

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.22PM ON WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	A Cooper
S Hayes	Mrs J Hyde
C Phelps	

Also present: Councillor Ms B Sowinska, Chairman Stotfold Junior Football Club (Andy Bainbridge) and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

89/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Talbot and S Jackson.

90/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERSTS 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.

91/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Not at this time.

92/18 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 85/18 – approval was given at the last Committee meeting to purchase x2 metal litter bins for Riverside Playing Field. After discussions with Central Beds Council’s Waste Team Manager, we have been provided with a total of 10 litter bins for the town by Central Beds Council and have been charged for 3 metal bins at Riverside Playing Field, with the rest provided and installed in our green areas at cost to Central Beds Council. It was noted that the recently installed new dog waste bin to the rear of the Greenacre Centre is not being emptied by Central Beds Council. They will be chased to add to their bin emptying route.

92/18 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND – CHANGING ROOMS

Members were asked to consider plans and structural report, previously circulated, provided by Stotfold Junior Football Club, who wish to undertake the proposals as a donation to the community. Andy Bainbridge, representing the Junior Football Club, explained that the Junior Club is now running a ladies team and they need showers and changing rooms and that this is an ideal location for it. Members asked questions, and after due consideration it was:

RESOLVED that the offer by Stotfold Junior Football Club to refurbish the changing room as Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, as per the proposal submitted, at no cost to the Town Council, and as a donation to the community,

is accepted. It was reiterated that although this will be cost to the Junior Club, the finished changing rooms will remain for use by all, and as booked through the Town Council.

Andy Bainbridge will provide the Clerk with a project proposal to include timescales, method statements and details of contractors employed.

93/18 LANDSCAPE WORK – LAND SOUTH OF STOTFOLD

The Council Chairman and Vice Chairman and Clerk attended a recent site meeting of the development with the following to be put to Committee:

- i) Removal of the need to plant x17 daffodil beds along the route of Pix Brook
- ii) Removal of the need to provide x2 ponds

Those at the site meeting were concerned about the level of maintenance the daffodil beds would provide the Town Council. With regard to the ponds, the one proposed for alongside the tributary at the junction of Sorrell Drive with Valerian Way, is actually on a raised mound and would not be a suitable location for a pond. This view is supported by Central Beds Council's Ecologist. The second pond is proposed to be sited to the rear of the park area behind the Greenacre Centre. Again, this is not considered to be a suitable location as it would be hidden from view, presenting a safety issue, and is not considered by the Ecologist to be of ecological value.

RESOLVED that

- i) We request that the requirement to plant formal daffodil beds is removed, however we also request that swathes of snowdrops are planted in their place within the grass, rather than formal beds
- ii) We do not agree with the requirement to provide x2 ponds within the development and request their removal from the proposals

94/18 PLAY EQUIPMENT – GRANT FUNDING RESPONSE

Further to the application submission for the Awards for All £10K grant to provide new play equipment at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, we have received a response advising that we have been unsuccessful. The reason for rejection was because they don't believe we have consulted with the community sufficiently.

Therefore, as it has been some years since we last carried out a public consultation on play equipment, mainly with children who may use the equipment, it is proposed that we undertake another consultation exercise. This is to establish views on the current equipment – its play value from the view of the user and parents, its condition, its positioning. The consultation would also seek to obtain views from children as to types of play equipment they would like to see. The results will help to provide evidence for any future play equipment upgrades/replacements and grant applications we may wish to submit.

RESOLVED that a consultation exercise is carried out to establish views on current play equipment provided by the Town Council, and views from children as to types of play equipment they might like to see in the future. This is to be aimed at children of all ages.

95/18 RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD – CAR PARK AND PITCH

In September 2017, this Committee agreed to investigate drawing up a plan to provide at least 16-20 more parking spaces at Riverside Playing Field. This was on the basis that the football pitch allocated for the park area in Land South of Stotfold was to be relocated to Riverside Playing Field. This is now not taking place, and Members are therefore asked to consider whether they wish to continue with expanding the car park and the reasons for doing so (previous reasons included the result of development of Roker Park for housing, as existing teams use the Football Club car park as well as Riverside Playing Field car park when using the area for football practice).

RESOLVED that the plan to provide more parking spaces at Riverside Playing Field is resurrected, and that Councillor Cooper will finish drawings providing specification to obtain quotes. Costs for additional parking provision, in the form of grasscrete, are to be spread over the next two financial years.

96/18 NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS – SPLIT PLOT REQUEST

To consider a request from a Norton Road allotment plot tenant to split his half plot to become two quarter plots. He wants to retain an allotment plot but is finding a half plot increasingly difficult to maintain. The plot is a large half plot, and the (previously one full) plot alongside has already been split into 2 quarter plots and a half plot.

RESOLVED that the request from the plot tenant at Norton Road Allotments, wishing to divide his half plot into two quarter plots, whilst retaining one quarter, is approved. The second quarter is to be let to the next person on the waiting list.

97/18 PUBLIC ART – LAND REAR OF GREENACRE CENTRE

Members considered the draft Public Art Commission: Artist Brief from Central Beds Council's Landscape Planner & Public Art Officer. The Clerk has responded to queries from the Officer as follows:

- Confirmed that the project will need to be tied into the developer's programme for external works to this area
- Confirmed that the Town Council will take over management and maintenance of the public open space/artworks, rather than a management company
- Confirmed that apart from ensuring the project ties in with the developer's programme, there is no need to involve the developers in the artwork project (they weren't involved in the artwork for the Greenacre Centre)
- Confirmed that a selection panels of 4 members would be agreeable – one is to be the Public Art Officer

Members were asked to:

- 1) Confirm x3 selection panel members
- 2) Confirm name of public open space – Central Beds Council have suggested 'Greenacre Park'
- 3) Confirm agreement with draft Artist Brief and draft timescales proposed

RESOLVED that Members agree with the responses provided by the Clerk, and that:

- 1) Selection panel members are to be: Councillor Brian Collier, Councillor Mrs Anne Clarey, Councillor Colin Phelps, Kate Elliott-Turner (Town Clerk), Julia Scott (Landscape Planner/Public Art Officer – Central Beds Council)

- 2) The name of the area to the rear of the Greenacre Centre is to be called 'Greenacre Park'
- 3) Committee agrees with the draft Artist Brief, but request removal of reference to 'steam' within the themes. We also accept the draft timescales proposed

98/18 TEASEL – REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED

Members considered a request from Teasel to purchase the following items from the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget:

1. Wickes – Youngman Trade 200 Aluminium Extension Ladder @ £89.87 inc VAT and delivery.
2. Woodsmith Experience – 2 Morris double edged billhook @ £29 each inc VAT
3. Woodsmith Experience – 2 Leather sheath for Morris double edged billhook @£24 each + delivery.

Total: £220.00 including VAT and postage

The annual request for Council's contribution towards the insurance costs will follow.

RESOLVED that purchase of the above items for Teasel is approved at a total of £220 plus vat and postage. Costs from the Teasel/Centenary Wood budget.

99/18 HIRING REQUEST – OUTDOOR BOOTCAMP AT RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD/THE GREEN

Members considered a request from Mr Joe Carter to run an outdoor bootcamp at either The Green or Riverside Playing Field on Thursdays at 6am and Tuesdays at 7pm. The hirer is fully insured.

Members discussed use of our outdoor spaces by businesses who charge for attendance, and it was felt that a nominal fee should be applied for such use.

RESOLVED that approval is given to Mr Carter to use either The Green or Riverside Playing Field to run an outdoor bootcamp, however there will be a £5 per session, per location, charge. Our preferred location for this purpose would be Riverside Playing Field as it has parking, but he is asked to keep noise to a minimum for his 6am sessions. With regard to other hirers of our outdoor spaces, anyone using the facilities as a business will be charged as above, but if no fee is charged and it is for community wellbeing and a social activity, no charge will be applied.

100/18 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned as appropriate:

Handyman Contractor

- Replace missing rail on the post and rail fencing at Riverside Playing Field, on left hand side of Malthouse Lane towards Ford Bridge

Landscape/Grass Cutting Contractor

- Cut back epicormic growth around trees in the grass verge outside Riverside Playing Field, on Malthouse Lane
- Note that there are small pieces of tar in the verge in Hazel Grove, following footway repair works, which may affect grass cutting machines

- There is Deadly Nightshade in numerous parts of the town, which need weed spraying – Olivers Lane, Brook Street/Melbourne Close, footpath no 11

Highways

- The Town Council has retrieved 5 safety bollards knocked out of the ground in the High Street, near to the parade of shops. These must be replaced for the safety of pedestrians
- Another bollard on the path leading from beside the parade of shops to Alexander Road is damaged and needs repair
- Large safety signs, some left for more than a year, need to be removed. Mill Lane junction and second one nearer to the Mill, traffic lights, and Baldock Road
- High Street – centre strip on white line continuing to break up creating potholes. Two holes at nos. 5 to 7. Road hole junction at High Street junction with Grange Drive
- Meadow Way – junction with Regent Street – road hole
- Alexander Road – near to junction with Church Road, large shrub growing in footway, previously reported several times
- Rook Tree Lane – bus stop moved due to new development – placed where is obscured by a tree – tree needs to be trimmed or felled
- Lights in Olivers Lane, Church Road end, and footpath in Church yard both being obscured by overgrown trees

Town Council office

- Contact Taylor Wimpey and chase them regarding taking on the open space on their new development on Taylors Road. Query when they are likely to put in the footbridge into Riverside Playing Field, and its proposed construction. Check the diverted route for Kingfisher Way as part of the development. Request a meeting with them to discuss these points
- Investigate who is responsible for the kissing gate on Rook Tree Lane leading into Millennium Green, as the top bar is rotten and loose in its fixings, and could cause finger entrapment
- Report to the Land South of Stotfold developers that their contractors have left 'No Road Markings' signs in Grange Drive, following recent work
- Send out letters to 29 Queen Street, 31 Queen Street, 13 Queen Street, 25 Queen Street to ask them to cut back the considerable amount of ivy which is growing into the public footpath running between Baldock Road and Chequers Close

Public Rights of Way (CBC)

- Complaints have been received about an overgrown footpath from Malthouse Lane to the Mill, near the 'splash'. Members have noted that a public footpath sign is in situ, however this isn't actually a public right of way

101/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLYN

The Green Wheel Masterplan has now been approved and printed. Green Infrastructure funding will pay for a leaflet entitled 'Etonbury Green Wheel' and information panels in the wood and way markings. Bridleway number 17 is about to be resurfaced. Sunday 24th March

2019 will be the official opening of the walking parts of the Green Wheel and will be centred at Etonbury Wood.

The replacement of parts for swings in our recreation areas is now complete. The savings made has meant that in effect we have had 18 'new' swings for the price of one brand new swing. Anti-wrap chains have been fixed, plus new seats and shackles.

Both bus stops in Rook Tree Lane now have new road markings, and a new bus shelter is on its way for The Green end of Rook Tree Lane. It is hoped that this will be installed in the next few weeks, with a small piece of hedging from The Green being removed to accommodate the shelter.

Members were reminded that the Stotfold Big Tidy Up event will take place this Saturday from 10am until 12.30pm, meeting at The Greenacre Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.56pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED