

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 7.20PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: the Town Clerk

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**174/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none as all Committee Members were present.

**175/16 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

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.

**176/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

**177/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**Clerk's Report**

A reminder that this year's Big Tidy Up is taking place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 10am from the Simpson Centre.

**Correspondence**

Available in the office – CPRE Field Work, Spring 2016, CPRE Countryside Voice, Spring 206

**Matters Arising**

Minute 162/16 – quotes and layout designs are being put together for outdoor gym equipment, for the Bags of Help funding application. The spring funding round is not yet open.

Minute 172/16 – the Handyman has cleared the area at the Brook Street junction with Hitchin Road.

Minute 172/16 – the rotten waymarker on Millennium Green has been removed. The Public Rights of Way Officer will be replacing the post, plus signage disks in due course.

**178/16 LITTER BINS**

Members were asked to consider whether there are sufficient litter bins at our recreation grounds (The Green, Riverside Playing Field, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground) and around the town, to suggest locations for new bins if required.

Members considered the levels of litter around the town in general, the small sized dog waste bins which are frequently full resulting in use of a separate bin bag and litter bins in general.

**RESOLVED** that Central Beds Council is asked:

- to provide a copy of the litter pick schedule for Stotfold
- to provide and empty either a second dog waste bin to be fixed back to back to the existing one on Malthouse Lane, or to provide a larger multi-purpose green bin in its place

- to provide and empty a replacement larger dog waste bin on Brook Street close to the footpath entrance to the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground
- to provide and empty a large multi-purpose green bin in Church Road at the entrance to the footpath from The Crofts to Alexander Road.

With regard to litter bins at our recreation grounds, the Town Council is to provide and empty:

- a new large multi-purpose, green bin on The Green at the Common Road entrance to replace the one remaining small bin

With regard to the enclosed children's play area on The Green, checks will be made as to the condition of the existing bin (metal dustbin within a wooden surround) for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **179/16 LIMB REMOVAL FROM TREE – 9 HITCHIN ROAD**

Following the sale of a small section of land adjacent to 9 Hitchin Road to the property owners, a request has been made for the Town Council to remove a limb of an adjacent tree which is preventing a fence being erected around their new boundary. Members also noted that the area in general is overgrown with ivy and the tree and two large shrubs need tidying up.

**RESOLVED** that A1 Trees are asked to remove the limb as soon as possible, and to provide advice on future tidying up of the shrub/tree area for consideration at the end of the nesting season.

#### **180/16 POLICY FOR DISPLAY OF NOTICES/BANNERS ON RECREATION GROUND FENCES**

The office currently informally permits local groups hiring our Memorial Hall to display their notices/banners on the fence at the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground for a period of one month – this has benefit for both parties. However, complaints have been received from adjacent residents about the size and type of banners they can see from their properties. Members were asked to consider whether to permit display of non-Town Council notices/banners on recreation ground fencing, and if so, to formalise a policy.

**RESOLVED** that no permanent advertising is permitted on any of the Town Council's recreation ground fences. Notices/banners from non-commercial organisations advertising something for the benefit of the community will be permitted to display such notices/banners for a maximum period of 14 days, to be removed immediately after the event, and of a maximum size of 1.5m x 0.5m. Any unauthorised notices/banners found on recreation ground fencing will be removed.

Similar warning notices to those on the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground fence will be fixed to The Green fencing, advising that unauthorised display of notices/banners is not permitted.

#### **181/16 EXECUTIVE ACTION – RETURN CONSULTATION COMMENTS – BUTTERCUP ROAD**

Members were asked to approve executive action taken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, to return comments on behalf of this Committee in respect of the Central Beds Council consultation into No Waiting Restrictions proposals and One-Way proposals for Buttercup Road. This Committee has previously supported the idea of a one-way system for Buttercup Road and also acknowledged the parking issues in the vicinity of Roecroft Lower School. A copy of the proposal documents were previously circulated to Members.

Comments returned: *Stotfold Town Council fully supports the proposal to introduce No Waiting Restrictions to Buttercup Road as per the proposal diagram, and to formalise the One-Way system currently in place for Buttercup Road. This proposal will ensure the safety of children walking to school, parents dropping children off and picking them up, whilst ensuring that the amenity of adjacent properties is not compromised.*

**RESOLVED** that the executive action taken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, to return the above comments on behalf of the Town Council in response to the Central Beds Council consultation on No Waiting Restrictions and One-Way proposals for Buttercup Road is approved.

**182/16 PRINCIPLE OF RE-SURFACING KINGFISHER WAY THROUGH RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD, INSTALLING TWO PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES FROM LAND TO REAR OF SITE AND NEW FOOTWAY LINKING TO KINGFISHER WAY**

The Central Beds Council Public Rights of Way Officer has asked for agreement to the **principle only** of resurfacing the bark path – Kingfisher Way running through Riverside Playing Field, installation of two pedestrian bridges over the ditch (one near marked football pitch, one nearer MUGA) linking with the land to the rear of the site and installing a new footpath linking those bridges to the Kingfisher Way. This is part of the Public Rights of Way Officer’s discussions with the Planning Officer, that **should** the application for development to the rear of Silverbirch Avenue/Aspen Gardens be approved, we would agree to developer Section 106 contributions being used for this purpose.

**RESOLVED** that this Committee agrees to the **principle only** of resurfacing the bark path – Kingfisher Way running through Riverside Playing Field, installation of two pedestrian bridges over the ditch linking with land to the rear of the site and installing a new footpath linking those bridges to the Kingfisher Way, **should** the application for development to the rear of Silverbirch Avenue/Aspen Gardens be approved, however it should be noted that such work will necessitate ditch clearance to ensure water flows to the nearby River Ivel.

**183/16 PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST SAFETY – PENDLETON WAY – ARLESEY ROAD SITE ENTRANCE**

Members considered pedestrian/cyclist safety along Pendleton Way, particularly at the entrance to the new Arlesey Road site. Concerns have been raised as Etonbury will soon see an increase in pupils potentially using Pendleton Way and the Arlesey Road site will start having more frequent use. This raises the risk of vehicle/pedestrian/cyclist clashes at the site entrance.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) Central Beds Council is asked to re-surface Pendleton Way as its condition is poor in areas and presents a safety hazard, particularly to those using bicycles.
- 2) Central Beds Council is asked to consider adding a second lantern head to the existing lighting columns along Arlesey Road to improve illumination of Pendleton Way, and trim back trees as required.
- 3) Central Beds Council is reminded to put down markings, similar to those at the entrance to Larksfield Surgery and junction with Pendleton Way, where cyclists have priority.
- 4) Central Beds Council is asked to provide and empty litter bins along the Pendleton Way route, as more people will be using the footpath/cycleway in the near future.

**184/16 WET POUR QUOTES**

Members considered quotes to supply and install wet pour surfacing at The Green and Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. As one of the quotes also provided costs for an alternative surfacing and the quote breakdown required clarification, they are to be asked to confirm costs for the alternative surfacing, whether it is repairable in the future and where else this has been installed. A comparison quote for this surfacing option is to be obtained for the next meeting.

**185/16 ERECTING ‘CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG’ POSTER & COMPETITION**

A Hertfordshire dog rescue charity, Luma Animal Rescue, will shortly be running a local competition through the Stotfold News to design a ‘clean up after your dog’ poster, with the aim to try and help keep Stotfold clean and help children to understand some of the responsibilities that go with owning a dog. Once the winning poster has been decided, they would like to put some up around Stotfold.

Members are asked to give permission for laminated posters to be displayed at our recreation grounds. Posters will also be displayed on the Town Council notice boards.

**RESOLVED** that the dog rescue charity's aims are fully supported, and the Town Council will display the winning poster on its notice boards and at our recreation grounds.

#### **186/16 RETROSPECTIVE PERMISSION TO PLACE 'MOT' SURFACING ON MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Stotfold Mill's events team has recently placed approximately 200sqm of compacted 'MOT' surfacing in the area by the temporary footbridge on Millennium Green, without permission of this Committee. Concerns have been expressed that once removed, not all pieces of surfacing will be taken away, potentially causing issues when it comes to grass cutting. The Mill events team was asked to provide a response as to why they have put down the surfacing, and what their intentions are in order that this Committee can give retrospective permission.

The Mill Events Organiser advises that the area was to be levelled and a layer of 'MOT' compacted into the ground to provide a safe and level area for visitors to enter the Steam Fair and Country Show in May. The idea was to leave the 'MOT' in place and allow the grass to grow through, returning the area to what it was with the added benefit of having a solid foundation which would not be susceptible to adverse weather conditions for future events. He feels that the contractors have laid considerably more hardstanding than was envisaged and the chance of grass growing back is probably slight so proposes that they compact the area again after the event and grass it over which should return the area to an acceptable condition.

**RESOLVED** that retrospective permission is granted for laying the compacted 'MOT' surfacing, with a review to be undertaken in two years' time.

Councillor Hayes requested that his name be recorded as voting against this resolution.

#### **187/16 THE HAVEN**

At the last Town Enhancement Committee meeting, Members were advised of vegetation clearance work required at The Haven to reduce trip and slip hazards. Aragon Housing have cut back the hedge-line in front of the properties, but advised that the three beds at the front of the property set within paving slabs, and the tree covered in ivy are the responsibility of Central Beds Council. A copy of a plan showing the ownership of the land at The Haven was circulated to Members (on file). This shows areas in blue which were retained by the former Mid Beds District Council when housing stock was transferred to housing associations. This land is therefore now the responsibility of Central Beds Council and the plan confirms that the area in front of The Haven is their responsibility.

**RESOLVED** that we pursue Central Beds Council and express disappointment that they have allowed the condition of their land to deteriorate, which has created trip and slip hazards. Central Beds Council carried out enhancement works to the High Street, but neglected to maintain or enhance their area in front of The Haven.

#### **188/16 GENERAL WORK**

**RESOLVED** that the following is actioned as appropriate:

##### Central Beds Council

- Road hole outside 22 Astwick Road
- From Queen Street junction with Church Road, the centre strip is breaking down with a series of potholes
- From the pedestrian crossing on High Street opposite the parade of shops to the junction with The Avenue, the centre strip is breaking down

- Potholes along the centre line of Rook Tree Lane near the junction with Home Close
- Church Road – series of potholes on centre line in the area of junction with Upperstone Close
- Regent Street – road drain blocked at junction with Church Road
- Length of road gutter on Church Road opposite St Mary’s Academy (near Brayes Manor) needs clearing of debris as you can’t see the double yellow lines
- Request a timetable for the new programme of 3 yearly drain clearing works
- Streetlight no. 105 at Hitchin Road Roundabout on A507 is not working
- Lighting nos. 26/27/287 on the cycleway/footpath down to underpass on A507 Hitchin Road are not working
- Nos. 36/40/41 lights on tunnel of underpass at Hitchin Road/A507 are not working
- Silverbirch tree planted in verge outside 125 Hitchin Road as part of town improvement works has not survived. We have notified of this dead tree before but it still has not been replaced.
- Advise the litter collection team that the bin at the parade of shops has now been re-installed and request that they start emptying it again on their Monday/Friday schedule.
- The traffic lights timer on the crossroads needs adjusting as it is currently very biased towards Arlesey Road/High Street traffic.

Town Council office

- The Chairman has received several complaints about a Laurel hedge at 25 Queen Street. Write to resident respectfully requesting that they cut the Laurel hedge at the front of their property back to the property boundary which would seem to be a brick wall approximately 3 feet high. The hedge is currently reducing the width of the pedestrian footway considerably, and we note that Queen Street has footway on only one side so all pedestrians are using this side of the road. Also the footway slopes away towards the road at this point. Stotfold Watermill is now open several weekends every month for the next few months and this will result in an increased footfall in the area too.
- Write to resident of 59 Vaughan Road to respectfully request that they cut back their overgrown hedge by the access through to the garages.
- Obtain price to replace the posts on the fence between the grassed triangle area on Waters End and the adjacent farm land for the next meeting.
- Handyman to remove the metal part of an old green utilities box from the grassed triangle area on Waters End.
- Handyman/Landscape Contractor to clear the ivy from the boundary fence with Pix Brook in the grassed triangle area on Waters End.

Other

- Ask B.T. to repair the panels on the telephone box outside Hitchin Road Recreation Ground as the damaged panels are a safety hazard.

**189/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

The new Wanderbus timetable has started, with route number 391 to Stevenage having a new contractor. Currently there are no timetables available for this service.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.53pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**