

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY
30th JUNE 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith(Chair), Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Smith, Cllr G Wilson,
Cllr P Woodward
Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs S Grayston
Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
R McGregor - Works Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R Forbes

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

4. ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr G Wilson be appointed to the office of Vice Chair for the period 2008/2009.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. MUGA - Eagle Farm Road

A discussion took place on the problems associated with the MUGA and in particular with balls being kicked or landing in a residents garden on a very regular basis.

Options were discussed on how to resolve the problem from dismantling one side to putting a partial roof over the equipment.

It was agreed that the preferred option would be to move and turn the equipment around and it was **RESOLVED** that Council be asked to agree to this recommendation and that a maximum of £15,000 be authorised for this work to be carried out.

It was agreed that the Works Manager would check with the District Council with regard to any planning issues.

b. Recreational Facilities

Use of Town Council Facilities

It was confirmed to the Chair that our recreational grounds are public open spaces and the newly adopted regulations apply to football teams using the facilities which includes changing rooms, lighting, marking out of pitches etc.

It was **RESOLVED** that signs be placed at those grounds where their use is for Junior teams only.

Allotments

A letter had been received from a resident who is waiting for an allotment and is high up on the waiting list of 45.

The Works Manager informed the meeting that the Allotments are inspected monthly and any allotments found to be overgrown or not cultivated are given 4 weeks notice to remedy the situation. If they fail to do this they are then given 4 weeks notice to quit. As allotments become available we are dividing them into two to try and reduce the list.

With regard to the Wild Flower Meadow, we are awaiting the results from recent tests which at the moment look promising.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council be asked if it was possible to lease more land for Allotment use.

c. **Opening Hours of the Cemeteries**

A resident had written who stated he found it unacceptable that access to the Cemetery could not be before 9.00 am as he wished to visit on certain days throughout the year, particularly early in the mornings and requested we revert to our opening times or issue him with a permit.

It was confirmed to the meeting that the opening times before the review of the Regulations was Sunrise to Sunset.

It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be written to the resident stating that the Committee did not propose to alter the opening times or issue permits.

5. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.