

**Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee meeting held
on Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7:30PM in the Committee Room**

Present: Cllr P Baylis (CPB) (Chair)
Cllr D Olley (CDO)
Cllr T Stevenson (CTS)

Proper Officer: D Brooks (CLK)

MINUTES

1. **Election of chair:** Cllr Baylis was proposed and elected, unanimously.
Apologies: Cllr S McCann, Cllr P Murray
2. **Declarations of Interest.** – There were no declarations of interest
3. **Public Session.** There were no members of the public present
4. **Village Centre**
 - a. Update on actions from last meeting: it has been agreed that the tubs and noticeboards should be refurbished. This will be a joint venture by the Greengrocers, Benson Tidy Group and the groundsman. **Action:** CTS to advise on product to be used. **CTS**

The College Farm White lining renewal has been completed. Warwick Spinney meeting deferred until after the BCA meeting, due the end of June. **CTS**
 - b. An update from John Sharman was provided. Gravel has been placed around the trees by the bus shelter, the area around the fish and chip van has been tidied. Next task is to try to clean the bus shelters on A4074 (Saturday 16th June). Weeds need attention at Bob's Corner. Suggestion is to use acetic acid, mixed with soap, rather than weed-killer. **Action:** clerk to liaise with John and others. **Next sessions are 7th July and 4th August.** **CLK**
 - c. Following an e-mail from the Garden Club, the clerk has contacted all tub owners again asking if they still want to be involved. Only a few have replied. Contact will be ongoing.
 - d. The bicycle rack at Bob's Corner has been vandalized and is beyond repair. **Action:** clerk to order stronger replacement and to put item in Benson Bulletin. **CLK**
5. **Rivermead:**
 - a. The Thames Path entrance is in a poor state of repair and the clerk has contacted the relevant people at OCC; now waiting for a response.
 - b. A request for a commemorative bench, received some time ago, has now been confirmed by the resident.

Recommendation to Full Council that "Mr S Pollard be permitted to place a bench (similar the Queen Elizabeth commemorative benches) under the willow at Rivermead, at his own cost. Mr Pollard is reminded that responsibility for the bench reverts to the Parish Council after a period of 3 years".

Action: Clerk to contact the family and confirm details including that the builder to be used has Public Liability Insurance.

- A request for a Memorial Plaque to be placed at Rivermead has also been received. It was suggested this could be sited on the outside of the Shelter (maximum size and design to be agreed) unless the residents will consider purchasing a picnic bench on which the plaque could be placed. **Action:** clerk to contact family with proposal. **CLK**
6. **Allotments.**
- a. A dispute between two allotment holders has been settled thanks to CTS and T Ellis. There is still a short waiting list and some allotments are in a rather poor condition. Holders are regularly contacted by Tanya. CDO reported that Warborough operate a policy whereby others can adopt an allotment for a season if usual holder is unwell etc. **Action:** HMR/Clerk to discuss. Policy also to be reviewed at the next meeting to include offering the allotment to the family if holder dies. **CLK/HMR**
- b. No other issues
7. **Play Areas:**
- a. Two quotes have now been received for the relocation of the anthill climber; one is £2004 + VAT, the other £5070 + VAT. Since the quotes vary considerably, a third one is to be sought. **CLK**
- b. The piece of equipment which needs replacing at Sunnyside was discussed. A table tennis table had been suggested which was fully supported by all but it was felt this should be placed where it was more accessible for all age groups; perhaps Rivermead? **Action:** investigate costs of a mound/tunnel and re-visit equipment list voted on by Primary School. **CLK/RFO/CPB**
- c. The opening ceremony for the new play equipment installed at St Helens: a date and time needs to be decided and relevant groups invited. The various fencing options at St Helens need consideration. **Action:** Clerk and chair to discuss **CLK/CPB**
- d. The reports from the Councillor play inspections need to be brought to the committee. Cllr Lovesey is due to do inspection in June. **Action:** clerk **CLK**
- e. Tyre at Green Close; CTS has suggested it could be filled with earth and planted out. **CTS**
8. **Bertie West Field (BWF).**
- a. The Forest School agreement has still not been received.
- b. The allotment is to become a wildflower garden. Benson Nature Group will be given a small amount of money for planting. **BNG**
- c. A fox and cub have been spotted.
9. **Sunnyside.**
- a. The work planting the infill trees on Sunnyside, will be completed by the Green Gym during October – March. **CTS**
- b. The benches have arrived. CTS and CDO have offered to help the groundsman install them. Clerk to liaise. **CLK**
- c. No other issues to report **CLK**
10. **Benson War Memorial.**
- a. The contract for work on the war memorial is now with GEM. **Action:** RFO to establish progress **RFO**

- b. The war memorial garden has been weeded by T Ellis and tended by others whilst R Irwin is in the Falklands.

11. **Benson Brook.**

- a. CTS reported that a small team will work on the board walk during the summer. The non-slip surface was again discussed. **Action:** clerk to check with Came and Co. CTS to investigate type and costs of alternatives. **CTS/CLK**
- b. The gunnera appears to have survived. The hogweed requires treatment so need a return date from contractors. **Action:** Clerk to chase again; also check contract and review at the next meeting. **CLK**
- c. No other issues to report.

12. **General.**

- a. Speed Watch project: PCSOs have agreed a date for training, clerk to progress and then handover.
- b. Overgrown hedges between bus stop and Church Lane: these have now been cut back by groundsman. The Cycle Path which goes from Dorchester to Agrivert is overgrown along its entirety. It is the responsibility of OCC so add to FixMyStreet. May also be worth approaching Cllr Sue Cooper. **CLK**
- c. Deep clean: some work has been done along Blacklands Road. **Action:** clerk to check on progress. **CLK**
- d. The fence around the school field has now been erected except along Oxford Road. The headteacher is seeking advice on the design and planning needed for this. CDO reported concerns about the proximity of the fence to the boundary of the basketball court. There are also concerns about fire evacuation and assembly points for those using the Youth Hall. **Action:** Clerk and HMR to approach Executive Alarms and Fire Service for advice. **CLK/HMR**
- e. One quote for the hedge-laying around the Car Park had been received for £2200. **Action:** clerk to obtain two more quotes and for work to be done in the autumn. **CLK**

Other items to note:

Resident's e-mail concerning extra litter bins along St Helens Avenue. **Action:** Clerk to approach SODC for extra bin half-way along (near to dog bin). **CLK**

13. **Date of Next Meeting.** 13th September 2018



Dianne Brooks, Parish Clerk
15th June 2018