

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIMPSON CENTRE, STOTFOLD AT 7.15PM

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: the Town Clerk

126/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Collier and Mrs J Hyde.

127/15 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were 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.

128/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

129/15 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 125/15 – No update has been received from Central Beds Highways regarding their road safety assessment on Norton Road. They have been chased for an update.

Minute 127/15 – Councillor Cooper will be making enquiries with retailers in the vicinity of Brook Street car park over the next couple of months as to whether their staff use the car park during the day, whether their business has noticed an increase in trade and if they feel this is due to the increase in size of the car park, and whether they would be in favour of a restricted parking time for the car park.

Minute 132/15 – quotations for new wet pour surfacing in front the basketball hoop at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, and other areas for wet pour surface repair, are being sought and will be presented to the January or February Committee meeting for consideration.

Minute 134/15 – no response has been received from Highways following the urgent request for the Hitchin Road roundabout to be re-marked. They will be chased again and will be advised that we are receiving constant complaints from residents with concerns over the safety of this roundabout.

130/15 GREEN WHEEL UPDATE

Copies of minutes from Green Wheel meetings held on 11th September and 20th November were circulated to Members. Councillor Mrs Clarey referred to items in the minutes, in particular that Central Beds Council is carrying out a restricting programme of its officers and so it is unclear who will be responsible for Green Wheel projects. Cliff Andrews and Claire Wardle will continue in position but it is unclear who will be above them.

Cliff Andrews of BRCC is working with Etonbury Academy to design seating for Etonbury Wood using natural products.

A query was raised as to whether the Green Wheel project had given thought to taking cuttings from the trees at Fairfield Orchard to use at their proposed new community orchard to preserve the tree types. Councillor Mrs Clarey will take this back to the next Green Wheel meeting.

Councillor Collier arrived at 7.27pm.

131/15 USE OF THE GREEN – CIRCUS VISIT

Members considered a request from Circus Tyanna to visit The Green from 26th June to 3rd July 2016.

RESOLVED that Circus Tyanna is permitted to visit The Green from 26th June to 3rd July 2016, subject to availability, that it doesn't clash with Festival Week Fete, and to the usual conditions regarding damage to ground surface.

132/15 REPLACEMENT FLOWER TUBS X2

Members were asked to determine a location for the replacement flower tubs being provided by Central Beds Council to replace those removed during town improvement works. The tubs being provided will match those provided by the Town Council located at the Brook Street/High Street junction. Possible locations identified could include the area in front of the parade of shops either close to where the previous flower tubs were located or closer to the boundary wall by India Lodge (subject to agreement by the landowners), or keep unplanted until completion of the new community building and locate in the front paved area.

RESOLVED that subject to agreement by the landowners, the two flower tubs are located on the newly tarmacked area to the front of the parade of shops, close to the boundary wall with India Lodge so as not to prevent parking in this area.

133/15 LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT BY STOTFOLD EXPLORERS

Members considered a request from the Explorers Scout group (aged 14 – 18 years) to undertake a project to maintain and plant flower tubs in the town. The Explorers have their own insurance, group members would be supervised at all times and they would undertake to grow suitable plants for each tub. The plants in the flower tubs at the Brook Street/High Street junction were provided, at no charge, by Arcade Flowers. It is unclear whether they will be replacing these plants after they have died. Members wished to encourage involvement of younger members of the community in activities in the town, and it was:

RESOLVED that the Stotfold Explorers may use the town's flower tubs as a project to maintain and provide plants. They are to be asked for a period of time commitment and to provide a 'project plan' to the Committee to outline their ideas of what they are looking to plant and their maintenance programme. Should Arcade Flowers not provide plants for the tubs at the Brook Street/High Street junction, the Stotfold Explorers are welcome to use these tubs for their project. Subject to agreement by the landowners (as per minute above), they may also use the tubs on land in front of the parade of shops for their project, once they have been sited in the agreed location.

134/15 QUOTE TO REPAINT END WALL OF THE HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOMS

Members considered a quote from the Council's Handyman Contractor, Neal Saggars, to repoint the brickwork on end wall of the changing rooms (closest to swings), remove old peeling paint and repaint same wall at a cost of £565 (to include materials).

RESOLVED that the quotation from Neal Saggars to repoint and repaint the brickwork on the end wall of the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground changing rooms, closest to the swings, at a cost of £565 (to include materials), is accepted. Funds from the Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs budget.

135/15 INSTALLATION OF GATE – NORTON ROAD

Members considered a request from David Brown who is looking to install a gate on the track to the Norton Road allotments, which also serves access to his barn. There have been a few incidents of fly tipping near the entrance to his yard which he has had to dispose of at his cost. He would like to install the gate nearer Norton Road, giving enough room for vehicles to exit the highway onto the track. It would have a combination lock, the code would be passed to allotment holders. The Public Rights of Way Officer advises that it is Central Beds Council land and that he does not have an issue in terms of rights of way, but he would need to be officially consulted. Members were provided with a diagram showing the location of the gate, approximately 55m into the track from Norton Road. Members were asked to consider whether the Committee would have any objections to Mr Brown gating the track, thereby requiring our allotment holders to have an access code.

RESOLVED that this Committee does not have any objection to Mr Brown gating the track leading from Norton Road to the Norton Road allotments, subject to Central Beds Council approval as the landowner. The Committee requests that the gate must latch open when open to prevent it from swinging shut.

136/15 PROTECTING AMENITY LAND AT WATERS END

As per Establishment Committee recommendation (minute 64/15), approved by December Council, Members were asked to investigate how to protect the piece of amenity land at the entrance of Waters End, in terms of enquiries to purchase.

Members discussed options such as attaching a condition to the title on the land in question which prevent it being sold or used for any other purpose than amenity land; whether the Fields in Trust organisation might be able to help protect the land – the Clerk advised that it would be unlikely as it is a very small piece of land and their purpose is to protect land used for recreation/play/sport; or to produce a Council policy to retain the piece of land.

RECOMMENDED that it is this Council's policy that we will retain the following pieces of land as amenity land:

- land at entrance to Waters End, including triangular area at the turning head
- land at Heron's Way at the turning head
- Millennium Green (excluding CBC leased land on Rook Tree Lane boundary)
- Centenary Wood, Malthouse Lane
- The Green
- Riverside Playing Field (excluding the CBC leased land on Malthouse Lane – ½ section of field)
- Norton Road Allotments
- Hitchin Road Recreation Ground

Once land transfers are complete, this Council will also retain the following pieces of land as amenity land:

- Green spaces at Queen Street – entrance and surrounding play area
- Green spaces around Pix Brook play area (land south of Stotfold development)
- South Green (large open space to rear of community building on land south of Stotfold)

137/15 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Highways

- Deep road hole outside the Academy of Central Bedfordshire on Church Road

- Footpath surface on Baldock Road, between Queen Street and Norton Road junctions, on the north side by the bungalows, is very uneven and constitutes a trip hazard
- Query why the footpath by the Chequers public house on Rook Tree Lane/Queen Street corner has not yet been repaired. We were advised that this would be completed before the end of the summer
- Footpath surface on Brook Street by the barrier entrance to the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground is very poor and is breaking up

Electrical contractor – Terry Seymour

- 1st column near the Mill car park installed by the Town Council is leaning. It appears to be solid and does not move, but the cause of the leaning needs to be investigated

138/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.52pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED