

# BURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held at Burnham Park Hall on Monday 20 January 2003 at 7.30 pm

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

**Other Councillors in attendance:** Cllr E J Glover

### **PART I**

76. **To accept apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Edwards.

77. **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest

78. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 2 December 2002**

Cllr S L Tilbey, Chairman of the Committee presented and moved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2002.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes be approved.

**Finance Report**

79. Members received and noted the financial report of the Recreation and Amenities Committee at 31 December 2002.

80. **Chairman's Review of 2002/03**

Cllr S L Tilbey, Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee presented the following report:-

"I believe that it is important that as a committee we have a duty to feedback to residents of Burnham, the work that this Parish Council and in particular this committee has been undertaking to improve the quality of life in Burnham.

In the last financial year the Recreation and Amenities Committee and the Parish Council made a number of bold and also difficult decisions in setting its budget. We considered carefully the concerns of the public regarding the services we provided and how we could improve them.

The year started with the removal of the laurel hedge at the front of the park, this was in response to the concerns of the public regarding their safety around the halls. To enhance this safety project even more the trees surrounding the car park were cut back and some were removed to allow for 3 additional lights around the car park and its entrances.

During this year in line with our budget forecast we have installed 10 new rubbish bins, in the park and around the halls, in the cemetery and in our play and

recreational areas. We have also installed two new seats in the park and have been pleased to receive donations from the Lions Club of Burnham to install a memorial seat and memorial tree at the front of the halls.

This year has seen the completion of the Windsor Lane land swap project which allowed a new footpath to be continued along the side of the park. As part of this development we have now seen the installation of the fencing along the park which has been planted with hawthorn and pyracantha bushes. Eventually over the next few years this new boundary area will be replanted with further trees.

The growing demand on our ground staff over the year required us to consider our staffing levels and in August 2002 the Parish Council recruited Paul Curtis to the post of Apprentice grounds person. The additional staffing has already resulted in improvements in the village as we have already been able to inspect and maintain our footpaths and grassed areas more regularly. Before Christmas our ground staff focused their attention on a major clear up of Piggy Path and although this has not been completed once the weather changes the final stages of our work will be completed.

Our ground staff continue to undertake regular weekly inspections and cleaning of our play areas and open spaces. However this committee is aware of the need to continually renovate and maintain our play areas and as a result has decided to reallocate funds in next years budget to a gradual programme of play ground improvement.

The George Pitcher Memorial Ground continues to provide football areas for 12 senior football teams, 13 Junior Burnham teams and 1 ladies hockey team. On average we cater for approximately 300 players per weekend plus supporters. This heavy demand on our facilities required us to complete the planned redecoration of the Cherry Orchard pavilion.

During the year we have continued to provide sporting facilities at the George Pitcher Memorial Ground and have introduced two additional recreational football areas and a cricket wicket within Burnham Park. The regular grass cutting programme, which has been adopted in the park for the last 12 months, has seen the park maintained at a higher standard and has made it easier for access by organisations using the park for such events as the Donkey Derby and Burnham Carnival.

This year our grounds staff were the deserved winners of the grounds man of the year awards in their category for the standards they have set in maintaining the football pitches at the George Pitcher Memorial Ground.

Although we did not win the Best Kept Village award in the winner's category we did receive a certificate of merit which showed a continuing improvement on the previous year.

We were able to ensure that the new footpath to the war memorial was installed in time for the Remembrance Day parade and some initial renovation work was completed on the memorial itself.

In December the jubilee roses from Bucks County Council were planted at the front entrance to Burnham Park Hall.

I was pleased that as a committee we took on the challenge of contributing to the Christmas spirit by providing a village tree and lights, despite repeated vandalism to the lights we ensured that the lights were still bright for Christmas Day. I continue to

believe that we should not be deterred in ensuring the pleasure given to the residents and visitors of Burnham should not be ruined by a thoughtless few.

In the last 9 months we have achieved a considerable amount of what we had planned and in some case more, particularly as we found it necessary to purchase a new tractor. I would like to thank all the members of this committee who have worked hard and often outside normal committee times to deliver this committee's work which is the very public face of this Council.

However, we still have three months to go in this financial year to complete some of the projects to which we allocated funding either through the revenue budget or ear marked from reserves, and on tonight's budget agenda we will be considering how to progress some of these issues."

Cllr H P Evans requested that the good work of the street cleaners which contributed to the upkeep of the village should be acknowledged and that with regard to the Best Kept Village there was a need for more community involvement particularly from businesses in the High Street.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the Chairman's report be noted.

81. **Planning Application 03/08501/ADJ re permitted development of a telecommunications pole outside Burnham Park.**

Members received a planning application for the permitted development of a telecommunications pole and associated equipment next to the boundary of Burnham Park in Priory Road within the Slough Council area.

Members expressed concern regarding the proposed development and requested that their objections should be passed on to the planning committee for further comment.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the planning committee should register the Council's objection to this development on the grounds of its impact on the openness of the area and on green spaces.

82. **Access to 9 Opendale Road**

Members received a request from Mr J C Day of 9 Opendale Road, Burnham requesting access to the rear of his property from the Stomping Ground. Members noted that this was not the first time a request had been received from property owners on Opendale Road and in the past permission had been refused. Concern was expressed regarding the Health and Safety issues of manoeuvring a caravan on a public access road. In addition permission would also have to be obtained from SBDC as head lease holders.

Members were also concerned that the storage of a trailer or caravan may be a breach in the terms and conditions of the deed of the property.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the request should be refused as it would set a precedence for further requests.
- ◆ That the request should be refused on the grounds of Health and Safety conditions.

- ◆ That the Parish Council would not be able to give full consent as part of the land was owned by SBDC.

83. **St Peter's Culvert.**

Cllr E J Glover at the request of the Chairman was invited to take part in the discussion of the development of the culvert.

Cllr E J Glover informed the meeting that in an earlier proposal to the Council it was agreed that the culvert area should be developed and although some dangerous trees had been removed. Cllr E J Glover expressed concern that no further progress had been made on the development.

Members discussed the history of the proposal for the development of the culvert area including the concreting in of the area.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had attended a site visit with the Executive Officer and a firm of local contractors regarding the initial works to be undertaken and that an estimate for the clearance of the stream and the some landscaping had been obtained. The committee had already earmarked £5000 from reserves in the 2003/04 budget for this work to be completed and the cost of the work was approximately £4,350. Under financial regulations a further 2 quotations for this work would have to be obtained, however obtaining the additional quotes was going to prove very difficult as there were very few companies which could undertake the tree surgery work and the clearance of the ground work.

Cllr J Somers proposed and Cllr D R Pepler seconded that under Financial Regulations 44(c) that due to the difficulty in obtaining three tenders that standing orders should be waived to accept the one estimate and to progress with the work. There were no amendments to the proposal and the proposition was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

- ◆ That full Council be requested to waive standing orders to accept one quote for work to be undertaken on the St Peter's culvert.

**Date and time of the next meeting**

84. **Monday 17 March 2003 at 7.30 pm**

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

85. **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 .....