completed when funds allow.

52/17 EXECUTIVE ACTION- TEASEL EXPENDITURE

Members were asked to approve executive action taken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to authorise expenditure of the remaining Teasel/Centenary Wood budget before the end of the financial year. The funds are to be used to replace equipment recently stolen, but which was previously purchased by the Town Council to enable Teasel to carry out work on behalf of the Council. Teasel are currently pursuing an insurance claim for the stolen items; the agreement to use the money, plus additional (as it is more than the budget available), is subject to the same sums being returned to the Town Council on their receipt of insurance claim monies.

RESOLVED that executive action is approved to authorise the expenditure of the remaining 2016/17 Teasel Budget of approx. £711.00 and additional money from the repairs and maintenance budget is used to purchase items for Teasel. The additional money is to be returned after the insurance claim has been received and to be returned to the correct budget.

53/17 BIG TIDY UP 2017

Members were asked to consider a date for this year's Big Tidy Up litter pick. Last year's tidy up was held in April, previous years have also taken place in September. Consider using the Greenacre Centre as the start and finish point and to provide refreshments for participants.

RESOLVED that Saturday 16th September 2017 was suggested as the Big Tidy up 2017 (if weather poor then this to be moved to Sunday 17th September.) Problems with litter at the Riverside Recreation Ground. Scouts and Guides to be asked to participate. Greenacre centre to be start and finish point, and Town Council to provide refreshments.

54/17 CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK AROUND STOTFOLD

A request was considered from Churches Together for permission to include three of our open spaces as part of their walk route (Riverside Playing Field, The Green and Hitchin Road Recreation Ground) on their sponsored walk for Christian Aid, taking place on Saturday 3rd June 2017, 2pm. A copy of their proposal and route map was provided for Members. Members agreed to advertising on the Town Council website and noticeboards as the deadline for the May edition of the Stotfold News had been brought forward and therefore missed.

RESOLVED that permission is given to Churches Together to use open spaces as part of the Sponsored Walk Route.

Councillor Mrs J Hyde left the meeting at this point.

55/17 DAMAGED LIGHTING COLUMN – S3 THE GREEN

Members were informed of the repairs needed to the lighting column on The Green, Stotfold. Column S3 The Green is situated between two properties on the footway, and has been damaged by a vehicle causing the column to be split open – the column is now in need of replacement. Our Lighting Contractor has disconnected it for safety purposes. He suggests re-siting the replacement column in the grass verge outside the Baptist Church, approximately 5m away from its current location (lower cost than installing in footway and removes opportunity for it to be hit by a vehicle again). Cost £2,150 plus vat.

RESOLVED that the lighting column on The Green, Stotfold be replaced and re-sited at a cost of £2,150 plus VAT.

56/17 DAMAGED LIGHTING COLUMN - S3 HOME CLOSE

Members were asked to agree a quote to replace the lighting column in Home Close, Stotfold. Following vehicle damage to column, our Lighting Contractor has made safe and cut down the damaged column, which was leaning precariously. Cost to replace the column £1,800 plus vat – to excavate and remove column stump and supply and fit x1 new 6m hexagonal column to match existing and supply, wire and fit x1 new LED Phillips lantern as required.

Members asked why the photo taken of the column had a Central Bedfordshire Council sign on it. This indicates that the column is Central Beds owned.

RESOLVED that as the column looks as though it belongs to Central Beds Council, that the quotation for the repair be forwarded to them, also for them to reimburse the Town Council the costs for making the lamp post safe.

57/17 MCDONALDS WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Following discussions with the McDonalds Baldock Services Business Manager regarding their offer to help improve Stotfold, Members were asked for any suggestions for assistance that can be put forward to McDonalds. The Town Council has already asked them what sort of things they have assisted with elsewhere and it was again queried whether they would provide sponsorship to help pay for improvement items, such as litter bins. McDonalds have advise that this is not something they offer as they have partnerships where they are actively involved in such things already. A few things they have done in the past elsewhere include painting buildings, underpasses, planting plants and trees and litter picks.

RESOLVED that McDonalds be asked if they are willing to help with the Big Tidy Up in September and whether they are willing to provide refreshments on the day for the volunteers.

58/17 BROOK STREET ROUNDABOUT, ETC

Councillors were asked to consider requesting Central Beds Highways to reconsider the present layout of roundabout at the junction of Hitchin Road/Brook Street, further to representation from residents concerning safety aspects at this junction, with potential damage/dangers to pedestrians and vehicles.

Councillors had recently met at the junction with Paul Salmon from Central Beds Highways who was 'horrified' at the way vehicles approach the roundabout. It is not possible from one direction to actually go around the roundabout and a major re-work of the junction is needed to make it safe, together with a list of improvements, yellow lines etc. A copy of the email from Paul Salmon was passed to the Assistant Clerk for information.

RESOLVED that the Town Council awaits proposals to make improvements to this junction and for a schedule of works for double yellow lines etc from Central Beds Highways.

59/17 HITCHIN ROAD REC TRACTOR SHED – ELECTRICAL WORKS

Members were asked to consider a quote from Terry Seymour Electrician to carry out works to update the electrical works in the tractor shed. The existing wiring, lighting units and sockets are old and need updating, and this work will also enable the Handyman to have a base from which to work when carrying out repairs, etc. Cost £850 plus vat (Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs budget)

Members agreed that this work would not only provide the Handyman with a base to work from and leave equipment, but to provide safe and secure storage for the flood equipment and Christmas

Light fittings etc. It was also mentioned on a safety aspect that the wiring and lights need to be updated and tested to safety standards.

There were also discussions on who would have access to the tractor shed, as part of it is now being used to store equipment in the case of flooding at Pix Brook. A key holder will need to be appointed for emergency access and extra keys will need to be cut. Keys should be kept inside the holders property for safety purposes. There is also a need for a notice on the door of the tractor shed with details of the contact for access to the Flood equipment in an emergency.

RESOLVED that the wiring and lighting in the tractor shed are checked and upgraded where necessary at a cost of £850 plus VAT. That a key holder is appointed for access to the tractor shed in an emergency and that sufficient keys are cut for access. Also to display a notice for contact details on the tractor shed door.

60/17 PLAY EQUIPMENT – HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Member were asked to consider a quote from Streetscape to replace the Russell Multi-play climbing frame at the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground with a new unit, grass matting and remove the old unit. The new unit can be sited slightly adjacent, or anywhere else on the recreation ground we choose, as it cannot be fixed into the old safety surfacing. This surfacing will remain in place and they will 'make good', i.e. fill the holes and match colour. Councillors are to consider the future of this surfacing – whether to remove at our cost or find an alternative use for it in situ. Costs for the new play unit will be covered entirely by an Awards for All Big Lottery Fund grant. Total costs and grant available £10,000

Members noted that while the current safety flooring on this piece of equipment needs replacing, the piece of equipment is fine and has passed testing by ROSPA. Councillors agreed that to have a new piece of equipment that has the same functions as the existing viable piece would be a waste of the grant opportunity. Some Councillors would rather see the old swings at Hitchin Road replaced. Councillors asked for more investigations into full costings of the removal of the safety surfacing and the options of the Grant money use. This item to be left on the table for the next meeting.

61/17 PLAY EQUIPMENT – THE GREEN

Members were asked to consider a quote from HAGS to provide two new pieces of play equipment to be sited along the front inside boundary of The Green, close to the bottle bank entrance (opposite The Crown public house). Funds for this item to be taken from S106 monies available. Total cost of project £27,459 plus vat (£30,000 available).

Members asked why this site had been chosen. This is the farthest point from any properties and is not directly overlooked. It also avoids the current site of the marked junior football pitch. There will be roughly 6-8 weeks installation time for these two pieces.

RESOLVED that the quote for two pieces of play equipment to be installed at The Green is agreed, subject to approval of expenditure using S106 money by Central Beds Council.

62/17 GREEN WHEEL

Members received the Etonbury Green Wheel group minutes. Two points to be noted were:

1. The Etonbury Wood Masterplan – The Group would appreciate Stakeholders comments and comments would be collated from Stotfold Town Council.
2. Potential projects that could be funded by the Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations Fund – to improve overgrown wetland at Riverside Playing Fields for Frogs and Toads etc. This area has deliberately not been made into a pond and left as 'wetland'. If a pond is to be considered in the future, it will need both an inlet and outlet access point.

63/17 GENERAL WORK

Handyman - Norton Road allotments – Re-numbering of all plots.

Central Beds Highways - Astwick Road – entrance of Fen End Industrial estate – Highways road surface repairs needed.

RESOLVED that both items are actioned as appropriate.

64/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

A query was raised regarding Speed Limits in Tansy Avenue, coming off A507 Norton Road Roundabout and whether the speed limit is 20 or 30mph. Tansy Avenue has not yet been adopted by Central Beds Council and the Town Council are mindful to public concerns of possible accidents in this area. A future meeting of this committee will consider asking the developers of the Greenacre site to erect temporary speed signs and indicators to slow down the traffic on Tansy Avenue/Valerian Way.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.29pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED