

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on Monday 3 July 2006

Present Chairman: Cllr D Pepler
Cllrs J Capel, Mrs S Collins, Mrs J Foster, Mrs M Hammon and R Salter

Also present Cllrs M Cole and S Tilbey

Officer: Mrs Jacqui Mansford

ACTION

15. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs P J Adams and Mrs H Evans.

In accordance with Standing Order 47 Cllrs Cole and Tilbey were present in their capacity as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Parish Council.

16. 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. Mrs Hammon declared an interest in item no.83c by virtue of her being a member of the Burnham Tennis Association.

17. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

18. Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2006 as circulated, were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman of the Committee.

19. Matters Arising from minutes not included on agenda

It was noted that South Bucks District Council had authorised a permit to make a street collection or sale for Mr G Warren for the benefit of Burnham Community Association on 08/07/06.

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

a) Burnham Park

A great deal of damage was done to the grassed area of the park by the fair which was part of the Donkey Derby on 27 May 2006. Additional soil and grass seed at a cost in excess of £200 had been used by our groundsmen to repair the damage. The work had taken approximately three weeks to complete. The fair makes NO payment to the parish council for the use of the park.

Proposed by Cllr Tilbey
Seconded by Cllr Mrs Foster

“ That a ‘bond’ of £250 should be requested from the fair in future and refunded if no damage had been caused.”

The Clerk to write to Traylens Fair.

Clerk

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Half of the shrubs planted in the corner of the field after the traveller invasion have been destroyed by local residents who insist on using that corner to access the park.

Members felt that fencing should replace the shrubs and requested the Clerk obtain costs and for this to be carried out.

Clerk

It was noted that an amount of remedial work needs to be undertaken to trees both in Burnham Park and around Burnham Park Hall. The normal process for work in a conservation area is being followed and the work will commence as soon as possible.

b) St Peter's Recreation Ground

The last of the grant has been received from the Valerie and Louis Freedman Trust. Bev Daily has been nominated as their representative to formally open the play area. The Clerk is liaising with him to arrange a suitable date. Unfortunately the area has already been subject to graffiti and vandalism. The police have taken photos of the graffiti and are building up a portfolio of "tags".

Complaints have been received from local residents regarding the alleyway by St Peter's Recreation ground and the behaviour of teenagers sitting on the outflow pipe.

Re alleyway: It was noted that the crime reduction officer, Lucy Groves, had offered a group of people on probation to undertake the clearance but as yet no action has been taken

Re the outlet pipe The local resident does not want flints or bricks on the outlet pipe [suggestion agreed with Lucy Groves] as he fears they will be used as weapons. Another suggestion of a metal spiked collar on the brickwork would be too expensive. The resident wants the outlet pipe removed but this is not possible.

It had been decided to smear it with tractor grease to discourage teenagers. However, Cllr Tilbey was concerned about grease being used as a Health and Safety issue and would like the Clerk to readdress the situation.

Clerk

c) Stomping Ground

It was noted that following intervention from Cllr Tilbey, Bob Smith the Director of Services at South Bucks District Council, had written to the Thames Valley Local Health Protection Unit. He asked that they respond to the District Council's January 2006 correspondence requesting clarification on the potential risks to human health from contaminated soils at the Stomping Ground.

Mr Trill of the Burnham Tennis Association has informed the council that they will be excavating a trial hole in the ground to locate and determine method of laying the necessary cable to install the floodlights. They have also requested that they enter discussions to sign a new lease. The Clerk has responded informing them that the Parish Council would be willing to enter into discussions regarding a renewed lease provided the Tennis Club agree to pay any reasonable legal costs incurred by the Council. The Clerk awaits further communication with the club after their full committee meeting on 13 July 2006

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It was recommended that the Parish Council accepts a new lease. Cllr Cole agreed to be the Parish Council’s representative and will liaise with the Tennis Club **Cllr Cole**

d] George Pitcher Recreation Ground
Football Pitches

A meeting will be arranged with the football clubs prior to the start of the - season. The matter of safety issues regarding the erection of the football nets will be discussed with the teams at that time.

It was reported that hooks had been purchased to secure the nets to the net supports. Two stepladders (two tread) with support will be purchased to enable teams to put the nets up more easily. An instruction sheet will be displayed in the changing rooms.

The following quotations had been received for galvanized fence with palisade top around the garage:

Gunnebo Perimeter Protection (A)	Net £8,955.00
Gunnebo Perimeter Protection (B)	Net £8,562.87
Denco Engineering.....	.Net £7,545.31
West Midland Fencing Ltd.	Net £7,611.00

The quotation from Denco Engineering was accepted

Mrs Collins will become the ‘lead member’ and will liaise with the Clerk over installation etc.

**Clerk/Cllr
Mrs
Collins**

Club Room and Pat Moore Room

A request has been received from the Fu Jau Academy

- 1 That the two rooms at the George Pitcher Ground be merged into one.
2. That the academy be given a greater security of tenure beyond the current 30 days protection

The building is used by the sports clubs for changing facilities; the academy for classes [the majority day time use] a yoga class; occasional use by Bucks County Council [GC2C] and Fullers Training for exam purposes. We encourage the use of the large room at weekends for children’s’ birthday parties.

Access to the small room is via the larger room; toilet facilities are near the front door. Therefore anyone using the smaller room must walk through the large to gain access and egress and to use the facilities.

Preliminary talks with the District Council planning officers on site have indicated that they would not look unkindly on an application to provide another entrance and toilet facilities at the opposite end to the existing i.e adjacent to the small room. This would be to “improve the existing use of the sporting facilities”.

Members considered the proposal from Fu Jau Academy. AGREED that before any decision is made

1. Basic plans be produced and the relevant building costs ascertained.
2. Contact to be made with Margaret Smith of South Bucks District Council’s Development Control.

**Clerk/Cllr
Tilbey**

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3. Well Design to be contacted to produce plans.

Cllr Mrs Collins

Mrs Collins to research use of the facilities for soft bal

e| The Pond

The Council has received a number of reports regarding rats around the Pond. The problem is caused by people feeding the ducks and birds with the residual feed attracting the vermin.

Action taken

- 1. Mr Harris, the council's environmental contractor is working hard to remove them.
- 2. Beacon Housing have visited their tenants and asked that food not be thrown from the flats. If the problem persists a joint housing/parish council letter will be sent to all tenants
- 3. A sign has been ordered requesting that the ducks are not fed

A large tree beside the Pond fell into the water and was removed by the District Council. Parish Council groundsmen remove as much litter as they can but mattresses and shopping trolleys regularly make an appearance. We do not have the facilities to remove such items from the centre of the Pond. Arrangements have been made for the District Council to undertake a pond clearance in the autumn.

Members considered the above issues and noted the action taken.

21. **Vandalism Report**

It was noted that the Parish Council receives a number of complaints regarding vandalism to its play areas, damage to footpaths, unauthorised tipping as well as street light outages. The Parish Clerk intends a report will be given to future meetings outlining the nature of the complaint and the action taken.

Clerk

22. **Bus Shelters update**

The bus shelter has been ordered and we await its installation. Further bus shelters would be a suitable item to request for inclusion under the GC2C projects. Members noted this item and wished the Clerk to chase the installation of the bus shelter.

Clerk

23. **Hanging Baskets – Update**

Mrs Mansford informed the meeting that 24 hanging baskets and 8 tubs had been installed and 10 hanging baskets to be placed on lamp columns had been ordered and were due to be installed week commencing 10 July 2006.

24. **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act of 2005 has a direct impact on parish councils by giving them the ability to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences. It also allows parish councils to introduce dog control measures for a range of offences [effectively replacing the current byelaw system] Defra has now developed an approved training course which would need to be attended before fixed penalty notices could be issued.

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Following a discussion Members considered more information was necessary and wished this to an agenda item at the next meeting. Cllr R Slater offered to be the Parish Council representative.

Clerk

25. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee will be on **18 September 2006 at 7.00 pm.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8. 43 pm

Chairman

Date.....

Chairman.....

Date