

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

Also present: The Assistant Clerk, Ms Caroline Jenkins

102/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A Clarey.

103/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillors Mrs J Hyde and S Hayes claimed an interest as they are both trustees of Common Road Allotments. 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.

104/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Not at this time.

105/18 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing at present

106/18 TO CONSIDER CHARGES LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

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

RESOLVED that charges levied for 2019/2020 year are unchanged and set as follows:

Activity	Charge 2019/2020
Football Club - Hitchin Road Recreation Ground	
Adult – charge per game	£40
Junior – charge per season per team	£95
Junior Football Club	
The Green - charge per season per team	£80
Junior Football Club	
Riverside Playing Field - charge per season per team	£85
Dean’s Fair/other circus/fair visits	
Charge per non-opening day	£30
Charge per opening day	£60

Arlesey Road playing field (once Town Council lease with Central Beds Council completed) Adult - charge per game Junior – charge per season per team	£80 £95
Use of The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Arlesey Road, Riverside Playing Field and any other open space under responsibility of the Town Council for non-football, fair/circus activity, where a charge is being made by the hirer	£5 per session, per site used

107/18 REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT – ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL

Members considered a request from the Etonbury Green Wheel project for financial support from the Town Council, as one of the project stakeholders, for a minimum of £1,500 for years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

RESOLVED that The Town Council will provide the Etonbury Green Wheel with £1,500 for year 2019/2020 and £1,500 for year 2020/2021, totalling £3000.

108/18 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

109/18 SALARIES FOR THE MUGA CARETAKING STAFF 2019/2020

RESOLVED that the wages for the two MUGA caretakers are unchanged for 2019/2020.

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

110/18 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING ESTIMATES

Expenditure

Lighting - Electricity

Expenditure for our street lighting electricity has now stabilised, having repaid outstanding sums due in last financial year.

Brook Street Car Park & Toilet – Electricity

We are now paying appropriate electricity charges for the public toilets. At present, this expenditure is shown in open spaces maintenance & repairs budget, however a new budget line is to be created for clarity. Thanks were given to Councillor Hayes for investigating and resolving the electricity supply issue.

Expenditure

We have recently started the new lease on the Arlesey Road site. The public use toilets are technically now our responsibility, however we have not yet received meter readings for water and electricity to be able to start paying for usage. Cleaning of the toilets, etc is still to be started by the Handyman, as this is currently being undertaken by the Junior Football Club – Committee has already agreed to take this on.

Work relating to a new expenditure budget line for this site (remedial works to the community use football pitches) is yet to be carried out but will be complete and paid for during the current financial year. Thereafter, a different sum is to be budgeted for ongoing maintenance of these pitches (see Clerk's proposed budget figures report).

Income

Income – Common Road Allotments

This new budget line was set up when the Charity agreed for the Town Council to issue invoices on their behalf and collect tenancy fees due. These sums have been paid into the Town Council's bank account throughout the year, but the total sum collected will be transferred to the Charity at the end of the financial year, together with a report on fees received.

Earmarked Reserves (EMR)

Committee has agreed to pursue expansion of the car park at Riverside Playing Field, with the intention to spread costs over two financial years. It is suggested that work is either carried out next financial year (2019/2020), with part funds from the Rec Rolling Improvements EMR and then ensure the remainder is included in the budget for that financial year (2019/2020) at this budget setting meeting. Or to carry out work the following year (2020/2021) with funds being budgeted over 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. This may not be the preferred option, as it puts off car park expansion until at least April 2020, and one of the reasons for the expansion is to allow for loss of parking facility provided at Roker Park when football training takes place at Riverside Playing Field – it is anticipated that the Football Club at Roker Park will have relocated well before start of 2020/2021 financial year.

111/18 ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2019/2020

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.

Estimate figures for 2018/2019

Estimated running costs:	£125,291
Less estimated income:	£ 7,065
Total	£118,226

Earmarked Reserves

Street Lighting	£ 5,000
Rec Allotment Hedging	£ 519
Riverside Playing Field Car Park	£ 20,000
Total	£ 25,519

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The provisional sum of £118,226 is submitted as this Committee's budget request for 2019/2020.
- ii) The sum of £25,519 is submitted as this Committee's Earmarked Reserves request for 2019/2020.
- iii) These amounts are to be submitted to the Establishment Committee for collation with other Committee requests, in order to produce a draft Council budget and Precept request for approval by full Council.

112/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

It was reported that the new litter bins that have been installed at the Riverside Recreation ground have been pulled out of the ground. Handyman to be requested to re-install if possible.

It was reported that a meeting was held today regarding the progression of the Arlesey Road project. The building contract for the Football club house has been awarded to Borrás, based in St Albans. They are hoping to commence works in January 2019 to be completed by the end of 2019.

It was also reported that two potholes on Norton Road that were reported at last months meeting has already been marked for repair.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.37pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED