

A meeting of the PUBLIC LANDS & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE, Arlesey Town Council held in the Village Hall, High Street, Arlesey, on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Livermore (Chairman) J Auburn
R Clark J Randall
S Sarll J Want

In attendance: Mrs J Bailey (Assistant Clerk), Cllrs A Ward, R McGann, C Ferris and 2 members of the public.

17/041 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Wallace, C Gravett and M Gould.

17/042 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive declarations of interest from members
(Members of the Council are invited to disclose any personal interest or personal and pecuniary interests they may have in any items on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members)

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None declared
- b) Other Interests:
 - Agenda item 8 – Cllr Sarll due to position held on Events Group Committee.

17/043 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr A Ward suggested that consideration be given to providing Christmas lighting solely for the biggest tree on the green open space in front of Village Hall for forthcoming years.

17/044 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider and approve the minutes of the Public Lands & Highways Committee meeting held on 7th November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

that the minutes of the Public Lands & Highways Committee meeting held on 7 November 2017 be approved as true record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair.

17/045 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

17/046 COMMUNITY CENTRE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Emergency key holder – Members considered request for a Councillor to become emergency key holder for Village Hall, Resource Centre and MUGA building to attend to building out of hours in case of an emergency and to assist with cover for unlocking and locking of hall for hirers in the absence of Caretaker. Cllr Sarll volunteered to be a key holder for daytime hours, but would not be available for 24 hour call out/evening caretaker duties. **Defer to Town Council Meeting to approach all Councillors regarding evening/early hours keyholding duties.**

17/047 MUGA/PAVILION PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

047.1 **MUGA Refurbishment Project** – Members received an update. The modified storage container will be delivered week commencing 22nd January 2018, access for delivery will be maintained by locking MUGA carpark for the evening before delivery. The pavilion refurbishment project is due to begin 29th January 2018 lasting approximately 8 weeks. Some disruption may be caused to parking spaces available in MUGA carpark during works; notification will be given to Gothic Mede Academy when extent of disruption known. A Grand Opening is planned for the improved facility upon completion.

- 047.2 **Anglian Water Optimisation Scheme** – Members considered a response to Anglian Water following receipt of reply to Council suggestion of compensation. Cllr Sarll questioned the suitability of location of raised bollards as any future alterations to positioning of MUGA car park fencing may result in posts being sited in middle of parking area.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: to respond to Savills acting on behalf of Anglian Water, highlighting the Council's obligation to provide lighting in areas where raised structures could present a risk on Health and Safety grounds taking into account that the area of proposed works is not currently illuminated. A suggestion that Anglian Water provide additional lighting to MUGA car park by way of compensation. Town Clerk to be consulted as to whether the current proposed location, being the area outside of the MUGA car park adjacent to public footpath 1A, was suitable for the proposed works.

17/048 RECREATION GROUND/PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT

Arlesey Events Group – Members considered a request from Arlesey Events Group to host a picnic in the park on Arlesey Recreation ground, Saturday 19th May 2018 to celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: that permission is granted to Arlesey Events Group to use the Recreation Ground on Saturday 19th May 2018 for a picnic in the park event.

17/049 CEMETERY & WAR MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2017 – Members considered tasks required for Remembrance service 2018, in particular: risk assessment, booking of RAF Henlow band and organising a meeting between Royal British Legion prior to commemoration of 100year anniversary in 2018.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: to delegate booking of RAF Henlow band for the 2018 remembrance service commemorating 100 years to Cllr Sarll. Risk Assessment, liaison with Mr A Fievez of Royal British Legion, and scheduling of a planning meeting to be raised with all members of Working Party.

17/050 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- 50.1 **Amenity Land House Lane** – Members noted meeting scheduled for 7th February 2018 between Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), Cllr Gravett and Town Clerk to discuss future ownership/responsibility for this land. Central Bedfordshire Council own the parcel of land which is currently being maintained by the Town Council in terms of grass cutting and recent painting of perimeter railings.

- 50.2 **Salt Bins** – Members considered provision of salt bins to grit paths during adverse weather conditions. Discussion followed.

Standing orders suspended – Cllr Ward added that during recent snow fall, the section of the high street on a slight gradient towards the War memorial had been cause for concern for motorists having to stop behind parked vehicles and attempt to continue up the road following stationary period. **Standing orders re-instated.** Central Bedfordshire Council Highways would need to be consulted on permission to locate bins on pavements or any green areas under their ownership.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: to delegate Cllr Ward task of forming a suggested location plan, estimated number of bins required, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

- 50.3 **Central Bedfordshire Council Free Salt Bag Scheme** – Members considered offer of free tonne or ½ tonne of road de-icing salt from Central Bedfordshire Council. **No proposal was tabled.**

- 50.4 **Christmas Lights** – Members discussed festive lighting provision and formation of a Working Party to gather quotations and ideas for 2018 onwards following the end of 3 year contract December 2017.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: that a Working Party consisting of Cllrs Auburn and Sarll, together with the Town Clerk/Assistant Clerk, research provision of Christmas Lighting for 2018 and formulate a proposal for consideration.

- 50.5 **Christmas Tree for Arlesey 2018** – Members considered a suggestion from a resident regarding provision of a Village Christmas Tree 2018. Cllr Sarll raised concerns at the cost implications of the purchase and installation of a Christmas Tree year on year. Consideration was given to planting a tree, which raised concerns over time to adequately grow and availability of space.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: that the Christmas Light Working Party research the use of the pine tree in situ outside Village Hall, as the main tree to be dressed in Christmas Lights 2018 and explore ideas regarding decorations as raised in letter from resident. A response to be sent to resident advising of the Council's intention to explore the idea raised using tree in situ.

- 50.6 **Street light A5 Stotfold Road** – Members considered a quotation received from Street Lighting contractor for required repairs to A5 Stotfold Road.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: to approve quotation received to repair lamp A5 Stotfold Road - £450.00 + VAT.

- 50.7 **Free Trees for Communities** – Members discussed "Free Trees for Communities" project, organised by the Woodland Trust and noted applications for tree packs for October 2018 delivery, open 15th January and close 7th September 2018. Cllr Gravett had previously mentioned that Arlesey Remembers You could make use of extra trees for the Memorial Copse if deadline for applications had not lapsed. Cllr Sarll mentioned how previously trees sourced from a similar scheme had been planted following consultation on exact planting location with Central Bedfordshire Council Highways department, some of which had subsequently been removed for various reasons.

RESOLVED

Committee Recommendation: that Cllrs Livermore and Sarll research possible areas within Arlesey that would benefit from trees/hedging available under the scheme and report back to Public Lands & Highways Committee. To confirm with Cllr Gravett additional tree/hedging requirements of Arlesey Remembers You for the planned Memorial Copse.

07/051 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING

Cllr Ferris referred to the fallen Horse Chestnut tree on the green open space in Chase Hill Road and suggested that the "Free Trees for Communities" scheme may provide suitable replacements. Consultation would be required with Central Bedfordshire Council as owners of the land.

Meeting Closed:7.48pm