

RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held in the Committee room on 22 June 2009 at 7.00 pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr D Pepler
Cllr Mrs Foster, Mrs M Hammon; Ms L Hazell; B Slater and P Wallis

Three members of the public

1037. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Collins and Mrs H Evans

1038. Election of committee Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming council cycle

Proposed by Cllr Slater, seconded by Cllr Mrs Forster

AGREED that Cllr David Pepler be the Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year

Proposed by Cllr Ms Hazell, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hammon

AGREED that Cllr Bob Slater be the Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year

1039. To agree the timing of future meetings

AGREED that meetings of the Recreation and Amenities Committee should continue to be held at 7 pm

1040. Public forum

There being three members of the public present. A meeting was arranged between the chairman of Council, Ms Lin Hazell, the Recreation and Amenities Chairman, Cllr D Pepler, the Clerk and two members of the Burnham Junior Football Club, Mr A Hickman and Mr J Jaffery to discuss matter of mutual interest.

Mr Strathdee brought to councillor's attention the vacancy on the NAG [Neighbourhood Action Group] caused by the resignation of Cllr Tilbey. The Clerk had received details of the membership and constitution of the NAG. Mr Strathdee offered to speak with anyone who wished to have further information.

1041. Declarations of interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

1042. Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2009 was signed as a true record by Cllr Pepler

1043. Matters Arising from the minutes not included on the agenda

1044. To receive updated information on the Council's recreation grounds

a. Burnham Park and Hall grounds

i. Solar Lights The Clerk has had a meeting with a representative of True Energy regarding the recent replacement of the panels and subsequent damage to the lights. The Council was informed that original problem with the lights stemmed from too little energy being captured to meet the demand. The company replaced the lights with an alternative assembly. Whilst maintaining the current size, the new units included a bigger rated, more efficient solar panel which was designed to effectively increase the energy collection by around 30%. When the units were replaced it was found that there was damage to 2 of the solar modules and 2 lamp heads. The company would not accept the costs of the damaged items and invoiced the council for £772.25

Clerk

It is now found that one of the lights still does not work. As the unit is not damaged it is possible that the bulb inside the unit is either broken or faulty. Until the cover is removed we have no way of knowing the cause of the fault.

The Parish Council do not have the appropriate equipment e.g a cherry picker to reach the height of the lamp.

Councillors chose this system as Mr Cooper, the sales representative had verbally assured that the units were "virtually vandal proof". Additional "anti vandal collars" had been obtained to discourage youths from climbing the column and reaching the lights. The Clerk was requested to write to the company expressing the councillors bitter disappointment that the system did not appear to be fit for purpose

ii. Use of the park

Beacon Housing will also be holding two Party in the Park events [4 and 25 August] during the summer holidays

iii. Tree Works

The Tree Officer from South Bucks District Council is currently working on the planning application for those trees covered by a TPO. It was noted that the Tree Officer refused to allow work on the Red oak in the Park as it was considered that any work to the tree would be detrimental to its health and ultimately lead to the premature loss of a significant amenity feature and thus is contrary to policy L10 of the South Bucks District Local Plan. Work will commence on the trees as soon as possible

b. Pavilion at George Pitcher Recreation Ground

i. Showers and still water

Three quotations have been obtained to have the showers at the Pavilion checked for Legionella Bacteria. It is necessary to have a full risk assessment of the premises first. Then, if required, the necessary work to be carried out. We have a budget of £5,000 although this item was not included when the budget was set

AGREED that Chiltern Water Co Ltd be asked to undertake the

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necessary risk assessment [this includes taking water samples and a detailed inspection of all the water services including the workshop] Whatever action is then necessary will be taken. Clerk

ii. Windows in the pavilion

A quotation had been received to replace the windows in the Pavilion. Unfortunately the cost is more than the annual budget.

AGREED that renovations be considered in the estimates for next year. Clerk

iii. Windows in the bungalow at Orchard Cottage

The occupant of the bungalow has requested that the window frames be replaced and that the kitchen be upgraded.

AGREED that the Clerk and the Chairman of the R & A committee carry out a property inspection on both of the Council's properties before making any decisions on expenditure. Clerk/
Cllr
Pepler

iv. Michael Twist Memorial trees in the Cherry Orchard

Members will recall that a number of oak trees were planted in the Cherry Orchard by the Evergreen Trust a couple of years ago. Unfortunately two of these trees have now died and the trust will be replacing them in the near future

c. Stomping Ground

Remedial work

The District Council's contractor has commenced work. At the request of the District Council two trees have been removed by our contractor

The Clerk and groundsman have attended a number of site visits with Mr Harwood from SBDC and their contractor. A number of mature trees have now been added to the site. The new path and fencing will be installed, then the area will be seeded. The play equipment, funded by the Lottery and the Health Promotion Trust will then be installed. The whole project is being managed by the District Council.

There is a large hole in the entrance road. This Council had agreed to wait until after the remedial works had taken place as it was anticipated that the heavy lorries would increase the road damage. However this is not the case as the lorries are approaching the site directly from the roadway. The Clerk is now obtaining quotations from three contractors to have this area repaired

d. The Fairway

It was noted that as a safety measure, two dead trees [Beech and Scots Pine] had been removed from the site.

1045. Playground repairs

Recent repairs to the wet pour surface in St Peter's Recreation Ground and welding to the rails in Burnham Park play area have caused the relevant cost centre to be overspent.

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AGREED that the Clerk transfers the amount from the Recreation Capital Costs Centre 4701

CLERK

1046. Capital Purchase

Money has been accrued in the budget for the replacement of a tractor. A quotation has been received from Browns for a new Kubota G23 Ride on Mower

Full cost	£9265.00
Less	<u>£3295.00</u> [purchase discount + trade in for Kubota G18
Balance to pay	£59970.00

AGREED that the mower be purchased and that the additional optional road lighting kit be purchased and fitted for a further sum of approximately £440.00

1047. Street Lights

a. Reduce hours of burning

In response to our enquiry to reduce the number of hours the street lights are burning the Parish Council were informed that the majority of the lanterns maintained by Southern Electric have nema sockets fitted. The SS9 part night photocell plugs into the nema socket on the lantern and is a direct replacement to the 1 piece all night photocell. The SS9 photocell has a microprocessor to switch the light source on and off; it switches off at approximately midnight.

Depending upon the ambient light levels the unit is re-activated at around 5.30 am GMT. It is fully automatic and the unit will re-calibrate itself within 3 days after power disruption or being installed.

The costs involved are as follows

Quantity 1-5 £49.21 each

Quantity 6 and over £41.90 each

To achieve part night lighting any lanterns which do not have a nema socket would need to be replaced.

AGREED that the information be noted and no further action be taken

b. Repairs

The Parish Council has a budget of £4,000 for repairs. Columns have been replaced in Coulson Way and Lent Green Lane. We have an estimate for approximately £500 of work to be undertaken on a column to the rear of 21 Cleares Pastures and been told of damage to a further column in Coulson Way and one in Hatchgate Gardens.

The Council receives 7/8 notifications of outages each month at an average repair cost of £45. The Clerk requested guidance on future requests to replace columns.

AGREED that the works as quoted be undertaken and that the budget be monitored with reports back to the Recreation and Amenities committee

Clerk

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1048. **SBDC matters**

a. Grass cutting

The District Council is currently updating their grass cutting records [and produced some extremely useful maps] the Parish Council are informed that as a general rule SBDC cut “urban” verges within 30mph and Bucks CC cut areas outside the limit. However there have been a number of anomalies which are gradually being sorted out. This is the final year of the current contract with ISIS and the District Council is in the process of re-tendering.

The Parish Council only cuts grass on land it owns or rents, with the exception of the closed churchyard attached to St Peter’s church

b Car parks

The District Council are continuing to press the Parish Council to give a commitment to pay for the “Free Half Hour” in Summers Rd Car Park. Recent information from them suggests they are losing an amount of £11,796.05 and would be looking to receive a similar sum for the Parish Council next year. Councillors found it difficult to reconcile the projected loss of income with the number of cars seen to use the car park.

AGREED that the Clerk

A] Contact Farnham Parish Council to check what they are doing

b] Contact the District Council for a further breakdown of the figures to try and clarify how many vehicles were in the car park for more than 30 minutes.

Clerk

1049. **BCC matters**

a. Excessive HGV traffic on village and other unsuitable rural roads

Ivinghoe Parish Council are concerned that village and rural roads are becoming “rat runs” for HGV vehicles. They have resolved to address the issue. As they believe it is a county wide problem they are asking all Buckinghamshire Parish Councils to support them by completing an incident Report Form – see attached

The Clerk recommended that interested councillors complete the form and that the letter be forwarded to ThinkBurnham

b. Report on road works

Through the GC2C forum, Mr David Merrick has been requesting information on the comparative analysis of road maintenance spend in the area, District and County. The attached form shows how funds have been spend in the Beeches area as opposed to other areas e.g The Ivers, over the last two financial years

The information was noted

c. The Big Lunch See attached letter

It is anticipated that this venue could be used by the Police, NAG, Housing Associations and others in their attempts to establish a residents association or similar in the Coulson Way area.

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1050. To agree meeting dates

Meeting with representatives of Burnham Junior Football Club
25 June 2009 at 5 pm

b. Meeting of Environment Working Party
Date and time to be agreed at a later date

c. Walk around the Recreation Areas
20 July 2009 at 6.00 pm

1051. To appoint a representative on Burnham Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr S Tilbey had previously represented the Parish Council. It was noted that meetings are held every six weeks at 7 pm in the Burnham Conference Centre

AGREED to place on the agenda for the Full Council

1052. Information Items

Temporary signing for local events.

At Dropmore Rd/Burnham Rd/ O/S School between 6/7/09 – 21/7/09

b. 30 mph speed limit – information pack available from BCC

c. Request for grant aid for community mural project from SBDC. Details of grant scheme sent to Sarah Jane Webb but no reply

d. Details of Playbuilder Grant from SBDC. District to install one “adventure” style playground this year and two next year for ages 8 – 13 years Currently going through consultation process BUT they state that they make use of natural materials. If wood then they are not suitable for Burnham. Awaiting further information from Emma Talbot

e. Copy of Open Space

1053. It was noted that the following items are still outstanding

- Provision of handrail to war memorial
Relettering to war memorial
Photo of war memorial for insurance purposes
- Additional car parking at George Pitcher
- Application for grants etc for play equipment at Hag Hill
- Lease at GP memorial ground
- Tree roots at Burnham Park Gardens

There being no other business meeting closed at 9. 20 pm