

Burnham Parish Council Notes of the Land Securities Committee

Notes of the meeting of the Land Securities Committee held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 6:30pm in the Committee Room at Burnham Park, Burnham.

Members of the Committee present:

Cllr Judith Foster (Acting Chair)	Paul Sherriff
Jo Sommer	Andrew Strathdee
Dawn Grieve	

In attendance:

Officers of the Council:	Sheridan Edward (Parish Clerk)
	Tabish Wazir (Deputy Clerk)

298 Apologies

Cllr Alan Samson, Cllr Jackie Slater

The Committee noted that the meeting was not quorate and therefore the following items were for discussion only.

299 Declarations of interest

None.

300 Public Forum

None.

301 Minutes

As the meeting was not quorate the Committee was unable to approve the minutes of the Land Securities Committee meeting of 19th October 2016.

302 Matters arising

Jennery Lane toilets. Members of the Committee raised concerns over the time taken to complete the renovation work and the lack of clarity over the costs involved. In particular, it was felt that the Committee was unable to make informed recommendations on future spending from the High Street Improvement Fund whilst the remaining available funds were unknown. The Clerk confirmed that this was one of the reasons why the Policy & Resources Committee had recommended that funding be suspended until final project costs had been ascertained. The Clerk also confirmed that building costs were still unknown as further issues were identified. The Clerk stated that it had been very frustrating for all involved, but that the Council was committed to ensuring that the work was completed to the standard expected by both the Council and residents. He also stated that the matter of both the remedial work and any legal action were being dealt with by the Policy & Resource Committee and Council.

Weedkilling. The Clerk reported that following the Committee previous recommendation that the Council carry out the weedkilling in-house, Transport for Bucks had stated that they had ceased undertaking weedkilling along footways due to concerns over the toxicity of glyphosate-based chemicals. They'd also stated that there were no other effective alternatives on the market. The Clerk stated that these were the same chemicals used by the Parish Council's groundsmen, and therefore they were waiting on developments before making a final decision.

303 Finances

The Committee noted the Land Securities fund summaries to 4th October 2016 and the Clerk confirmed the additional items of expenditure incurred on the Jennery Lane toilets.

304 Christmas lights

Jo Sommer reported that the new contractor had done a good job and all the lights were all up and working. She stated that several replacement items such as transformers had been needed which had increased the overall cost of the project, and that they were fundraising for the remaining amount.

305 Signage

The Clerk reported that he had met with Martin Bolton from Transport for Bucks. They had agreed to install two brown directional signs for St Peter's Church. The Committee felt that the positioning of the first should be at the Jennery Lane junction with Hogfair Lane and not Reedham Road, as suggested. Martin had also suggested that the Council consider installing new signs on the empty fingerpost column at the Jennery Lane car park, and also a new fingerpost sign at the foot of the High Street. The Clerk was investigating the costs and would report back. Paul Sherriff also suggested that permanent signs advertising the Wednesday market be added to the fingerpost signs.

306 Highway infrastructure

The Clerk reported that the county councillors had stated that they were in discussions with Transport for Bucks over the design of the final resurfacing scheme, which would include the entire length of the High Street. It was expected that the design would retain the raised cobbled areas and also refresh the lines. The Clerk had been informed that the Council would be consulted on the designs, and that this would provide another opportunity to feed in the recommendations of the access survey. The Clerk had also received clarification from the Local Area Technician that dropped kerbs for vehicular access across the footway were often not flush with carriageway in order to prevent flooding of the footway.

The Committee reiterated concerns over the incidents of parking on the pavement outside Costa / The Red Lion. The Clerk confirmed that these should be reported to the Police on 101. Dawn Grieve reported that she had had a poor response from PCSOs when requested to deal with one incident, although they had confronted the offender. The Clerk also reported on a scheme the Parish

Council was looking to establish with staff members being trained as Police Support Volunteers to log and issue letters to those parking dangerously or obstructing the footway. Staff members were being vetted, a process that was expected to take 12-16 weeks.

307 Bunting

Paul Sherriff had obtained quote for both the bunting and its installation / removal. The one-off cost to buy the bunting was c.£310 and the annual installation cost was £380. It was expected that the budget over three years, including any maintenance or additional lengths would be £2,000. The members of the Committee asked that the Clerk request that the funding from the High Street Improvement Fund be approved by the Council.

308 Noticeboard on Church Street

The Committee noted that the work on the noticeboard had been completed.

309 Marketing

Paul Sherriff suggested that Burnham create a new leaflet publicising the village, and presented leaflets from various towns as examples for the Committee to consider. The Clerk felt that it was essential to identify the key characteristics and selling points of the village and High Street, and its target markets, before deciding on how best to market it to those demographics. The Clerk also felt that the committee format was not the most conducive environment for determining the marketing strategy, and suggested that Paul and the BBA arrange a separate group to formulate a proposal for the Council. Jo Sommer suggested that a marketing company the BBA had been working with come and present to the Council their proposal for marketing the village. Jo would raise this with the marketing company and request that they attend the January Council meeting.

310 Other proposals

Musicians. Jo Sommer had written on behalf of Burnham Business Association to request further funding from the High Street Improvement Fund for musical entertainment on the High Street at weekends. The Clerk noted that the request did not include many salient details required for the Committee or Council to make an informed decision. He noted that there was no amount requested, no details of the suggested programme of events it would be funding, and no report on the value or impact the project had delivered so far. The Clerk would forward a generic grant application form template to Jo Sommer to help guide the BBA in the application process.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

Next meeting: to be confirmed