

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH JUNE 2018, AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	C Phelps
J Talbot	

Also present: Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

60/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde and S Jackson.

61/18 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.

62/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

63/18 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence

Notification from the Bedfordshire & River Ivel Internal Drainage Board of forthcoming watercourse maintenance, as per letter circulated to Members.

Matters Arising

Minute 42/18 – the RBS Allotments software has now been installed, staff have been trained and it is now up and running. The Allotments administrator has been able to use the software and forms provided to carry out more efficient inspections of allotments.

64/18 PURCHASE OF DAFFODIL BULBS

Members were asked to approve the purchase of Daffodil bulbs by Councillor Mrs Cooper for the flower tubs and verges around the town. Estimated cost £20 per sack, up to 3 required.

RESOLVED that 3 sacks of Daffodil bulbs are purchased.

65/18 STOTFOLD & DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CENTRE – 'PLAY IN THE PARK'

Members considered a request from Stotfold & District Children's Centre to run their annual 'Play in the Park' sessions for toddlers during the summer holidays. This is a free event to get local families together over the summer, when many of the local playgroups are not running. They would like to use Hitchin Road Recreation Ground on Wednesday 25th July and Wednesday 15th August, with sessions from 10am to 11.30am (1/2 hour either side to set up and clear away).

RESOLVED that permission is granted to Stotfold & District Children's Centre to run their 'Play in the Park' sessions during the mornings of Wednesday 25th July

and Wednesday 15th August at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. No charge will be made.

66/18 SECURITY MEASURES AT NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Following several recent thefts of crops and break-ins of sheds at Norton Road Allotments, tenants are concerned about security of the site. It has been suggested by a tenant that the height of the 5-bar metal access gate is extended using security fencing. The tenants have also requested that the whole perimeter of the site is inspected, with any holes plugged with fencing or sharp shrubs to prevent unauthorised access. They advise that although many do have insurance and try to claim for theft of their belongings on site, the insurers will not continue a claim if the perimeter is not secure.

The Chairman advised that she had inspected the perimeter of the allotment site, and at the moment considers there to be no issues with gaps or holes in the hedging, as there is a large amount of nettles and brambles on most of the perimeter. This may change with seasons. She noted that the hedge has grown exponentially and will require a cut in the winter.

Members felt that no action is required at this time, but the situation will be monitored towards autumn, with a cut of the hedge taking place during autumn/winter. Notices are to be put up on the site reminding tenants to always lock the gate behind them and to be watchful of those visiting the site.

67/18 CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL – NOISE NUISANCE – RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD

Members considered a complaint made to Central Beds Council's Senior Environmental Protection Officer from a resident regarding noise nuisance from vehicles parked at Riverside Playing Field during late evenings. This Committee has previously received complaints and considered the matter and concluded at the time that the car park cannot be closed off as we do not have the staff resources to lock and open a gate and it also penalises other users of the ground, such as dog walkers who also use the playing field during evenings and early mornings. Committee felt that our position has not changed on this matter. This latest complaint has been forwarded to Bedfordshire Police, as they have asked for supporting evidence to show nuisance behaviour in this area.

68/18 ROSPA INSPECTION REPORTS

The annual inspection of our play equipment and recreation areas took place during May, carried out by ROSPA. The Chairman has a copy of the reports, which she will assess with the Vice-Chairman and carry out a separate inspection to identify works required, and will report back to Committee.

69/18 ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL MINUTES

A copy of the minutes of the Etonbury Green Wheel meeting held on 4th May 2018 was previously circulated to Members. The content of the minutes was noted.

70/18 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:
Public Rights of Way (CBC)

- Public footpath sign is missing from the junction with Olivers Lane and Church Road.

Handyman contractor

- Replace the 3 wooden posts which are missing from the grass verge opposite Roecroft Centre in Church Road. This prevents parking which can obstruct vision around the corner

Environmental (CBC)

- Request that a dog waste bin is installed in Church Road, near to the junction with High Street and adjacent to the public footpath which leads through to The Crofts and Alexander Road. This is regularly used by dog walkers who currently are dumping dog waste bags beside street light S4F, since there is no nearby bin

Landscape contractor

- Clear weeds around the trees in Brook Street car park – either weed spray or hand-pull
- Norton Road, right hand side towards Letchworth, after last house – verge is very overgrown and needs strimming
- Eradicate sycamores in shrub bed on High Street/The Avenue

Highways (CBC)

- Ask Nick Carafola (Highways Area Steward) what has happened to our promised highway works (a meeting was held with him on 13th April). Also remind him of minor works such as pothole repairs which have been reported over the past 3 months and have not been repaired
- Chase for a meeting with Steve Lakin regarding safety issues (from last meeting)
- Area to the front of The Haven on High Street needs weedkilling

The Chairman expressed her concern that highway works are not being undertaken when reported, and that she would like the Committee to write to the Chief Executive at Central Beds Council next month and complain as we keep asking for the same things, with no action.

71/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Councillor Talbot advised that he had discussed the situation regarding road markings and signage on Hitchin Road/A507 roundabout with PC Bonham of the Community Rural Policing Team North. PC Bonham advises that this is not a road safety issue, and is a Central Beds Highways matter. She has a contact in the Central Beds Council Road Safety Team who she can provide detail for.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.48pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED