

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 2019 AT 7.05PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock	Mrs A Clarey
B Collier	Mrs J Hyde
C Phelps	J Talbot

57/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cooper, S Hayes and G Russell and also the Town Clerk. The minutes for the meeting were taken by Councillor Mrs M Cooper.

58/19 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.

59/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

60/19 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Councillor Mrs Bundock reported on a recent meeting with Mr Carofalo, Highways Steward, Central Bedfordshire Council.

We have seen 9 footways and 6 roads surfaced in Stotfold over the last couple of years, more than you would expect. Extra money was spent, but do not expect this to happen again next year.

Rook Tree Lane is the only road currently on Mr Carofalo’s list for this financial year.

As you are aware we have had problems with the drain on the High Street for some time; but recently the “Super Sucker” came out and appears to have solved the problem.

Bollards are due to be replaced where they have been knocked out.

Information given - Hitchin Road – some patches and some surfacing at the roundabout and new white lining going ahead.

Astwick Road is to be resurfaced from Fen End to the A1.

Brook Street – looking to replace the roundabout with a T junction.

Areas agreed to be priorities for future surfacing – Dane Close, Mowbray Crescent, Princes Street, Norton Road together with speed restriction and a raised table, Mill Lane from Queen Street junction to beyond the Mill. St Olives and Baldock Road may also be considered.

The Green to have a long patch from the junction with Olivers Lane, to the junction with Regent Street. High Street is to have two patches where repairs have not held, and to continue filling holes on centre line.

New signs requested for Coppice Mead. White lining to be chased again.

Grass verge at the Baptist Church has been cut by church members.

The kissing gate at Millennium Green needs a repair on the top edge to “sandwich” and hold the existing sections together. Members considered a new gate would be a waste of financial resources. To chase BRCC about this.

61/19 FOOTPATHS THROUGH CHURCHYARD

Quotes have been requested from Chris Dorow (Public Rights of Way Officer) and Chris Nicol (Contracts Officer Assets, Highways & Transport), Central Bedfordshire Council to surface overlay sections (STF19/20 & STF/9/30) through the Churchyard at St Marys Church.

Quotes have not yet been received and so this item is deferred to the next meeting.

62/19 MUGA – RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELDS

Members considered the options for the future of the MUGA at Riverside playing fields, following a spate of significant vandalism to the structure.

Whilst the container holding maintenance equipment is in poor condition, members concluded no action was to be taken on the container at present.

Members stated that the MUGA was actually built by Mid Bedfordshire Council, now Central Bedfordshire Council, and the Town Council carries out maintenance only. Central Bedfordshire Council are to be contacted and asked if they will repair the MUGA, as it is a Health and Safety issue at present.

Members felt that option 2 (to completely open up MUGA, removal of external wire fencing and internal metal fence posts, refurbishment of the hard court surface and repair works to damaged synthetic turf court) would be the way forward at the moment, as this is a step further forward than ordinary maintenance, via their insurance.

Members asked that all Ward members for Central Bedfordshire Council, and Councillor Ian Dalgarno, are to be informed of the Town Councils concerns about the MUGA and its current condition.

63/19 MILL LANE – LIGHTING COLUMN

Members were asked to consider a request from Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust for an additional lighting column to be installed in Mill Lane, in the boundary with their car park, heading towards the Cemetery. They confirm that they will contribute 50% towards costs. A quote from Terry Seymour Lighting Contractor to install a new double headed lighting column was received at £3685.00 +VAT.

Members asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting, for clarification on precise information, location and map. Members noted that all trees at the mill car park would need

to be cut down to a 6-8 foot height. Members commented that they felt further lights were not deemed necessary.

64/19 MILL LANE / MALTHOUSE LANE – FOOTWAY

Members considered a suggestion that a tarmac footway is provided for Mill Lane and Malthouse Lane, as this area is very popular with dog walkers, runners and people walking in the countryside. However, this is also a fairly fast vehicle route, despite speed limits. Members considered the principle at this stage, before investigations are made into potential S106 funding, or other funding sources.

Members felt that there is insufficient verge width to accommodate a new standard width footway on this road, any footpath would be very close to the existing ditches. Costs would be very expensive and S106 monies would not be vaguely sufficient to fund this.

65/19 ARLESEY ROAD PLAYING FIELD – WEED SPRAYING

Members considered a quote to weed spray the public open space at Arlesey Road. For the supply and application of Hygrass-P herbicide at the rate of 5 litres a hectare in tank mix with 300 litres of water - £1500.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED to agree the quote of £1500.00 plus VAT to weed spray the public open space at the Arlesey Road site.

66/19 USE OF THE GREEN – PARKING

Members considered a request from Stotfold Junior Football Club to use The Green for parking during their summer football tournament – Friday 5th July evening, all day Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July.

RESOLVED that permission for use of the Green for parking be granted, subject to the usual conditions of signage, marshalling, insurance, etc.

67/19 GENERAL WORK

- The missing sign on the Pendleton Way still needs to be replaced.
- No work seems to be happening on hole/verge at The Green, opposite Common Road junction.
- Old Brewery new footpath – chase again the Highways /Public Rights of way Officer.
- St Olives – Both Road signs are very old and should be replaced.
- Large amount of rubbish needs to be removed from left hand cul de sac of St Olives.
- Church Road – Road drain totally blocked outside No 28.
- Brook Street and Hitchin Road bridges have debris that needs removing from brook – Ivel Drainage Board, then to let Central Bedfordshire Council know so they can collect debris.
- Resident asked if our Handyman could flip down the bottle bank lids if they are open when he does litter pick at The Green.
- Grass Verges at entrance to Brayes Manor following development opposite in Rook Tree Lane.
- No 9 Rook Tree Lane – deep pothole – very urgent repair needed. Residents cars parked on their driveways are being damaged by stones thrown from the pothole by passing traffic. Hole is category 1 defect – size of a washing up bowl and very deep.

- The house built in the garden of the Old Vicarage in Rook Tree Lane constantly leaves rubbish bins out at the side of the road – overfilled and rubbish on the road with split bags that are often not collected by the refuse vehicle. Please inform Central Bedfordshire Council.

68/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

The new play roundabout has now been installed at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground.

Pix Brook Academy plans – plans for new bridleway in the area of Common Road and Stone Road, possibly using S106 money. Using the existing bridleway, it could be tarmacked to join Stone Road and could be used as a cycle track to the school from the north side of the town. Chris Dorow (Public Rights of Way Officer), Central Bedfordshire Council is to confirm exact location of new bridleways.

The provision of a “wet area” to be created at the Riverside Recreation Ground suitable for frogs and toads etc is to be raised at the next Green Wheel Meeting on 14 June 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED