

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room

MINUTES

Present: Cllr D. Rushton (Chair of Recreation and Lands)
Cllr J Fowler Cllr E Leppard
Cllr D Olley Cllr P Peers
Cllr T Stevenson

Proper Officer: P Eldridge

There were no members of the public present.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2015 were approved at the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2015.

1. **Apologies.** Cllr T McTeague.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Public Session.** To allow members of the public to ask questions and address the Chairman. There were no members of the public present.
4. **Village Centre.**
 - a. Any issues. There were no issues reported.
 - b. Any maintenance issues. Cllr D Rushton noted that the bushes around the sign pointing to the Millstream toilets and car park at the corner of College Farm still required to be trimmed so the sign can be seen.
Action: Clerk to arrange the trimming of bushes.
5. **Rivermead.**
 - a. To receive an update on Footpath No 8. Cllr D Rushton noted that he had received an email from the OCC Field Officer confirming that he would make enquiries into why work had not yet started on improving the surface. Cllr Rushton continued that councillors should note that the parish council is holding £1000 of Benson and District Angling Society funding towards the work on the footpath as he is not standing for re-election as a Benson parish councillor.
 - b. To receive an update on the installation of new gates along the Thames path at Benson Marina. Cllr D Rushton explained that he had nothing to report and that the next action was with the owner of the land to install the gates.
 - c. Any maintenance issues:
 - i. Cllr D Rushton reported that there would be a meeting with Lincoln Pools to get advice on how best to maintain the Rivermead paddling pool. Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 15th April 2015.
 - ii. Cllr P Peers asked when the remaining seats in the Rivermead Shelter would be repaired to the same standard as the recent repair. Cllr Rushton answered that currently the seats were serviceable and that the previous repair had been carried out as an experiment to enable councillors to review the quality of work using Plaswood Boards. Cllr D Olley noted he was worried about the additional fire risk using Plaswood

materials. Cllr Rushton answered that there was no additional fire risk with Plaswood when compared with wood.

d. Any other issues. There were no other issues.

6. Allotments.

a. Allotment allocation update and report:

i. Cllr D Rushton reported that there were no changes since the previous report. Cllr E Leppard asked if the allotment where the shed fire occurred was still being worked. Cllr Rushton answered that he thought it was but would double check.

ii. Cllr E Leppard noted that the allotment directly opposite the allotment where the shed fire occurred was not currently well looked after. Cllr T Stevenson suggested that 3 Monthly inspections could be carried out to identify any allotments not being fully worked. Cllr D Rushton responded that he would make the suggestion to his successor as Chair of Recreation and Lands.

iii. Cllr D Olley inquired if there was a long waiting list for allotments and whether it would be worth reconsidering asking SODC if they would make available land at the Mere for allotments. Cllr Rushton answered that currently there was no waiting list and in any event it could take considerable time and effort to negotiate and set up additional allotment space.

b. Any issues. There were no other issues.

c. Any maintenance issues:

i. Cllr T Stevenson noted that it might be worth levelling out the areas where Agrivert dumps compost for the benefit of Benson residents and removing weeds from the perimeter of the areas. Clerk noted that he hoped to do this at some point when the Unpaid Work Team is allocated back to Benson.

ii. Cllr Leppard and Stevenson asked when the next replenishment of compost was due. Cllr Rushton said he would request more compost on both sites during the Agrivert Liaison Meeting to be held Tuesday 14th April 2015.

7. Play Areas.

a. Any issues. Cllr D Olley noted that the solitary tree in the Sunnyside play area was slowly growing bigger and outwards onto the metal tree guard. Cllr Olley continued by asking if it was time to remove the guard. Cllr T Stevenson agreed to visit the tree with the clerk to review the situation and decide what action was required.

Action: Cllr Stevenson and Clerk to investigate situation with regards to the tree guard around the tree in the Sunnyside play area.

b. Any maintenance issues. Cllr D Rushton noted that the clerk had arranged a meeting with Wicksteed Playgrounds to get quotes to refurbish the Sunnyside play area.

8. Bertie West Field (BWF).

a. Any issues. There were no issues reported.

b. Any maintenance issues:

i. To note that Azalea Landscapes will carry out brush cutting in BWF until External Contractor can attend a brush cutter course. Cllr D Rushton reported that it was necessary for a separate contractor to maintain BWF while the external contractor was waiting to attend chainsaw and brush cutter certification. As soon as the required certifications had been acquired then maintenance of BWF would revert to the external contractor.

- ii. Cllr Rushton noted that the school allotment had been recently dug over.

9. **Sunnyside.**

a. To note that Azalea Landscapes has completed the maintenance on the Sunnyside hedge along the Watlington Road adjacent to the Parish Hall car park. In response to a question from Cllr E Leppard on the provision of a wire net fence to cover the gaps caused by the removal of the Elder trees Cllr D Rushton noted that a paling fence had been erected as a more sturdy option to wire netting fence. Cllr T Stevenson noted that wire mesh can be attached to the paling fence should a requirement occur. Cllr Stevenson continued that the new council should consider the removal of other Elder trees along Hale Road section of the Sunnyside perimeter fence.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for the removal of Elder trees along the Sunnyside perimeter fence adjacent to Hale Road.

b. To note the response Chalgrove Cavaliers FC with regards to the use of the Sunnyside football pitches. Cllr D Rushton briefed councillors that there was no spare capacity at the weekend due to the increase in usage by the local Benson United Football Club youth teams and that consequently the response to Chalgrove Cavaliers had been negative.

c. Any other issues. Cllr T Stevenson observed he had received ‘Tweets’ noting the amount of dog fouling occurring around all areas of the Sunnyside recreation area and asking for additional dog bins. Cllr D Rushton responded that dog fouling is an ongoing issue around Benson village and that dog mess can now be discarded in any litter bin saving the cost of emptying specific dog bins. Cllr Rushton continued that 5 additional litter bins would be installed around the village before the end of April. With regards to Sunnyside other than more signage and articles in the Benson Bulletin the only possible sanction could be to impose a ‘dogs on lead’ policy on the Sunnyside recreation area. Cllr Rushton completed his response by saying that he did not feel that councillors or parishioners would support a strict ‘dogs on lead’ policy for the Sunnyside recreation area.

d. Any maintenance issues. There was no maintenance issues reported.

10. **Millstream Public Conveniences and Store.**

a. To receive an update on the proposed flower beds at the Millstream Toilets. Cllr D Rushton reported that during work to dig over the proposed flower beds it had been discovered that the most of the area was stony rubble and that a shovel could not penetrate the surface. Cllr Rushton continued that he would meet with Mr J Brannan to discuss options:

- i. Scrape the rubble with a mechanical digger and infill with soil and compost.
- ii. Put in raised flower beds taking care not to cover the toilet damp proof course.
- iii. As an additional option Cllr T Stevenson suggested he might be able to get the ‘Green Gym’ to manually remove the rubble to a suitable level if a skip for the rubble was provided.

b. To receive an update on the provision of automatic locking being installed on the toilet door. Cllr D Rushton noted that he and the clerk had met with Executive Fire Protection Ltd to review additional options for automatic locking of the toilets. Cllr Rushton continued that Executive Fire Protection Ltd had provided 2 additional quotes one at £920 excl VAT for a simplified solution and one at £1416 excl VAT for a similar solution previously quoted for by Laidlaw Interiors Group. Cllr Rushton completed his update by saying he would prepare a brief for councillors ready for the next Benson Parish Council Meeting so they would have the information required to vote on a proposal for a locking solution during the meeting. Cllr Rushton noted that he would not be at the next council meeting but could take any questions up to the day before the meeting.

Action: Cllr Rushton to prepare a brief for councillors and make a proposal during the

April 2015 Benson Parish Council meeting for funding an automatic locking solution for the Millstream Toilets.

c. It was noted that SODC have been in contact with the clerk about the relining of the Millstream car park including the disabled parking bay.

d. Any issues:

i. Cllr D Rushton reported that the clerk had obtained a quote from Mr R Passey to fit a heavy duty slab over the drain incursion into the footpath along the front of the new Millstream Toilets. Cost would be £465 +vat. Councillors agreed that since the incursion was a serious hazard to wheelchair users and the cost was well within the limits that could be authorised by the clerk in conjunction with the Recreation and Lands committee chair clerk should order the work to be carried out ASAP.

Action: Clerk to order work to cover the drain incursion into the Millstream Toilet footpath.

ii. Cllr D Rushton noted that the clerk would be asking SODC about a railing along the footpath adjacent to the Millstream Toilet and a dropped kerb at the Northern end of the footpath during the site recce for relining and moving of the disabled bay closer to the toilet.

e. Any maintenance issues. There were no maintenance issues

11. **General.**

a. Councillors noted that the invoice for the pollarding of the Willow trees along the brook adjacent to the allotments and Cuckoo Pen has been received.

b. Councillors noted the response from parishioners to the article in the Benson Bulletin with regards to the Aldridge Triangle area set aside for wild life.

c. Councillors noted that the external contractor has been allocated a chainsaw course and that a chainsaw and some protective equipment had been ordered for the parish council. In answer to a question Cllr J Fowler confirmed that the external contractor is covered by parish council liability insurance whilst carrying out work for the parish council.

12. **Items to Note.**

a. Cllr P Peers asked when the new rubbish bins would be delivered. Clerk responded that he had contacted the supplying company and they explained that the order had been trapped by the company SPAM filter. Clerk continued that the order was being expedited and he expected delivery within 2 weeks.

b. Cllr J Fowler asked whether the speed monitoring service had been ordered at the agreed cost of £250. Cllr D Rushton responded that he had not yet ordered the service but would ASAP and copy the clerk.

Action: Cllr Rushton to order speed monitoring service.

c. Cllr E Leppard noted she was still trying to arrange the delivery of the large log to Aldridge Triangle to mount the fields in trust plaque on.

d. Cllr T Stevenson noted that the new sign for Millbrook Mead had been installed.

e. Cllr D Rushton noted that this was his last meeting as chair of Recreation and Lands Committee. Cllr Rushton continued by thanking all of the members of the committee for their support during his tenure. Cllr J Fowler responded on behalf of committee members thanking Cllr Rushton for all of the work he had done as chair.

13. **To consider any other items brought to the meeting.** No other items were brought to the meeting.

14. **Date and location of next meeting:** Thursday 11th June 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PEldridge'.

Peter Eldridge
Parish Clerk
17th April 2015

Annex A
Actions for Receptions and Land Meeting as at 12th February 2015

Serial No	Action	Assigned To
1.	Clerk to get quotes for signs and posts for BWF. R&L Minutes dated 23rd May 2013 (9.c.i). <i>Out of date. Item closed.</i>	Clerk
2.	Clerk to get quotes for gates and posts R&L Minutes dated 23rd May 2013 (9.c.ii). <i>Out of date. Item closed.</i>	Clerk
3.	Clerk to contact the owner of the owners of Willow Tree overhanging board walk to remind them that work is required on tree, R & L Minutes dated 20th June 2013 (7.b.ii). <i>Out of date. Item closed..</i>	Clerk
4.	Produce an agreement for users of the Collage Farm Electric Socket. R & L Minutes dated 18 th July 2013 (4.a.). <i>Out of date. Item closed..</i>	Clerk
5.	Clerk to report cracked manhole cover at scout hut to Thames Water. R & L Minutes dated 20 th February 2014 (8.b.i.). <i>In progress</i>	Clerk
6.	Clerk to arrange to clear foliage from sign. Minutes dated 13th November 2014 (4.a.). <i>In progress.</i>	Clerk
7.	Clerk to investigate the installation of an automatic timer lock and set up a roster for the manual locking of the toilets. Minutes dated 13th November 2014 (10.b.). <i>Action complete. Item closed.</i>	Clerk
8.	Clerk to arrange brush cutter course and certification. Minutes dated 12 th February 2015 (8.b.i.). <i>Course arranged. Item closed.</i>	Clerk
9.	Clerk to purchase root puller. Minutes dated 12 th February 2015 (8.b.i.). <i>In progress.</i>	Clerk
10.	Clerk to arrange the work with Unpaid Work Team coordinator. Minutes dated 12 th February 2015 (11.a.). <i>In progress.</i>	Clerk
11.	Cllr Rushton to prepare an article for Benson Bulletin and for R&L to review the trial in the light of the responses. Minutes dated 12th February 2015 (11.b.viii.). <i>Article submitted. Item closed.</i>	Cllr T Stevenson Clerk

12. Clerk to arrange the trimming of bushes. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (4.b.). **Clerk**
Bushes trimmed. Item closed.
13. Cllr Stevenson and Clerk to investigate situation with regards to the tree guard around the tree in the Sunnyside play area. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (7.a.). **Cllr T Stevenson
Clerk**
In progress.
14. Clerk to obtain quotes for the removal of Elder trees along the Sunnyside perimeter fence adjacent to Hale Road. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (9.a.). **Clerk**
In progress.
15. Cllr Rushton to prepare a brief for councillors and make a proposal during the April 2015 Benson Parish Council meeting for funding an automatic locking solution for the Millstream Toilets. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (10.b.). **Cllr D Rushton**
Brief and proposal processed. Item closed.
16. Clerk to order work to cover the drain incursion into the Millstream Toilet footpath. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (10.d.i.). **Clerk**
Work ordered. Item closed.
17. Cllr Rushton to order speed monitoring service. Minutes dated 9th April 2015 (12.b.). **Cllr D Rushton**
Speed monitoring in place on Brook Street. Item closed.