

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 18th July 2024 **Time:** 7.45pm

Place: West Wing Committee Room, Burghfield Village Hall

Present: Cllr Lawrence (Chairman) Cllr Gallagher
Cllr Greaves Cllr Awbery
Cllr Neilson Cllr Thorrington

Present: Parish Clerk and 0 members of the public.

1.0724 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were presented, received and approved for Cllr Mattos.

2.0724 **Declaration of any personal or pecuniary interests & Applications for Dispensations**

No applications were presented.

3.0724 **Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Community Committee held on 20 June 2024, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

4.0724 **To receive reports on the management and maintenance of the following Play Areas:**

a) Common Recreation Ground

There have been a number of reported incidents of fires being lit on the common, particularly in the litter bins causing significant damage.

The tunnel on the toddler play unit had to be removed following vandalism causing the metal to split. A quotation for its replacement has been received.

Resolved: To accept the quotation presented and replace with a stainless steel tunnel.

3 quotes were obtained for the replacement boundary fencing at the Common Rec. Due to increased cost, the wire netting was excluded from the quotes received.

Resolved: To instruct contractor 1, Mitchell's Fencing, in accordance with their quotation.

Further to 3 requests for Memorial benches, liaison is underway with the individuals to determine the exact locations and subsequent installation.

The boundary hedge, bordering School Road and the Recreation Ground, has been removed by the councils appointed tree surgeon.

b) Old Recreation Ground

Significant damage has been sustained at the skate park to the litter bin, requiring full replacement. Bottles are being smashed on a regular basis and fires being lit. Local residents are to be encouraged to report any incidents via the 101 number.

c) Hatch Recreation Ground

The parish council tree surgeon is to undertake an assessment of the boundary trees, particularly on the inside boundary of Sulhamstead Road. A report is awaited.

d) Wells Recreation Ground

Liaison is underway with BT regarding the placement of the telegraph pole causing an obstruction and limiting access to site.

e) Auclum Green

An order has been placed for the netball hoops approved at the previous meeting.

f) Burghfield Skate Park

A detailed review of the pricing schedule was completed to determine where savings could be made to progress the project. A potential saving of £42,000 has been presented with liaison with local suppliers also underway to determine any further savings. A slight tweak to the final design has been necessary with revised drawings being presented to WBC Planning to determine the Certificate of Lawfulness.

05.0724 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.

6.0724 Tree Management Plan

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

Works are scheduled in line with priorities identified in the tree management plan.

7.0724 Rights of Way & Footpaths

No items were identified for consideration.

8.0724 Parish Maintenance

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

A request was presented for vegetation to be cut back on Reading Road, at the fence line of Badgers Glade.

9.0724 Litter collection

A litter warden has been appointed for Route 2, having commenced employment.

A number of bins both on the common rec and at the skate park have been vandalised, with fires being started within. A replacement bin is to be delayed until after the skate park has been completed.

10.0724 Health & Safety

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

A few issues have arisen further to the weekly play area inspections within the parish. Quotes are being obtained for the required works accordingly to ensure H&S compliance.

11.0724 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

Contact has been made with BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxon Wildlife Trust) for advice on the placement of bird boxes, owl boxes and bug hotels within the parish. BBOWT commission Future Nature to undertake an initial assessment and report on all the enhancement opportunities within the parish. A quotation is being obtained.

Advice has been sought from WBC Countryside Team for the planting of a community Orchard. A report is to be presented at the next meeting for progression.

A meeting has been scheduled with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor at the Burial Ground to ensure the aims and objectives of the parish council, the church and their team are in alignment. An updated map of the areas of priority and the wish for no mow may being implemented have been shared.

12.0724 **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.

13.0724 **Future Agenda items & Items for Information Only**

No further items were identified.

Close of meeting – 20.32pm

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