MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS
ON TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Cllrs Banks, Chapman, Giles, Cooper-Marsh, Terry

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk, Acting Operations Manager, Civic Officer

Public Participation
There were 5 members sat in the public area.

Mr Douglas Bridge addressed the committee about the proposed St Neots Cycle and Foot Bridge that is part of the St Neots Masterplan with the Combined Authority. He questioned that the consultation had been misleading and referenced the Scansa data recommending option 1 as the most viable location for the bridge. He also referred to Section 122 of the Localism Act requirement to consult with local communities for certain developments. He is not aware of any consultations with those who live at or occupy land near the proposed bridge location until very recently. Can the Section 106 money only be used for a bridge; is this actually the case, were these funds collected for generic use or specifics? What other uses could the Section 106 funds be used for and what scope if for transport? Thank you for listening and hope that members will postpone their decision on the bridge tonight.

Mr Adrian Usher asked members how far into Regatta Meadow land the bridge run off would be and the impact this could have on our environment and fixed events through council and other groups. The Chairman of the committee noted that there were no designs for this part as yet. This has been discussed with the Combined Authority Steering Group and made clear that we want as a council want to see impact minimilised on the meadow. It was noted by Mr Usher that the bridge would have a width of 4 metres making it potentially wide enough to accommodate vehicles. He also questioned how the committee could vote on something they don’t have the full designs for.

23. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rogers, Johnson, Ferguson all with valid reasons.

Cllr D Collins was recorded as absent.

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

25. Minutes

It was proposed and seconded to accept the minutes of the Operations and Maintenance Committee meeting held on 18th September 2018 as a true and accurate record.
RESOLVED to accept the proposal.


An update was provided on matters outstanding which are appended to these minutes.
27. **St Neots Town Foot and Cycle Bridge**

An update from the Combined Authority was provided by the Chairman. This council are not the lead in this project or facilitating, we were asked only to express our opinion on preferred design choice. Based on the designs available the Suspension Bridge is seen to be the best solution. Members also discussed measures that would need to be taken in order to mitigate impact on the town’s main festival events including extending landing areas for boats and piping of the ditch.

It was proposed and seconded that the Operations Committee of St Neots Town Council recommend to Full Council that it endorses the Suspension Bridge design subject to approval by the Town Council and provided any proposed changes in the footpath or cycleway design have minimal impact on Regatta Meadow, as protected Green Open Space, and has no impact on use and events held on Regatta Meadow other than those which are acceptably mitigated as part of the project”

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

28. **Red Cross Building**

The Red Cross have approached the council about returning the porta cabin facility back to them. Since contacted head office of red cross and have agreed to return to us in return for what they paid for it which is £1,000.

It was proposed and seconded that the Operations Committee recommend to Full Council the purchase of the Red Cross Building and the freehold land for the sum of £1,000.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

29. **Land at Crosshall Road**

Members discussed their concerns over the recent notification of the auction of green space located in the Crosshall Road housing estate. Huntingdonshire District Council currently maintains the green space. The auction is due to take place on 30th October 2018 and it was felt that the committee should express their concerns as a matter of urgency.

It was proposed and seconded that a letter be sent to the owner of the land requesting evidence that they have freehold title of the land.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

It was proposed and seconded that a letter be sent to the owner of the land highlighting Notification S.124 / Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency.

**RESOLVED to accept the proposal.**

30. **Outdoor gym equipment**

Longsands School have offered the council some outdoor gym equipment for an amount to be agreed. Members wanted clarification on the condition of the equipment and who would remove from the school premises.

It was proposed and seconded that the Acting Operations Manager is tasked with making a site visit finding out further information on removal and making good and expectation of donation they require
along with estimate of cost to install in new location and the sum of £2,000 maximum is approved to secure the equipment.

RESOLVED to accept the proposal.

31. Memorial inspections

Members noted the report. Memorial inspections are mandatory with the last one taking place in 2004. The cost for the 2004 inspection was requested; the Deputy Town Clerk will find out and report back to members.

It was noted by members that the Town Clerk does have the power to carry out work that is necessary as stated in the Councils Scheme of Delegation 2011 to officers under Emergency work. The Clerk would be acting to ensure the Council is lawful and can action the work he would just need to bring the cost to the next Full Council meeting. thereby ensuring

It was proposed and seconded that this committee recommend that the estimated costs for the memorial inspections are brought to the next meeting of the Full Council to be budgeted out of general reserves.

RESOLVED to accept the proposal.

32. Operations & Amenities Budget

Members noted the budget report for August 2018

33. CCTV Service Report

Members noted the CCTV report for September 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm