

Burnham Parish Council
Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 23rd January 2024 at 6:30pm in Burnham Park Hall.

Committee members present:

Cllr Ekta Kaur Ross (Chair)
Cllr John Carey
Cllr Graham Mummery

Cllr Pat Bird
Cllr Marie Hammon

Cllr Paul Bunce
Cllr Carol Linton

In attendance:

Officers of the Council:

Steve Milton – Locum Parish Clerk
Laiba Malik – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public 0

RA24/01. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from the Vice Chair, Cllr Lindsey Chatralia, and the reasons given were accepted.

RA24/02. Declarations of interest

Cllr Marie Hammon declared an interest in the matter set out under minute RA24/08 (b) below.

RA24/03. Public Forum

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

RA24/04. Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th November be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

RA24/05. Finance Reports

The Assistant Clerk provided a budget update report (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the finance report be noted and approved.

RA24/06. George Pitcher Memorial Ground

The Assistant Clerk reported that there was no report on hires or catering unit operation available for this meeting due to the Christmas break.

RESOLVED: that reports on ground hires and catering unit operations be included with all future R&A agendas.

RA24/07. Parks & Playgrounds

a) Head Groundsman's report

The Committee considered the Head Groundsman's report (previously circulated). The Assistant Clerk provided an update on fallen trees due to the recent Storm Isha. Works were underway to remove the fallen trees and damaged limbs and a survey of the trees on Council owned land would be undertaken following Storm Jocelyn which was due to hit the following day. Members asked that the Locum Clerk take a look at the previous comprehensive tree report to help inform the forthcoming survey. The Committee further noted that the path across Burnham Park was now delegated to the Burnham Park Management Committee and was no longer within its remit.

b) Shrubs at the tennis courts

The Committee asked if there was an adequate budget to cover the cost of new shrubs at the tennis courts, including lavender to fill the existing gaps. The Assistant Clerk undertook to discuss this further with the Finance Manager, and if budget permitted, to instruct the Head Groundsman accordingly. Members asked whether the tennis club may wish to assist with the costs and planting – Cllr Hammon agreed to raise this with the club.

c) MUGA lights

The Committee noted that the automatic lighting at the MUGA was not working.

RESOLVED: that the Head Groundsman be asked to inspect the lights and commission any necessary repairs.

RA24/08. Street Furniture and Public Conveniences

The Assistant Clerk reported that a new seat had been installed in the bus shelter on the village green. The committee welcomed the works and reported positive feedback received from bus users. Cllr Bunce reported that he had received a complaint about the condition of the public conveniences. The Assistant Clerk undertook to arrange an inspection and keep cleaning standards under review. The Chair asked if there had been any new requests for memorial benches in the park. The Assistant Clerk reported that there had been no new requests. The Committee asked if this service could be promoted with local undertakers, churches and in the library.

RA24/09. Repairs and Maintenance

The Committee noted the Head Groundsman's report (previously circulated) on the purchase of a whacker plate to facilitate the levelling and repair of paths. The Assistant Clerk reported that she had researched the cost of a machine, and this was likely to be in the region of £250 - £350. Members asked if any special health and safety training would be needed for operatives. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Head Groundsman would provide any necessary training.

RESOLVED: that the purchase of a whacker plate be approved at a cost in the region of £250-£350.

RA24/010. Climate Emergency

The Committee received an update from Cllr Bunce. He informed the Committee that he was in the process of updating the action plan and this would be submitted to the next meeting. The Chair felt it was important that the action plan made clear that the priorities had been compiled by the Council's climate consultants, Three Acorns. Members recognised that not all proposals were feasible within the parish, and that work would focus on the delivery of those proposals that were achievable. Arising from this discussion, members considered a suggestion that the Council should move away from petrol-powered garden machinery to electric tools where possible. The Assistant Clerk agreed to discuss this further with the Locum Clerk and report back to a future meeting.

RA24/011. Healthy Walks around Burnham

The Committee enquired whether the local working group might consider walking the routes and reporting the findings. The Chair agreed to walk the routes in the next week or two. The Assistant Clerk agreed to review the leaflets to check they were still up to date.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26th March

Signature: _____

Date: 26/03/2024