

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.00PM HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Committee Members present: Mrs M Cooper (Chairman)

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

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

106/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes.

107/19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Mrs Hyde declared an interest in agenda item 9 relating to the information on footpath works in the churchyard, as she is a Church Warden. 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.

108/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

109/19 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Clerk's Report

The final inspection has been carried out on the Arlesey Road stadium pitch, and it has passed the required standard. The Beds FA/Institute of Groundsman inspector praised the work of our groundsman and the council for the time and money spent on getting the pitch back to standard. A report has been produced detailing work carried out by the council, and work that will be required by the Football Club to maintain the pitch to the same standard going forward. This has been provided to the Club, in readiness for handover next month.

110/19 GREEN WHEEL MINUTES

Members received and noted copies of minutes from the Green Wheel meeting held on 20th September 2019. The chairman of the Etonbury Green Wheel Stakeholder Group, Councillor Collier, requested that the matter of ongoing use of the field opposite Stotfold Mill for Mill events and general community use (minute 5) is included on the December council agenda. Reference was also made to minute 5 regarding free native daffodil bulbs, and it was confirmed that this committee's chairman had planted 300 of the native daffodil bulbs in the verge on Malthouse Lane, outside Riverside Playing Field, close to the Public Right of Way access into Riverside Playing Field, which forms part of the Green Wheel.

111/19 TEASEL INSURANCE

Members considered a request from Teasel for the council to pay 50% of their insurance premium, as in previous years. This covers work carried out by Teasel on behalf of the Town Council in areas within our responsibility, such as Centenary Wood, plus covers equipment purchased by the council for Teasel's use. Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust will cover the other 50% costs. Cost to the council £234.75.

RESOLVED that 50% of Teasel's insurance premium is paid (£234.75) 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.

112/19 MAINTENANCE OF ARLESEY ROAD PITCHES – ONGOING

A sum has been allowed in the budget for community use pitch maintenance work at Arlesey Road, however approval for the ongoing work has not yet been granted. Initial works to get the pitch to standard has been carried out, this will be ongoing works, in addition to the Groundsman Contractor's specification in his contract, until the new contract period. Maintenance of the drained community use pitch area per year, to include aeration, fertiliser, chain harrow and roll as required £5,440.00. The regular x16 cuts per year of the grass is separate and is already included in the contract.

RESOLVED that the annual maintenance work for the community use drained pitch area on Arlesey Road is carried out by our Groundsman Contractor at £5,440 plus vat.

For information, members were advised that the post and rail fence along the Vaughan Road boundary of our leased land at Arlesey Road is now in and was provided as part of the contract to build the football facility. Planting along the boundary is to be considered in future.

113/19 YOUTH SHELTER AT RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD

Members discussed a situation brought to our attention by the Police about their concerns and those of residents in Drovers Lane that the youth shelter at Riverside Playing Field is being targeted with graffiti and drug taking. The Police feel that its position, opposite the pedestrian access to Drovers Lane, is exacerbating the problem, and enabling a quick get-away when the Police turn up. Members were asked by the Police to consider whether the shelter could be moved to another area or removed completely.

The youth shelter was installed in 2010 as a project organised by the youth participation officer and working with a group of young people to seek funding. The Town Council gave permission to install and site the shelter, with the Police at the time giving backing to its location, due to good visibility of it from the car park. It was noted that the shelter is not just for young people, it is also very popular as a shelter from the weather or a meeting point for dog walkers. The Clerk advised that although the shelter has been graffitied, the Handyman contractor always seeks to remove offensive words and images as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the youth shelter at Riverside Playing Field is left in place at this time, and that a project to improve its appearance is undertaken. The aim is to encourage young people to 'take ownership' of the shelter and the area in general by turning it into a piece of 'graffiti art'. It is suggested that we work

with the youth participation officer and that young people, perhaps at the closest school – Academy of Central Bedfordshire, are to work on graffiti art designs over the winter, with a view to painting those designs on the shelter in spring/summer. The Town Council will paint the shelter as a 'blank canvas' and will provide the appropriate paint for the artwork.

114/19 CHURCH FOOTPATH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, STOTFOLD

Following previous discussions regarding the condition of the access to the church car park, via the drive, and a possible addition of new surfacing to the existing public right of way through the churchyard, as Church Warden, Councillor Mrs Hyde gave an update on recent discussions she has held with Nick Carafalo, Highways Area Steward.

It was confirmed that:

Vehicular access roadway

Central Beds Council will continue to patch as necessary, as has been done in the past

Car park for Church and Hall

Central Beds Council have kindly offered to add this area to their list of places for their 'drop off' team. When they are in the area and there is some tarmac spare it will be used to fill up the holes in the car park.

New footpath

Central Beds Council have identified a need for a tarmacked footpath, approximately 14 metres long, to link up the footpath running south of the church to the end of Chequers Close. It is hoped that this will be completed in the current financial year.

Councillor Mrs Hyde advised that the PCC has agreed to the proposed footpath link to Chequers Close, and in order to add the new footpath, a faculty will be required - this process is underway.

A copy of the plan showing the works to be carried out, together with email confirmation from the Highways Area Steward will be kept on file.

115/19 CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL: PROPOSED TRAFFIC SCHEMES

A copy of a Public Notice has been received, detailing proposed waiting restrictions in areas of Regent Street, The Green, Common Road, Regent Court, and invites comments from this council. Suggested alterations to the proposals were discussed.

Proposal: double yellow lines running at the T junction joining Regent Street, Common Road and The Green:

RESOLVED that the proposals for waiting restrictions at the crossroads of Regent Street/The Green/Common Road are agreed (with an amendment to the plan to show the incorrectly labelled Regent Street section amended to The Green).

Proposal: double yellow lines running at the junction joining Regent Street and Regent Court:

RESOLVED that a request is made to remove the length of double yellow lines shown opposite the Regent Court junction, as vehicles do not park there, and it is not felt necessary. The remainder of the proposed yellow lines are agreed.

116/19 GENERAL WORK

RESOLVED that the following is actioned:

Central Beds Council – Highways

- Drainage clearance and footway surface sweeping is required at the Brook Street/Coppice Mead junction, Rook Tree Lane (particularly by the school) and The Green – there is a large amount of fallen leaf debris causing drain blockage and slippery surface hazards.

Town Council office

- Carry out a bin condition review of all Town Council owned litter bins and report to the next meeting

117/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.04pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED