

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023, AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present:

Mrs M Cooper (Chairman), L Anderson, S Buck, J Hyde, S Hayes, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, J Bendall, N Veneear

Also present:

Cllr J Headington	Councillor
E Payne	Town Clerk
H Child	Environmental Services Co-ordinator (Virtual)

169/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

170/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Nothing to declare.

171/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

172/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2023 were approved.

173/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk's summary report, pertaining to items arising from previous meetings was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Additional item – CBC Electric Charging Points, Arlesey Road, Football Club.

CBC have contacted the Town Council, about a proposal to install some fast electric charging points to the right of the entrance, on the non-tarmac area. It was however agreed that the right-hand side is not a viable location and that they would like to take the tarmacked area, to the left of the barrier, where there are currently seven spaces, but they will create six fast electric car charging points. It was **RESOLVED** that:

As tenants of the Football Club, The Clerk will sign a letter of understanding, in order to proceed with the new charging points at Arlesey Road

Note the Clerk's Report

174/23 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

174/23.1 Grass Improvements – Greenacre Park and Arlesey Road

Members received a report with a proposal to improve the grass surface at Greenacre Park and some additional works required to Arlesey Road. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Proceed with the additional work identified in the pitch renovation specification with Greenacre Park at £2294.69 from EMR S106 Greenacre Park and Arlesey Road from Open Spaces Maintenance budget.

174/23.2 Happy to Chat Benches

Members received a report with a proposal to install 'Happy to Chat' benches, to provide an opportunity for those that may live on their own, or who feel lonely to have a conversation. Members noted that this would help to combat loneliness, boost morale within the community and reduce social isolation. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Trial the proposal on the bench outside the Chemist which is a good open location and review in six months' time, with a view to installing an additional bench in a new location in the future.

174/23.3 Allotment Deposits

Members received a proposal to charge new tenant holders a deposit when they took on an allotment which would be returned to them upon departure, provided they left the plot in a good condition, without any rubbish. It was felt that this may also be a good incentive for other plot holders to leave their plot as they find it. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Charge a year's rent as a deposit for all NEW tenants with effect from 1st January 2024.***
- b) Write to The Charity re the proposal (Common Road Allotments).***

174/23.4 Norton Road Allotment Signs

Members received a proposal to install permanent plot signs and stakes at the Norton Road Allotment site, in-keeping with Common Road allotments. It was **RESOLVED** to: ***Proceed with the***

- a) White aluminium composite signs, supplied by Stevenage Signs at a total cost of £810.54 and***
- b) Plastic posts, from Kedel, using funds from the Allotment Maintenance Budget. Town Rangers to install.***

174/23.5 Play Area Signage and Water Risk Assessment

Members received a report with a recommendation to install play area signage at all play areas the Town Council is responsible for and noted it was a requirement of the annual play area inspection. Members were also advised that a recommendation from the play inspection at Riverside had included a Water Risk Assessment. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) ***Install Play Area Signage as identified in the Play Inspection reports and also to include the What3Words address on the signage. Designs and prices to be provided to a future meeting.***
- b) ***Water Risk Assessments for The Riverside Recreation Ground and possibly Pix Brook Play area, are to be carried out by The Royal Life Saving Society.***

174/23.6 Outdoor Table Tennis Facilities

Members received a report on installing two outdoor table tennis tables: one at Greenacre Park and one at Riverside. Members noted that the facilities would be cross generational and could also form part of the Youth Provision Programme, delivery by Grand Union. It was felt that they would be another positive attribute to the town's sporting facilities. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Install four Anthracite Concrete Ping Pong tables: at a cost of £2,650 per table. Two tables to be installed on the hardstanding at Riverside Recreation Ground, one at Arlesey Road Football Club, using funds from the Youth Programme and one at Greenacre Park, using 106 funding.

174/23.7 Potholes at Football Club Overspill Car Park

Members received quotations for repairs to the overflow car park surface. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Proceed with the repairs as identified, using L.U.V Groundworks Limited; who recently carried out the work at The Haven. The cost of £1,500.00 will be met from the Rec Rolling Improvements budget.

174/23.8 Greenacre Play Area – Repairs to Bank

Members received quotations from contractors to replace the steps, to those with a wider tread, on the mound, at the Greenacre Play Area.

It was **RESOLVED** to: ***Investigate alternative, more sustainable materials and proceed should the alternative costs not exceed £6,125.00.***

174/23.9 Pedestrian Gates – Arlesey Road

Members had asked Officers for proposals to install two new pedestrian gates at Arlesey Road.

It was **RESOLVED** to: ***Not to proceed with this item.***

174/23.10 Biodiversity Policy

Members had asked that the Biodiversity Policy presented to the last meeting was updated to include the no spray proposal considered at this committee in June. However, the resolution had been to spray in designated areas and Members were asked to reconsider the Biodiversity Policy in the light of this resolution. It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) *To recommend to Council that the Biodiversity Policy is adopted.*
- b) *To only spray under extreme circumstances and use only environmentally friendly herbicides.*
- c) *That the situation is to be managed pragmatically, with control measures in place regarding specified spraying periods; avoiding times of high pollination, to protect pollinated species.*
- d) *That the Council will carry out a Biodiversity Audit.*

175/23 HIGHWAYS REPORT

White line refresh required around the town, including Brook Street and Norton Road. Currently this forms part of a cyclical programme by CBC, but with the impending budget cuts, we may need to Investigate methods of managing this situation ourselves in-house, should residents consider this to be a priority.

The Clerk to speak to CBC Highways, and our Ward Councillors, about possible options, prior to any decisions being made.

176/23 PUBLIC REALM WORKS

Column S1, outside the Alteration Shop. in Brook Street, owned by STC, has been out of order for over six months. There is no footway along both sides of the road and Brook Street only has lighting on alternate sides. This part of the road is very dark, causing potential health and safety issues.

Suggest that we install a new streetlamp on the opposite side of the road to the existing streetlamp. This will be considered at a future meeting.

177/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Discussions took place about the scheduled timing of the Christmas trees, which are due to come on for 5 hours per day, at 6.30pm, however this time fluctuates. If we were to change the times, the Council would incur an additional charge of £250.00. It was therefore agreed that the current schedule would remain as is this year.

178/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 20.29

Wednesday 10 January 2024

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: