

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC LANDS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024, AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present:

M Cooper (Chair) L Anderson (Vice Chair), S Buck, J Hyde, S Hayes, B Saunders, J Smith, J Talbot, J Bendall,

Also present:

Cllr B Woods
H Child

190/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

191/24 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Nothing to declare.

192/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were no members of the public present who wished to make a representation.

193/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2024 were received. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

194/24 CLERK'S REPORT, CORESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

a) Culvert at Riverside

An application and licence fee has been submitted to IDB for approval. Providing that they are satisfied and the ground conditions are satisfactory, Maydencroft will commence work on 19th March 2024, for three days.

Discussions took place regarding the scheduled works, but It was felt that the current ground conditions would prevent this work going ahead next week.

It was **RESOLVED** that Office staff would contact the contractor on Friday 15th March, to determine whether or not to proceed, as planned, or to re-schedule the work for a later date.

b) Pendleton Way Cycle Path

An on-site meeting took place with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Countrywide, to investigate what work could be undertaken to prevent flooding along the Pendleton Way Cycle Path and to also reduce the hedge height to help improve visibility of the MUGA.

CW advised that we re-assess the situation again after a period of heavy rainfall, to identify the specific areas that are most affected, which have puddled up. Proposed actions to rectify the situation could then be taken.

Upon investigation, there are no hedges as such along the Football Clubs section of Arlesey Road, but there are small clusters of bushes, that could be pruned and cut back to fence height to help improve visibility.

c) **Happy to Chat Benches**

The first Happy to Chat sign has been fitted to the bench outside of the Pharmacy along the High Street. A photoshoot is to be arranged with the Mayor and Rec Chairman which will be used for publicity purposes and to help raise awareness of its purpose.

d) **Table Tennis Tables**

The two table tennis tables were installed this week: one at Arlesey Road and one at Greenacre. The response from residents and on social media has been extremely positive.

e) **Allotment Deposits**

The Eleemosynary Charity of William Field have approved the deposits at Common Road Allotments.

f) **Community Garden at The Haven**

Three fruit trees have been planted and wire installed to help support the trees in their early stages of development and train the branches to grow horizontally.

g) **Erosion of bank at Riverside**

An on-site meeting has been arranged with Maydencroft, on Tuesday 11th March, to assess the erosion of the bank and investigate possible remedial action and safety works required.

This meeting was postponed due to inclement weather conditions.

h) **Arlesey Road Toilets**

An investigation into the operation of the electronic timing device is underway with a view to the consideration of current and future opening and closing times of the toilets, which will be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** to: Obtain quotes for the installation of a radar key lock to the disabled toilet.

i) **Drainage at Riverside**

The Town Rangers have emptied the silt trap at Riverside car park on two occasions over the past few months. However, they recommend that for a longer-term solution, we would need to seek advice from a specialist, drain company.

This has been a long-standing issue which was previously looked at by a specialist contractor. Members requested that quotes be obtained to assess and rectify the current situation.

It was **RESOLVED** to: Obtain quotes for the drainage works in the car park at Riverside.

*It was **RESOLVED** to: Note the Clerk's Report*

Matters Arising

Cllr Cooper and Cllr Anderson informed members that they are both on holiday in April and would therefore be unable to Chair the April meeting.

There were no other matters arising.

195/24 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

196/24.1 Water Safety Risk Assessment

Members received a proposal and quote from RLSS to create a water safety risk assessment at Riverside Recreation Ground. Members held a brief discussion regarding alternative options.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) ***Not to go ahead with the quote received from RLSS***
- b) ***Conduct a site visit with Maydencroft to discuss reasonably practicable control measures in order to reduce risk***
- c) ***Contact The Fire & Rescue Service to determine whether they offer advice in relation to water safety measures along the two areas of the river that are accessible.***

196/24.2 Norton Road Allotment Perimeter Security

Members received a report to consider the possible purchase and installation of temporary fence panels on the allotment side of the perimeter to cover existing gaps within the fencing where new saplings have been planted.

It was **RESOLVED** to: Lay the hedge and monitor its growth.

196/24.3 Play Area Signage

Members received the report regarding a review and standardisation of the play area signage. It was agreed that this needs further investigation and that a revised proposal and quotations be brought to the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to: Obtain quotes based on the format of the latest signage installed at the Greenacre Centre play area.

197/24 HIGHWAYS REPORT

Cllr Smith reported that he would be meeting with CBC's Cllr Kat Woodfine next week to discuss, amongst other things, the ongoing issues with pot holes.

A road closure application is in place, outside the Chequers Pub in Queen Street, the week leading up to The Stotfold Mill event, Cllr Smith to make further investigations.

198/24 WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the work programme for this committee.

199/24 PUBLIC REALM WORKS

It was reported that two of the bollards opposite The Crown Public House, are rotten and need replacing.

Cllr Saunders raised the matter of the repairs to the pot holes in Arlesey Road car park and whether we have been given a date for the contractors to return to complete the work. It was resolved that The Clerk will contact the contractors.

120/24 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

The mattress which has been in the river at Riverside for some time, has now been removed on to the adjacent bank. Currently it is too heavy to move, however once it has dried out a little the Town Rangers will remove and dispose of it.

It was agreed that the Committee would need to allocate a Chairman for the April 2024 Rec Committee, owing to The Chair and Vice Chair taking annual leave at that time.

189/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10 April 2024

The meeting closed at 1952.

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: _____

MINUTES APPROVED (date): _____