

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	A Cooper
S Hayes	Mrs J Hyde
G Russell	J Talbot

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

51/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collier, Mrs Clarey and Phelps.

52/19 DISCLOSURES 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.

53/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

54/19 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

55/19 ARLESEY ROAD – STADIUM PITCH

This Committee has previously agreed to a schedule of works for maintenance of the Arlesey Road stadium pitch, provided by our Landscape/Grass Cutting Contractor, to bring it to the standard for sign-off by FA/Sport England and handover to the Football Club on completion of the current build.

Although an inspection has been carried out by Beds FA/Institute of Groundsmen, which confirmed that work proposed by our Contractor would be sufficient to bring it to standard, with additional irrigation (if required) plus loaming, the pitch is still below standard and further required works have been identified.

Members considered two options and quotes (AT Bone Sports Solutions), which are to remove the pitch surface and replace at a cost of £35,000, plus irrigation and increased grass cutting, or to carry out more substantial maintenance works and irrigation.

This matter has been discussed with our contractor, who felt that whilst he could do the basic work, the provision of the loam and spreading thereof is beyond his capability and therefore is willing for another contractor to take on the remaining work from this point on to bring up to standard.

Costs for grass cutting will also need to be factored in, as the quotes from AT Bone do not include this – either our contractor or outside company, and these cuts will need to be increased in number from the original planned cuts. Our proposed and previously approved irrigation purchase may now not be appropriate, due to the lack of water pressure and flow and alternative options are available.

Members considered the two options, with the second option being preferred. It will cost in the region of £13,000 to carry out the required maintenance works and supply and spread of loam, with the possibility of more loam required later in the year. There will be a cost to hire an irrigation tank, pump and system in the region of £6,000. The ducting for the piping has already been laid by the contractors on site. In terms of water usage, an estimate of the amount of water required will cost in the region of £5,000 in unit costs, and there may also be a need to pay for sewerage charges which could double that figure, although this will be queried with Anglian Water. The number of grass cuts will need to be increased from 2 per week to 3 or 4 and can be carried out by our grass cutting contractor.

Whichever option is taken, AT Bone is confident that the stadium pitch will be to an FA/Sport England sign-off standard by the October/November build completion date. At handover, we will be able to demonstrate that we have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the pitch is to a standard for handover, and the Football Club must then ensure that a suitable maintenance regime is continued thereafter.

Members were asked to consider approving a budget of £35,000 (funds vired from Committee Earmarked Reserves), to give delegated responsibility to the Clerk and the Arlesey Road Working Party to undertake such works required in order to bring the stadium pitch to the standard required for sign-off and handover by the build completion date. All expenditure to be reported to the Committee.

After due consideration and discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Arlesey Road Working Party have delegated authority to spend up to £35,000 to bring the stadium pitch to a standard for sign-off at the completion of the facility build.

56/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.21pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED