

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2015, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members:

Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock
B Collier
S Hayes
B Saunders
J Talbot

Mrs A Clarey
A Cooper
Mrs J Hyde
L Stoter

Also present: 1 member of the public and the Town Clerk

110/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none, as all Committee Members were present.

111/15 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillors Mrs Hyde and Hayes declared an interest in the item of correspondence from the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field, as they are both Trustees of the Charity.

112/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Tim Naisbitt, Prince Harry Close

Thanked the Committee for allowing use of the Brook Street car park for the Stotfold Cider & Perry Co-operative Apple Day and for assistance provided by Councillor Hayes in the set-up of the event. The day was very popular, they pressed approximately 45 gallons of apple juice. The Stotfold Cider & Perry Co-operative would like to hold the event again, using the car park, and to engage more young people, perhaps through the scouts and guides. They would like to make more of an event – apple bobbing, barbecue.

The Committee will consider a request to use the Brook Street car park for their Apple Day event next year, at a future Committee meeting.

113/15 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence received

For information, correspondence has been received from the agents for the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field, advising of forthcoming partial clearance work of an area adjacent to the Common Road Allotments. A copy of the correspondence was provided for Members.

114/15 EXECUTIVE ACTION – GRASS CUTTING AT ARLESEY ROAD

Members were asked to approve executive action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor to instruct DJ Granger Landscaping Ltd to cut the grass at the Arlesey Road site. This was a Central Beds Council requirement in order to grant the interim lease on the site, and is a continuation of their contract with DJ Granger, at the same rate of £675 per cut. Agreed cuts for the remainder of this financial year will be x2 October, x1 November, x2 March 2016. Funds from the Arlesey Road Grass Cutting budget. Due to the potential sums involved, from next financial year, quotes will be sought for x16 – 18 cuts, until the main lease for the site comes into being. At that point, the Committee will need to consider whether to keep as a stand-alone contractor or amalgamate with the existing grass cutting/landscape contract – going through the tendering process rather than obtaining quotes.

RESOLVED that the executive action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor to instruct DJ Granger Landscaping Ltd to cut the grass at Arlesey Road, at a rate of £675 per cut (x2 October, x1 November, x2 March 2016) is approved, with funds from

the Arlesey Road Grass Cutting budget. Quotes are to be sought for grass cutting of this site for the new financial year.

115/15 LAND SOUTH OF STOTFOLD SURVEY – TOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Following circulation at the October Council meeting, Members considered any actions as a result of the survey produced by members of the Town Plan Implementation Group on the Land South of Stotfold development.

RESOLVED that items that are the responsibility of the River Ivel Drainage Board are passed to them for action. Consideration of other items within the survey will be taken at the next Committee meeting.

116/15 CONSIDER CHARGES LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017

Members considered charges levied for the current year and previous two years.

Resolved that charges levied for 2016/17 year are not increased, and are as follows:

Activity	Charge 2016/2017
Football Club - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£35
Junior – charge per season per team	£70
Junior Football Club	
The Green - charge per season per team	£55
Junior Football Club	
Riverside Playing Field - charge per season per team	£60
Dean’s Fair/other circus/fair visits	
Charge per non-opening day	£30
Charge per opening day	£70
Multi Use Games Area	
Charge per hour session adult use	£20
Charge per hour session junior use	£15
Tennis per hour	£10
(use of floodlights included in above charges)	
Arlesey Road playing field (once Town Council lease with Central Beds Council completed)	£70
Anticipated use by Juniors – although may be subject to change at this stage	
Charge is per season per team	

117/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman proposed that the press and public are temporarily excluded whilst confidential matters pertaining to staff issues are discussed and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting for the following item.

This was passed by Members

118/15 TO CONSIDER SALARIES FOR THE MUGA CARETAKING STAFF 2016/2017

Resolved that the wages for the two MUGA caretakers are increased by 20p per hour for 2016/2017.

The press and public were readmitted after the conclusion of this item.

119/15 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Expenditure

Open Spaces - Maintenance & Repairs

Low expenditure for 2015/2016 as very little maintenance or repairs required, however in the second half of this financial year there may be significant sums required for tree surgery work following the recent tree survey on our recreation grounds (to be considered in November), also tree/shrubbery improvements at the junction of The Avenue/High Street (to be considered in November) as per Town Enhancement request.

We previously anticipated taking on ownership and maintenance responsibility during this financial year for four new play areas – Prince Charles Avenue, Taylors Road and two on the Land South of Stotfold development. We have been advised that the Taylors Road play area is now maintained through a maintenance company, chargeable to residents living in that new estate. The Prince Charles Avenue play area and the Pix Brook Play area within the Land South of Stotfold will now be transferred to the Town Council in the new financial year and come with commuted sums for short-term maintenance/replacements. The second play area to the rear of the new Community Building on the Land South of Stotfold will be completed after the building is handed over the Town Council, but also comes with a commuted sum. All new play areas and equipment will need to be added to our annual ROSPA inspections and insurance policy.

MUGA - Maintenance & Repairs

Expenditure is low and includes costs such as the Billy Goat service (surface hoover), minor maintenance and floodlight repairs, however recent vandalism has occurred where a section of the fence has been repeatedly cut to gain unauthorised access, despite continuous repairs. Measures such as providing boarding to this area may need to be considered.

Brook Street Toilets – Water

Expenditure appears unusually high, investigations are being made including ensuring meters are read regularly.

Open Spaces – Skip Hire

Expenditure is lower than previous year. Handyman advises that at present, litter levels on his twice weekly litter picks are very low and this may have had an impact on number of skip empties required.

Earmarked Reserves – Allotment hedging

The Chairman has asked the office to get both sides of the Norton Road allotment hedge cut as it has become very overgrown and obstructs access for some plot holders.

Income

MUGA Income

MUGA bookings are up slightly from the previous financial year as Stotfold Junior Football Club has re-started use of the facility.

120/15 ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2016/2017

Members were previously provided with a copy of the figures for the first six months of the current financial year and undertook an appraisal before the estimates of the general running costs for the Committee were considered. With regard to Earmarked Reserves, Members wished to include funds to allow provision of new play equipment at the Arlesey Road site, and upgrade of existing play equipment on other recreation grounds. Funds also to be included in the MUGA Earmarked Reserves to build up a fund to improve the hard-surface court, once the adjacent trees have been removed as part of a new development. Additional funds are also to be added to the Earmarked Reserves for street lighting – the lighting contractor's priority works list is to be checked for required repairs/replacements.

Estimate figures for 2016/2017

Estimated running costs:	£107,015
Less estimated income:	£ 7,350
Total	£ 99,665

Earmarked Reserves

Rec Ground Rolling Improvements	£16,000
Street Lighting	£ 8,700
MUGA	£ 5,000
Allotment Hedging	no additional funds
Total	£29,700

Recommended that:

- i) The provisional sum of £99,665 is submitted as this Committee's budget request for 2016/2017.
- ii) The sum of £29,700 is submitted as this Committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2016/2017.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for consideration prior to approval by full Council.

121/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

A Member advised that the balancing pond between Valerian Way and A507 by the Hitchin Road roundabout is choked with vegetation. Highways will be asked what their maintenance programme is for balancing ponds.

A Member reported that the roundabout lights at Brook Street are still not working, due to a connection delay by EDF.

The Stotfold Good Neighbour Group will be receiving a presentation by Trading Standards on 26th November. There is a chance that this Committee will be asked to consider providing new cold calling signs to tie in with the new door stickers currently being produced.

The next Town and Parish Council Conference takes place on Wednesday 11th November, the same night as this Committee's next meeting. The topic will be on public transport. Councillors Collier and Saunders will attend.

A Member advised that at the recent Mill weekend a resident reported that his house had been flooded. He lives on The Green, and so it must be assumed that there is still an issue with drainage in this area. The office has been asked to report this problem.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED