

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 8.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

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Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs A Clarey	B Collier
A Cooper	S Hayes
C Phelps	J Talbot

Also present: the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

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**113/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Hyde.

**114/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**115/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

**116/18 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**Clerk's Report**

A Town Council owned lighting column on Princes Street has been damaged by a vehicle, which required replacement. Our Lighting Contractor has replaced the column and we have claimed on our insurance for the full cost, minus £250 excess. There was no trace of the person who caused damage to be able to claim against their insurance.

**Matters Arising**

Minute 97/18 – a date has been set for public art interviews (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December). The panel consisting of Councillors Collier, Mrs Clarey, Phelps, the Town Clerk and Julia Scott – Landscape & Public Art Officer will interview 5 artists and view their proposals for two areas within the park space to the rear of the Greenacre Centre.

**Correspondence**

Allotments & Leisure Gardeners

The latest edition of the Allotments & Leisure Gardeners magazine is available for Members.

Pix Brook

Following a complaint from a resident about the condition of the old Pix Brook channel, correspondence has been received for information from the Internal Drainage Board, as follows: *The main flow for Pix Brook now goes through the new channel and flood storage area which were created when the new housing development (Valerian Way) was built. Flow in the original Pix Brook channel is restricted by a control structure just downstream from Valerian Way and is designed to minimise flood risk to all developed areas. The original channel is still maintained*

*annually by the Board [Internal Drainage Board]. It was checked and cleared of obstructions during April/May this year and more recently; where access was possible; the banks have been flailed and weeds in the channel have been sprayed. The Board has noted from inspection of the channel that different maintenance may be needed in the future, i.e. weed removal or dredging. This will be considered for the next available works programme.*

#### **117/18 EXECUTIVE ACTION – PARKING ON THE GREEN**

Members considered approving executive action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to approve parking on The Green for Stotfold Football Club’s Annual Fireworks Display.

**RESOLVED** that executive action taken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to approve parking on The Green for the Football Club’s Annual Fireworks Display, is approved.

#### **118/18 PARKING REQUEST – MILLENNIUM GREEN**

Members considered a letter of thanks received from Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust and a request to use Millennium Green for parking over the weekend of Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 during Stotfold Mill Steam Fair and Country Show 2019. They also request use of The Green as overflow parking, if required. Use of the temporary footbridge across the river is also requested.

**RESOLVED** that permission is given for Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust to use Millennium Green for parking over the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May for their Steam Fair and Country Show 2019, also to use The Green as overflow parking, if required, and to use the temporary footbridge across the river. Usual risk assessments for each aspect are required, and use will be subject to the usual conditions regarding marshalling and surface damage.

#### **119/18 TREE WORK ON THE GREEN**

Following a request by the Landscape Contractor for trees on The Green to be assessed and work carried out, Members considered quotes for work as per specification:

4Seasons Specialist Tree Surgeons	£950 plus vat
Steve Dear Tree Services	£560 plus vat

**RESOLVED** that the quote from Steve Dear Tree Services for £560 plus vat to carry out works on trees at The Green, as per specification, is approved. Funds from Open Spaces – Maintenance & Repairs budget.

#### **120/18 TREE WORK – NORTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

Members considered quotes to trim the top and outer face of the front boundary hedge at Norton Road Allotments (and to remove all arisings from site):

Steve Dear Tree Services	£200 plus vat
Dilley Brothers	£150 plus vat

**RESOLVED** that the quote from Steve Dear Tree Services for £200 plus vat, to trim the top and outer face of the front boundary hedge at Norton Road Allotments, is accepted. Funds from Earmarked Reserves – Allotment Hedging.

A Member referred to previously overgrown weeds and brambles coming from the bottom of the hedge, inside the boundary, which may need clearing again. This will be looked at, and quotes obtained if required.

#### **121/18 TEASEL INSURANCE**

Members considered a request to pay 50% of Teasel's insurance premium, as in previous years. This covers work carried out by Teasel on behalf of the Town Council in areas within the Council's responsibility, plus covers equipment purchased by the Town Council. Stotfold Mill have been asked to pay the other 50%. Cost to the Council £294.94. Items purchased for Teasel's use this financial year total £196 (excl. vat), and there is £1,304 available.

**RESOLVED** that 50% of Teasel's insurance premium is paid £294.94 by this Council, to cover work carried out by the group on behalf of the Town Council and to cover items purchased by the Council. Funds from Open Spaces – Centenary Wood/Teasel budget.

#### **122/18 OPEN SPACES SOCIETY DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION**

A copy of the Open Spaces Society Draft Strategic Plan was considered by Members. We are invited to forward our comments by 19<sup>th</sup> November. Members were pleased with the content of the draft plan and felt that the Strategic Goals and Charitable Objects were very relevant and appropriate.

**RESOLVED** that a response is sent to the Open Spaces Society to advise that we support the content of their Draft Strategic Plan.

#### **123/18 INCLUSIVE ROUNDABOUT FAULT**

Following a complaint to the suppliers (Sutcliffe Play) that the inclusive roundabout on Hitchin Road Recreation Ground has developed a fault and would not turn smoothly, the suppliers carried out a site visit. Their conclusion is that there is an issue with subsidence and not a fault with the roundabout itself and have provided quotes for two options to remedy the problem – to remove the existing roundabout, regulate foundation settings, and re-set existing roundabout £6,550 or to replace the existing roundabout with their new model which is central-spindle based at £7,371.63. Members discussed and considered the problem with the current roundabout and felt that it was worth pursuing with the suppliers, as we do not consider there to be a problem with subsidence in an area where the soil has not been disturbed, other than to install the roundabout itself. It is suggested that it was a bad install in the first place. Councillor Hayes advised that he would pursue the matter, make arguments against their claim of subsidence and will report back to Committee. This was agreed.

#### **124/18 ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Etonbury Green Wheel meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were previously circulated to Members. The minutes were noted.

#### **125/18 ETONBURY GREEN WHEEL INFORMATION BOARDS**

Correspondence has been received from Cliff Andrews of BRCC regarding Etonbury Green Wheel information boards, which they would like to create over this winter and install ahead of the launch next March. The boards would be similar in design and type of content to those produced for the Sandy Green Wheel (examples circulated to Members). Some locations are already

agreed, together with funding to produce the boards, but he has suggested some additional board locations:

- Common Road Allotments/new orchard – *the Clerk has advised that consent would have to be obtained from the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field*
- Norton Road/A507 underpass, on the grass to the side of the path – *the Clerk has advised that although we carry out grass cutting of this area, consent would have to be obtained from Central Beds Council as Highways authority*
- Vicinity of Riverside Playing Field or Millennium Green – Members were asked to consider either of these suggested locations.

It was felt that if located at Riverside Playing Field, they may be more of a target for vandalism than Millennium Green, therefore it was:

**RESOLVED** that permission is given to site an Etonbury Green Wheel information board at Millennium Green. Exact location of board to be advised by BRCC.

#### **126/18 BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY – FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Cliff Andrews of BRCC has asked for consideration to be given to the following:

- Planting of a hedge around the Arlesey Road site
- Bulb planting in Centenary Wood and doing a full pollard of the large Willow by Ford Bridge

Initially Members felt that planting of hedges around the Arlesey Road site should be deferred until the next planting season, as construction of the new football club facility is due to start in the new year, and also a planting plan should be drawn up. However, further discussion had concerns about whether we might lose the funding opportunity if we wait another financial year, and so it was:

**RESOLVED** that the offer of planting of a hedge around the Arlesey Road site by BRCC is taken up, but for the back boundary only at this stage. The Arlesey Road project working party are to liaise with Cliff Andrews as to location and type of planting. This work is to be carried out as soon as possible, and prior to the start of the build work.

With regard to bulb planting in Centenary Wood, this was felt a good idea, but should be native types. This Committee carried out emergency work to the Willow referred to last year to remove overhanging branches, however it was felt that a pollard could be carried out and funded by BRCC.

**RESOLVED** that the offer for bulb planting in Centenary Wood is taken up, with BRCC to liaise with Teasel as to types of bulbs – which should be native. With regard to the offer to pollard the Willow by Ford Bridge, this is also accepted.

#### **127/18 GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT**

**RESOLVED** that the following is actioned as appropriate:

#### Office

- Obtain quotes to drastically cut back trees on Rook Tree Lane between lighting columns S2 and S3 – the banked section backing onto Millennium Green.

#### Town Council Street Lighting Contractor

- Lighting column in Howard Close – no-one has claimed ownership, and lighting contractor got it working – it has stopped working again

#### Central Beds Council - Highways

- High Street – road hole junction with Grange Drive
- High Street – road drain outside Co-op still causing flooding after heavy rain – reported many times over several years – needs clearing
- Howard Close – on left hand side as you go on, drains have been silted up for about 4 years – need clearing

#### Central Beds Council – Tree officer

- Request to lift crown/branch reduction on trees in Trinity Road, as they are obstructing street lights. This is the section of Trinity Road which leads to Regent Street

### **128/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Members were asked to consider for the December Committee meeting, how they would like to spend the £196,000 allocated for MUGA provision at Arlesey Road – to think about the type of MUGA, i.e. sports (with a synthetic turf) or community (with a macadam surface painting as you require). Members are also asked to consider how they would like the facility to be used, i.e. whether it would be an open facility or locked, which has staffing implications. A Member felt that we should only be siting the MUGA at Arlesey Road if Central Beds Council can provide a written guarantee that the facility would be relocated should the Council exercise the break clause on the site after 10 years. However, others felt that even if the break clause was exercised but the facility wasn't relocated, we should still be providing a facility for our residents to enjoy for the period they can.

Members were advised that the bus shelter on The Green (opposite Coach & Horses public house) is now in place, power for the telemetry signage is still to be installed. Councillor Cooper will pursue provision of a bus shelter outside the Co-op on the High Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.53pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATED**