

RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on Monday
4 June 2007

Present Chairman: Cllr D Pepler
Cllrs J Capel, Mrs S Collins, Mrs H Evans, Mrs J Foster,
Mrs M Hammon, S Tilbey and P Wallis

Also present Cllrs Mrs C Binns and B Slater

In attendance Mrs J Holmes

40. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ms Lin Hazell and Cllr M Hewitt

41. Election of Committee Chairman for the forthcoming council cycle

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Evans, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hammon
Cllr David Pepler was elected as the Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities
Committee for the forthcoming council cycle.

42. Election of Vice Chairman for the forthcoming council cycle

Proposed by Cllr Tilbey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Evans
Cllr Mrs Shirley Collins was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Recreation and
Amenities Committee for the forthcoming council cycle.

43. Terms of Reference

Agreed that the Chairman should recommend to the Full Council that
1. The maximum number of members on the Recreation and Amenities committee be
increased from 10 to 11
2. That Cllr B Slater be included as a member of the Recreation and Amenities
committee.

44. To agree the timing of future meetings

It was unanimously agreed that meetings of the Recreation and Amenities committee
should be held at 7 pm on a Monday evening.

45. 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.
Cllr Mrs Hammon declared an interest and took no part in the discussion for item **49c**
by virtue of being a member of the Tennis Association.

46. Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 March 2007 were approved and signed as a true
record by the chairman of the Committee.

47. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

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

Minute 349 Speed activated signs. Little information was available at the present
time. Bucks CC are awaiting a report on traffic survey from Reading
University. The possible cost of an individual sign is £ 2000, but
Who would be responsible for long term maintenance or the cost of the
same is unknown

Car Park charges. New charges had been agreed. Councillors expressed

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their dismay that charges had been increased despite an objection from the Parish Council. Concern was expressed that there were no mother and toddler spaces marked in the Jennery Lane Car Park,

Clerk to contact South Bucks District Council to request provision be made.

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

a] Burnham Park

A number of fires had recently been set in the park and around the hall. Seats, dog litter bins and the South Bucks DC waste recycling bins had been targeted. The recycling bin had been taken into the park before it was lit. A new dog litter bin had been ordered and the seat would be removed. Members requested that the recycling bins be "locked" in position to avoid the possibility of a bin being pushed against a car and lit.

Clerk to contact south bucks and request some form of locking

Clerks Information. According to South Bucks DC Biffa should chain the bins together as part of their contract. Unfortunately they seldom do it as they feel it wastes their time. South Bucks officers will pursue this matter

Alternative styles of seats would be considered in the future.

Cllr Mrs Foster informed the meeting that she was a member of the Burnham Liaison Group which was a forum of schools within the area. She would ask at the next meeting of that group, and at the Burnham Youth Centre of which she is also a member, if they would be willing to fund and sponsor a seat.

b] Stomping Ground – Remedial work due to contamination

The District Council has agreed, in principle, to fund the necessary work to the Stomping Ground. The Clerk will be meeting with Mr John Harwood from SBDC later in the week to agree the full specification of the necessary work. The District Council will then be in a position to grant the Parish Council a new 99 year lease with a greater emphasis being placed on the Parish to maintain the soil capping layer in the future.

c. Tennis Club

The Clerk has been in correspondence with the Tennis Club regarding an amount of outstanding rent. Mr Paskins had informed the Clerk that the Parish Council had agreed not to charge rent for the year ended 31 March 2005 as the facility was closed for reconstruction and the tennis club received no income during that spring, summer and part of the autumn. The Clerk was unable to find any correspondence giving this information and there is no mention in the committee minutes. Councillors were asked if they had any knowledge of this agreement in order that the problem could be resolved.

No councillor had any recollection of such an agreement being made.

AGREED

The Clerk write to the Tennis Club

1. Informing them that there was no knowledge of such an agreement
2. Requesting that the amount outstanding be paid as soon as possible
3. Informing the club that the Council would not be able to consider renegotiating their lease until all outstanding amounts are paid.

7.40 Cllr Mrs Collins joined the meeting

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d] George Pitcher Recreation Ground

Winter maintenance work has been taking place to the pitches. The ladies hockey club have decided not to return to Burnham this year [few hockey teams wish to play on grass] Teams on the waiting list are being contacted to fill any vacancies.

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining the offer of a grant from the Football Foundation to pay 50% towards the cost of three sets of new goal posts – to a maximum of £795. These will be purchased as soon as possible.

It was noted that the Council no longer has requests to mark the area for softball matches and that there was little use of the recreation grounds during the summer months.

Clerks note. After speaking with the groundsmen it was decided to erect one goal post on the former hockey pitch for use as a “training area” by anyone one who wishes to use it .[i.e at no fee]

The Council had agreed to install a rainwater harvesting system to use the run off water from the pavilion to irrigate the football pitches. The Clerk has been in the process of obtaining quotations for this work. However we have now been informed that the septic tank which serves these premises has been damaged and is in need of replacement. The cost of replacement had not been included in the annual budget and is far in excess of the recreation reserves. Additional quotes are being sought for the replacement septic tank.

The Council cannot fund both projects this financial year so the irrigation system will be put on hold till next year.

e. Pat Moore Suite

Mr & Mrs Bedlow have agreed a lease with the parish council for the use of the Pat Moore Suite. Councillors were updated on the content of the proposed lease but wished to add an appendix requesting a bond amounting to three month’s rent be held to ensure that reinstatement to any building works are made if required.

It was agreed that the plaque to the Pat Moore Room would remain in place.

f. Cherry Orchard

Following the article in Round and About, the Parish Council have received a request to sponsor a tree in memory of another Burnham family. A copper beech [fagus sylvatica purpurea] will be planted at the appropriate time and due publicity given.

g] Caravan at George Pitcher

Clerk and Cllr Tilbey to check property in accordance with the provisions of the lease and take the appropriate action.

h. The Pond

Councillors were aware that work should have been undertaken by South Bucks DC contractors to clean the Pond. However a number of residents had complained to the District Council and the work will now be postponed until the autumn. There may be unpleasant smells during the hot summer months.

50. **South Bucks District Council Play Strategy**

The Parish Council’s suggestion to locate a junior play area in the Stomping Ground has been included in the District Council’s Play Strategy and forms

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part of their bid for funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Initiative. The response was promised for Mid May but no information has been received to date.

Cllr Tilbey agreed to pursue the matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

51. Bus shelter

The Parish Council is responsible for a number of bus shelters. We have received a request from a company who wish to "rent and manage" the advertising panels on the bus shelter on the Bath Rd. Funds from such an agreement could help fund an additional shelter.

AGREED that the Parish Council enter into an agreement with Out and About Advertising Ltd.

52. Market Health Check

Members of the High St Traders Association have requested a meeting with the Parish Council to further progress the Market Health Check initiative.

AGREED that

1. A Market Health Check Sub Committee be formed under the chairmanship of the Parish Council. Membership to be

Cllr B Slater – chairman

Cllr Mrs C Binns

Cllr Mrs H Evans

Cllr P Wallis

Plus three representatives of the High St Traders Association or other interested parties.

2. The Sub Committee would be mandated to discuss the requirements of a Market Healthcheck and report back to the main committee – Recreation and Amenities Committee.

3. The Sub Committee would have no budget allocation

4. First meeting to be set for Tuesday 26 June 2007 at 6 pm.

Clerk to inform Mr P Sherriff and request information of other persons wishing to attend.

53. Crossrail Project Bulletin 9

It was noted that further information had been received from Crossrail – a large quantity of papers are available should anyone wish to read them.

54. Hanging baskets

Information had been sent to High St residents regarding the provision of hanging baskets for the forthcoming year. A number of replies are still outstanding.

55. Bucks County Council Matters

a. Rural Grass cutting

Rural grass is all highway grass verges situated beyond the boundaries of towns and village's .A list of roads where the County Council currently cut the grass as part of their rural grass cutting programme is available. Urban grass cutting is outsourced to the District Councils. The existing contract allows for all rural verges to be cut three times per growing season.

The County Council required comments are required on the following items.

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1. The County is considering a reduction to a lesser frequency - would this be acceptable?

Answer. The Parish Council would not find this acceptable.

2. Would zero grass cutting be acceptable?

Answer. The Parish Council would not find this acceptable.

3. An increased cutting frequency could be undertaken where highway safety is important e.g road junctions. Suggestions for other suitable areas are requested

Answer. The Parish Council would like all sight lines at junctions kept clear. Problem areas identified were the junction of Crowpiece Lane and Farnham Lane and the embankment at Hag Hill Lane. A request to be made for the County Council to ensure that the shrubs etc around all street signs and other road furniture be kept clear.

4. It is suggested that the Parish Council might take on the rural grass cutting in the area as part of the devolved services through the GC2C strategy.

Answer. The Parish Council would be interested in discussing a devolved service provided funds were allocated to the Parish Council.

Clerk to write to Mr J A Stevens of Bucks CC accordingly

b. Footpaths

Bucks County Council are reviewing various footpaths to undertake remedial work. They intend to surface FP 60 - adjacent Institute Road with loose stone.

A resident has brought the following items to the Council's attention. The footpath on the school side of Stomp Road, opposite Burnham Park, is totally overgrown. Also the footpath in Gore Road by the double roundabouts with Lent Rise and Hitcham Lane.

Clerk to raise the following matters with the County Council.

c. Youth Services

The Buckinghamshire County Council Outreach Project in Chiltern & South Bucks has come to the end of its current tenure. Councillors were concerned that no provision had been made for the future. Copies of the relevant parts of the report were given to Cllr Mrs Foster and Cllr Mrs Evans to discuss at the next meeting of the Youth Centre Management and at District Council.

d. Transportation Area Action Plan 2006 -11

Bucks County Council are taking a mobile exhibition to parishes outlining the Transportation Area Action Plans 2006 -11. It will be situated in Burnham Park Hall car park on Friday 29 June 2007.

56. Walk around the Parish

The members AGREED that they would meet at 4pm on 4 July to walk around the parts of the parish under the committee's remit.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9 pm