

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 20th June 2024 **Time:** 7.00pm

Place: West Wing Committee Room, Burghfield Village Hall

Present: Cllr Lawrence (Chairman) Cllr Gallagher
Cllr Mattos Cllr Awbery

Present: Parish Clerk and 0 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr I Macfarlane, Cllr Thorrington, Cllr Neilson & Cllr Greaves.

1.0624 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were presented, received and approved for Cllr I Macfarlane, Cllr Thorrington, Cllr Neilson & Cllr Greaves

2.0624 Declaration of any personal or pecuniary interests & Applications for Dispensations

No applications were presented.

3.0624 Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

The minutes of the last meeting of the Community Committee held on 16 May 2024, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

4.0624 To receive reports on the management and maintenance of the following Play Areas:

a) Common Recreation Ground

Quotes continue to be pursued for the replacement of the boundary fencing at the Common Rec. Due to the increased cost, consideration was given to the inclusion of wire stock fencing, particularly as other areas remain open along the boundary line.

Resolved: That the wire stock fencing is not included.

The play area had been subjected to anti-social behaviour with the slide and the bridge requiring repairs. Both have been actioned.

Graffiti has been an issue. The parish handyman has been asked to remove.

The boundary hedge line had been set on fire. Unfortunately, the CCTV images were not clear enough to identify the individual responsible. The hedge is to be removed with a review in the autumn as to whether it is to be replaced.

To date, 3 requests have been received for the placement of Memorial benches with a specific request for the Wells Recreation ground.

Resolved: To install 2 benches, either at Auclum Green, Burghfield Burial Ground, Hatch Recreation Ground or the Common Recreation Ground. 1 further bench is to be positioned at the Wells Recreation Ground.

b) Old Recreation Ground

Tree works have been undertaken in accordance with the tree management plan.

c) Hatch Recreation Ground

An assessment of the boundary trees, particularly on the inside boundary of Sulhamstead Road, is to be undertaken by the parish council's tree surgeon is to undertake.

A dog bin requires replacement. An order has been placed.

d) Wells Recreation Ground

The safer surfacing under the toddler unit has been replaced with tiger mulch.

e) Auclum Green

Vandalism to the fence surrounding the play area continues to be an issue. The parish handyman is to undertake weekly checks and repair where required. A letter is to be sent to the Willink School in relation to the ASB being experienced by students.

Members gave consideration to the provision of netball hoops at Auclum Green.
Resolved: To install a concrete, ground mounted permanent netball post.

f) Burghfield Skate Park

Confirmation from WBC has been received following the submission for a Certificate of Lawfulness, a decision is anticipated prior to 6th July 2024.
Fundraising continues, with disappointing news the bid to Veolia had been unsuccessful. A detailed review of the pricing schedule is underway to determine savings to the project.

05.0624 To receive reports on the management and maintenance of the following Open Spaces:

a) Badgers Glade

The area has been identified as requiring works next on the schedule further to the number of trees requiring remedial works within the 12 month timeframe. Works have been scheduled for early autumn and in line with the priorities identified within the tree management plan.

b) School Firs

The area has been identified as requiring works next on the schedule due to the number of trees requiring remedial works within the 12 month timeframe. Works have been scheduled for early autumn and in line with the priorities identified within the tree management plan.

6.0624 Tree Management Plan

i) To receive an report regarding the tree management plan and determine any tree works required

Works have been scheduled in line with priorities identified in the tree management plan.
A visual assessment from the arboriculturist of 4 specific trees is still being pursued.

7.0624 Rights of Way & Footpaths

A request was presented to WBC as to whether the bridleway running alongside Garlands School could be declassified to a footpath, or a staggered entrance installed to stop motorbikes from accessing the path and causing a nuisance. Investigations are to be undertaken with WBC.

A similar request had been received via a resident for the footpath running alongside the Common Recreation Ground. District Cllr V Poole has been in liaison with the resident advising that a width restriction is difficult to install due to accessibility constraints.

8.0624 Parish Maintenance

i) To give consideration to any specific works identified or required within the parish

A request was presented to District Cllr V Poole to pursue with WBC, Hawksworth Road and Recreation Road in relation to the footpaths following the recent works. A response is awaited.

A request is to be presented to WBC for the cut through from Stable Close to be mulched during the winter period.

9.0624 Litter collection

Liaison was held with the Willink School in relation to the increase in litter from students undertaking examinations. A letter was sent to all Year 11 students with patrols from teachers at peak times to deter litter at the Common Recreation Ground.

Further to a positive response from the Facebook post advertising the vacancy for a litter warden, interviews are scheduled for next week.

10.0624 **Health & Safety**

- i) To give consideration to any H&S issues identified and determine the required action

No items were identified requiring action.

11.0624 **Environment & Sustainability**

- i) To receive a report regarding environmental work in the parish and plan future projects impact to reduce BPC's carbon footprint and promote sustainability

Members discussed areas where further environmental work could be undertaken within the parish, acknowledging considerable work had already been implemented. Options were discussed with the following to be investigated further:

Resolved: to present a request to the facilities committee for consideration of a community orchard being planted at the Hatch allotments.

Resolved: to request BBOWT survey the parish owned open and green spaces to assess suitability for the erection of bird boxes, bat boxes, owl boxes and bug hotels.

12.0624 **Finance**

- i) To receive a monitoring report

Amendments are being implemented to the accounting system to reflect the financial responsibilities of the committee more accurately. A report is to be presented once the amendments have been successfully incorporated in conjunction with the software provider.

13.0624 **Future Agenda items & Items for Information Only**

No further items were identified.

Close of meeting – 20.15pm