

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.25PM 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
J Talbot	

Also present: Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

129/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phelps.

130/18 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Mrs Clarey declared an interest in the item regarding a request from Stotfold Mill, as she is the spouse of a Mill member and volunteer. 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.

131/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

132/18 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Matters Arising

Minute 92/18 – the Clerk has met with the Project Manager and builder working on behalf of Stotfold Junior Football Club, in regard to the refurbishment of the Hitchin Road Recreation Ground Changing Rooms. They anticipate starting work after Christmas, with a 4 to 5 week build time. Discussions were held regarding access to the site, and a gate key will be issued for the build period. They require the changing rooms themselves to be no-access to others during the build period, and the other football team using the pitch will be advised as such. There will be a period of time when the water and electricity will need to be turned off, the Clerk will liaise with the Handyman as this may impact on his use of the tractor shed workshop.

Minute 116/18 – the public art interview panel (Councillors Collier, Phelps, Mrs Clarey, the Town Clerk and Julia Scott – Public Art & Landscape Officer, Central Beds Council) has now met and considered presentations from four artists and their submissions for public art in two sites within the Greenacre Park area (rear of Greenacre Centre). The chosen artist is Tim Ward, who is proposing two forum areas in the design of a human sundial and season calendar, with granite seating incorporating inset mosaic art. He will carry out engagement exercises in the first half of next year and hopes to be able to undertake a workshop during June’s Festival Week, to construct the mosaic artwork insets.

Minute 78/18 – Members asked for an update on the provision of a footpath from Drovers Lane to Riverside Playing Field. The Clerk advised that our Handyman and Landscape Contractor had been asked to cut back the bank either side of the path route, however they have found a lot of debris and a squashed fence which would cause a trip hazard once the overgrowth has been cut back. They advise that the debris in the overgrowth is a significant amount. The Clerk has since received an email from Chris Dorow, the new Public Rights of Way Officer, who confirmed that a footpath is to be created. Teasel will be working with the Rights of Way team, to trim out a 1m strip to the side of the footpath along the playing field section – to be scheduled over the next few weeks. Creation of the footpath is now scheduled, although a timeframe for completion is not yet available. The new footpath will be a 1.85m width path, approx. 7.5m long to link with the footpath. Surface will be recycled road planings, some road planings are already in situ. The Clerk will check with Chris who is clearing the debris.

132/18 REQUEST TO ACCESS HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Members considered a request from a construction company, who will be working on a property in Coppice Mead in Spring 2019, to access the rear of the property via the recreation ground. They would be using a small tipper van to transport bulk materials such as sand, bricks, turf, fencing, etc.

Members discussed potential damage to the surface and queried why the construction company couldn't use the path to the side of the property to access the rear.

RESOLVED that permission is not granted to the construction company to access the rear of a Coppice Mead property, via Hitchin Road Recreation Ground. This is due to the potential damage which may be caused by vehicles, and potential risks crossing a playing area.

Councillors Cooper and Mrs Cooper asked that their names be recorded as voting against the decision.

133/18 LTP INTEGRATED PROGRAMME 2019/2020 (RURAL MATCH FUNDING)

Members considered an invitation from Central Beds Council to submit two small-scale highways improvement proposals for their consideration. Town and Parish Councils will be required to match fund a scheme's construction costs (although any appropriate and available S106 monies will count as a local contribution). Parish Councils are not required to contribute towards costs for designing locally-promoted schemes, as in previous years.

All schemes will be assessed on a matrix scoring-based approach, taking into account available evidence on traffic speeds, flows and collisions. Requests for parking will not be considered, as there is a separate process for this. A small-scale scheme would involve a spend of no more than £25,000. Town and Parish Councils are asked to state the issue they wish to address (e.g. excessive speeds) rather than specifying a solution (e.g. speed activated electronic sign), as the appropriate design solution will be determined by the consulting engineer. Requests will be assessed in respect of policy compliance, deliverability and value for money. All evidence provided by the Parish will also be taken into consideration. Those projects which most clearly demonstrate a local need will be prioritised. Deadline for suggestions is 31st January 2019.

Members discussed various areas with issues in the town, and it was:

RESOLVED that the following areas are put forward as small-scale highways improvements:

- Regent Street/The Green junction (known as Crown Corner). This is a dangerous corner. It is on a blind bend, with a large amount of traffic using the area, which due to increase with a new large housing development.
- Norton Road – risk to pedestrians crossing. This is a very well-used road, serving Norton and Letchworth, and difficulty is experienced by pedestrians, and cyclists, on a daily basis, trying to cross the road.

A case will be made for both suggestions, together with provision of a supporting map.

134/18 MUGA PROVISION AT ARLESEY ROAD

As previously discussed, Section 106 monies to the sum of £196,000 are available from the Taylors Road development for MUGA provision and is to be provided at the Arlesey Road site. Members considered the type of facility required, i.e. sports (with a synthetic turf) or community (with a macadam surface painting as you require). An idea of costs to provide a maccadam surface type MUGA was given to Members. A 782sqm MUGA could cost in the region of £145,000 - £160,000, therefore there will be some funds leftover which could be used for lighting.

RESOLVED that the allocated Section 106 monies for MUGA provision are to provide a community type facility, to be floodlit on a timer, to be sited in an agreed position at the Arlesey Road site.

135/18 CHARGES FOR ARLESEY ROAD

Members considered charges for using space at Arlesey Road – whether to charge for pitch/space use during football club facility construction period, which will involve a degree of disruption, in particular parking provision. Also, to consider charges for pitch/space use after construction period, with particular regard to the drained pitch area and associated maintenance costs to the Town Council. In the past, the Junior Football Club have sought assurance that they will be charged for use at the Arlesey Road site on the same basis as other sites in the town, i.e. per team/per season, which we have confirmed.

Members discussed the large costs involved in maintaining a drained community use football pitch, which is in the region of £7,000 per year.

RESOLVED

- i) No fees will be charged to the Junior Football Club (or any other team wishing to use the site) for use of the Arlesey Road site during the football club facility construction period
- ii) To standardise the charges across all the sites used by the Junior Football Club, a set fee of say £100 will be made, per team, per season, for use of The Green, Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, Riverside Playing Field and Arlesey Road. They may use any of these named areas as they require, subject to no clashes with any other event/use permitted by the Town Council, which will have priority. Discussions are to be held with the Chairman of the Junior Football Club as to number of teams they currently have and this new charging rate. This rate is to be implemented from the

new financial year (April 2019) for all sites, not including Arlesey Road, which will commence once the football club facility has been completed (a discounted rate for that season only will then be given).

136/18 ALLOTMENTS BUDGET

The Clerk recommended setting up a new budget line 'Allotments – RBS Software' for next financial year for clarity. This will require an amendment to the Committee's budget, with the addition of £170 to this new budget line. This falls in line with other Committees with specific software packages.

137/18 SECTION 106 – PUBLIC ARTWORK – THE MILL

Members considered a request from Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust for this Council's support in applying for Section 106 funds to provide some form of artwork to highlight the location of Stotfold Mill.

The Trust state that the Mill is open most Sundays through the summer and on occasion there are other private events held. Currently the main awareness of the Mill is raised via brown road signs and on the front of the building itself. The volunteers who make up the Mill Management Group wondered if there was anything that could be done beyond this to advise people at the Mill is there. It became apparent (via a lost visitor to one of the private events) that it is not obvious where the Mill is from the road, as you are too close to see the chimneys, and on the days that it is closed, there is no external signage. As the Mill is a listed building, it is not possible for any protruding signs to be fixed and it is suggested that some enhancements to the land opposite could be an opportunity. Currently there are two benches and a bin looking out over the River Ivel. This is highways land. They suggest artwork depicting an association with the Mill, either on the benches, the bridge railings or something free-standing associated with the lamp post. The sums involved are thought to be no more than £2,500.

There is currently a pot of 'uncommitted' money for informal open space which could be made available to undertake such works. Central Beds Council's Section 106 Spending Officer advises that Town and Parish Councils should apply for this money, and so the Mill asks if we would be happy with its use for this project. Should we agree to the request to use the money for this purpose, an 'In Principle' request can be made to Planning for its release.

Members discussed what this pot of 'uncommitted Section 106 money was, the type of artwork the Mill is looking to provide, and why.

RESOLVED that we support the idea in principle but would like an indication of exactly what it is they propose.

138/18 GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT

RESOLVED that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Public Rights of Way

- A seasonal vegetation clearance is required on footpath 11, between Brook Street and the Memorial Hall car park
- Church Road footpath sign is down at the Olivers Lane end
- Public footpath sign at Arc Progress, Mill Lane is down

- Public right of way sign at the rear of St Mary's School (Millennium Green) is still down – this was reported some months ago

Central Beds Council – Street Lighting

- Lamp opposite Pix Road, location on Hitchin Road (even number side) – has been out for nearly 12 months
- There are x7 lamps out on Hitchin Road (C131) (not consecutive lamps) between A507 roundabout, towards Kingsley Avenue (Fairfield Parish)

Central Beds Council – Highways

- The 2 road signs at the roundabout as you cross over the A507 onto C131 Hitchin Road need lights replacing
- Extend the previously requested tree trimming work on Rook Tree Lane from lighting column S3 to S4
- Request that the road sweeper visit Rook Tree Lane, plus the drain vacuum as there is a significant amount of leaf debris on the roads
- Where the recent development of the old pony field, next to St Mary's Academy on Rook Tree Lane has been completed, due to the slope of the road within the development crossing the footway onto Rook Tree Lane, large gouges have been made in the surface. Please also investigate the quantity of bark which has been placed in the front gardens of the new property, now being washed onto the footway and road because there is no dividing barrier to prevent movement
- Following footway surfacing works in Coppice Mead, the tarmac level is still 2 to 2 ½ inches below the edging of the timber surround. This is a trip hazard and also our grass cutting contractor is not willing to cut the grass verge in these areas, as the edging will damage his mower. Central Beds Council has previously advised that it will carry out a site visit, however nothing has changed
- Regent Street – footway from area of One Stop towards High Street, covering 6 houses, is breaking up badly, particular where drives cross the footway
- On the High Street/Regent Street/Arlesey Road/Hitchin Road traffic lights, there are a number of road holes in the centre crossing point, one of which has bare wires in the bottom – traffic light direction system?

Central Beds Council – Waste Team

- A full wheelie bin is laying on the footway outside the Baptist Church, The Green. It has been there for some weeks and is full of rubbish

Central Beds Council – Planning

- A site visit is requested to the new development adjacent to St Mary's Academy on Rook Tree Lane. The property which sits side on to Rook Tree Lane has a strange shaped fence line, which we were not aware of on the planning application plans.

139/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.41pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED