

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.07PM 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	C Phelps
J Talbot	

Also present: Councillor S Dhaliwal and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

21/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

22/19 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.

23/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

24/19 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

The allotments administrator reports that there has recently been an incursion at the Norton Road Allotments. The right-hand perimeter was cut to make a way through between the field and the allotment site. Discussions were held with the farmer of the adjacent field about blocking the gap. The Handyman has now bridged the gap with fencing to secure the site.

Matters arising

Minute 19/19 – General work to be carried out:

Central Beds Council – Highways

1. From junction with Regent Street towards Rook Tree Lane – Footway in very poor condition, damaged when new houses were built adjacent to Coach and Horses. Markings on footway including "Further Work" now are very faded and no works done.
The location was inspected, and the footway was in the process of being rectified 20/02/19
2. Church Road – No Cycling sign down beside Church Hall on public footpath.
Already reported on CBC portal 11/02/19 ref. 323238
3. High Street – road has crack down the central white lining.
Photo taken and reported via CBC portal ref. 323632

4. Corner of Brook Street and Hitchin Road – as well as hedge growing out onto pathway, pathway has now developed a puddle at the lowest point, encouraging people to walk onto the verge.

Overgrown hedge reported to CBC ref. 323833 along with overgrown hedge outside cottage across the road ref. 323832 . The dipped path causing people to walk on the verge when it rains has been reported to CBC ref. 323839

5. Pendleton Way – needs a litter pick. Central Beds Council to confirm how often a litter pick is carried out on their timetable.

Already reported on 12/02/19 to Charlie Anderson, Waste Officer and Etonbury school also. CBC looking to add it to their list of hotspots.

Town Council office

6. Riverside – circuit of obstacles on BMX trail has slat missing.

20/02/19 Our handyman has replaced the slat.

Members noted that in minute 19/19, point 1, although Central Beds Highways advise that they are in the process of ‘rectifying’ the footway, this has not yet been done and is to be chased.

Minute 20/19 - Etonbury Academy have indicated that they would like to take part in our May litter pick, carrying it out during the school week, and will target Pendleton Way.

Correspondence

SLCC article – ‘Utility firms to be forced to guarantee road repairs for 5 years’

The Government has launched a consultation which could see utility companies forced to guarantee their road repairs for five years, in a bid to tackle potholes on England’s roads. Currently, companies have to make sure repairs last for two years, with fines if they fail to meet the requirement, but the Government wants to extend that guarantee for five years, and to require the company to return to fix the road surface. A consultation on this proposal is available ‘Specification for the reinstatement of openings in highways’ until 6th May 2019. The Clerk will circulate the link/consultation document.

SLCC article – ‘Towns and Parishes must be consulted on tree felling proposals’

Responding to a Government consultation on protecting trees and woodlands in England, the SLCC has urged for a new duty on principal local authorities to consult towns and parishes on any tree felling proposals. In its response, the SLCC said “The introduction of such a duty and related guidance would mean that the potential impact and outcomes of a proposal to fell a street tree could be properly and adequately assessed and communities, including town and parish councils, affected by such development would not have the opportunity to comment and be involved in the decision-making process”.

25/19 PERMISSION FOR USE OF THE GREEN – CLASSIC CAR & HOT RODS SHOW

Members considered a request to use The Green for the annual Classic Car & Hot Rod Show, Saturday 3rd August 2019. A copy of the request letter was provided for Members.

RESOLVED that the request to use The Green for the annual Classic Car & Hot Rod Show on 3rd August 2019 is approved, with the usual conditions regarding marshalling, litter clearance, and non-damage to The Green surface.

26/19 PERMISSION FOR USE OF THE GREEN – STOTFOLD FOOTBALL CLUB RE-UNION MATCH

Members considered a request to use The Green for parking on the occasion of Stotfold Football Club's re-union match on Saturday 4th May (kick off 3pm). Proceeds are in aid of Keech Hospice. Times to be confirmed, but likely to be from 1pm to 10pm.

RESOLVED that the request to use The Green for parking on the occasion of Stotfold Football Club's reunion match on Saturday 4th May is declined with regret, as there is already a fair visit scheduled for that date.

27/19 HITCHIN ROAD RECREATION GROUND – INCLUSIVE ROUNDABOUT

Members considered the future of the inclusive roundabout, following previous discussions that it is not fully operational due to apparent sinkage (as advised by equipment supplier).

Councillor Hayes has inspected the roundabout this week to ascertain the extent of the damage caused by subsidence and to consider the safety issues this might cause. A copy of his report and photographs was circulated to Members.

The roundabout has 'subsided' but in reality it has shifted such that the north side has sunk by about 3cm from the surrounding safety surface, and at the same time the southern side has risen by about 1cm. From a safety point of view, it would be possible for a child to put their finger into such a gap and if the roundabout is then rotated the gap would reduce to nearly nothing resulting in serious injury. However, the likelihood of such an accident is believed to be very small.

There are three possible options

1. Do nothing, we are due a ROSPA report shortly which may highlight further problems as they are the experts. There is the small risk of injury and the subsidence may get worse over time if the unit continues to be used.
2. Have the unit repaired by Sutcliffe play at a cost of £6,550 plus vat, and they would guarantee the work for 12 months.
3. Accept the quote from Sutcliffe Play to replace the unit with a new different type that should not subside, at a cost of £7,371.63 plus vat. They would guarantee the installation for 5 years. This would also remove the old unit.

As an outside fourth option we could try to persuade a scrap metal dealer to remove the old unit at little or no cost and make good the ground ourselves, meaning there is no roundabout left and no further ongoing maintenance costs.

Discussions have been held with our insurers, and whilst we have all risks cover on our playground equipment, they will only consider subsidence claims on buildings.

Members were provided with the extract of the 2018 ROSPA report relating to this piece of equipment, which has highlighted an issue with the roundabout, but shows as a low risk.

RESOLVED that the quote to provide a new inclusive roundabout from Sutcliffe Play, whilst removing the old unit, at a cost of £7,371.63 plus vat is accepted. Funds from the Rec Rolling Grounds Improvement Earmarked Reserves.

28/19 BUDGET & RESERVES REVIEW

Members considered the Budget & Reserves Review report as at month 11. There were no points of concern, although a few budget lines had slightly overspent, such as Lighting Maintenance & Repairs whereby the number of streetlights requiring repair is unknown for budgeting purposes.

RESOLVED that after correcting any negative (overspend) budget lines, if there are any remaining funds in this committee's budget at the end of the financial year, they are to be vired to the Rec Rolling Improvement Earmarked Reserves.

27/19 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Highways

- Hazel Grove – it is not clear where this road starts after Coppice Mead – request a second 'Coppice Mead' road name sign with a right pointing arrow at the junction of Coppice Mead and Hazel Grove, and put down white lining to show the junction where Coppice Mead turns left, and the entrance to Hazel Grove starts (as a junction)

Central Beds Council - Public Rights of way

- The footpath signs reported at previous meetings are still down – at The Bury and to the side of St Mary's Academy – please chase
- A request is made to provide a tarmac footpath from Chequers Close to link with the existing tarmac public right of way – this link is an existing public right of way but is grass through the Churchyard
- The public right of way footpaths within the Churchyard are in a poor condition

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- To go on a future agenda – provide evidence regarding speed reducing measures – Members queried use of 'smiley face' speed indicators and chicanes to reduce speeds

28/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.46pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED