

BURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held at Burnham Park Hall on Monday 15 July 2002 at 8.00 pm

Members Present: *Councillor S L Tilbey (Chairman)*
Councillor P J Adams (Vice- Chairman)
Councillors, P Beard, G Edwards, H P Evans, L K Hazell, D Pepler
and J Somers

PART I

17. **To accept apologies**

There were no apologies.

18. **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor H P Evans declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13 under Part II.

19. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 27 May 2002**

Councillor S L Tilbey, Chairman of the Committee presented and moved the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2002.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes be approved.

20. **Matters Arising**

The Executive Officer updated the members on the progress to replace the footpath to the war memorial. Members requested that the memorial should be updated to record the dates of World War II and that members of the Royal British Legion be consulted on the wreath laying process at the memorial.

Finance Report

21 Members received and noted the financial report of the Recreation and Amenities Committee at 30 June 2002.

22. **Purchase of a new tractor**

Members considered a report from the Executive Officer, identifying the current position regarding the condition of the Ford Tractor and the need to replace the tractor on the grounds of health and safety and to ensure that the ground staff could fulfil their duties.

The Executive Officer informed Members that at this time the Committee did not have sufficient capital funding to purchase the tractor and would have to request additional funding from the F & GP Committee and Full Council

RESOLVED

- ◆ That the old tractor should be replaced with a Kubota M5700 at an approximate cost of £19,000.
- ◆ That the Finance and General Purposes Committee should be requested to consider the report and requested to recommend to Full Council the allocation of additional funds from reserves to purchase a new tractor.

23. **Review of capital Expenditure for 2003/04.**

Members received a report from the Executive Officer, reviewing the outline plan for the future renewal and additional capital expenditure on grounds maintenance machinery.

RESOLVED

- ◆ That the draft programme for capital renewal of machinery should be accepted.
- ◆ That the increase in capital reserves should be agreed within the budget process.

24. **Recruitment of Additional Grounds person**

The Executive Officer informed Members that on inspecting the committees earlier minutes the decision of the committee was to employ a trainee grounds person and Members were requested to approve the start of the recruitment process.

RESOLVED

- ◆ That the process to employ a trainee grounds person should go ahead and Councillor S L Tilbey, P J Adams, P Beard, HP Evans and G Edwards would be responsible for the recruitment.

25. **Health and Safety Inspection reports on play areas.**

Members received and noted the inspection reports of ROSPA and Zurich Municipal on the Councils play areas. Members were advised that a majority of risk had been kept at a low risk factor; however the medium risk factor which was identified in all play areas was the safety surfacing. Members discussed the position regarding the status of the Hag Hill play area.

RESOLVED

- ◆ That the Executive Officer would liaise with Councillor Pepler regarding details on the Hag Hill play area.

26. **Dog Walking on the playing fields at the George Pitcher Memorial Ground.**

The Executive Officer informed members that concerns had arisen over the general walking of dogs and dog fouling in areas of sports and physical activity. Member's attention was drawn to the health and safety liabilities and how to address the issue.

Members discussed the issues raised by the Executive Officer and Cllr P J Adams informed the meeting that when the George Pitcher grounds were originally opened it was intended that all dog walking should take place in the nature reserve.

Resolved:

- ◆ That new notices would be placed at the site.
- ◆ That a press release would be used at the start of the new season advising the public of the issue.
- ◆ That the hirers of the football pitches would be advised on the restrictions.

27. **Provision of Gates at the entrance to the George Pitcher Memorial Ground.**

The Executive Officer informed Members that, discussions had been held with the police regarding the vulnerability of the Playing fields to being invaded by illegal encampments. In addition over the previous few weeks a burnt out vehicle was dumped on one of the pitches and four wheel drive tracks have been found over the banks and pitches. Members were therefore asked to consider approving the installation of a gate on the access drive to the grounds to restrict vehicle access. Members discussed the feasibility of providing a gate and the issues of access.

Resolved:

- ◆ That new gates should be installed in a location which would allow access by the walking public.
- ◆ That the cost of alternative controlled barriers should be investigated.

Date and time of the next meeting

28. **Monday 9 September 2002 at 7.30 pm**

Exclusion of Press and Public

29. **Resolved**

- ◆ That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Act

Chairman

Date