

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
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Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 8th June 2017 at 7:30PM in the Committee Room

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

Proper Officer: A Field (RFO)

MINUTES

1. **Apologies.** Cllr S McCann (CSM), Cllr P Peers (CPP), Cllr J Fowler (CJF), Cllr P Murray (CPM)
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. Discussions with PCSO and funding of a traffic warden - The Clerk met with the PCSOs and they confirmed there is little they can do, however the Village Plaice and Spice Garden have notices displayed in their front window now.
 - b. Signage at College Farm – no further progress
 - c. Parking at Birmingham Yard –
Action: CPB and Clerk to respond to parishioner explaining BPC have not power to take action as this is private land.
 - d. There were no other maintenance issues.
5. **Rivermead:**
 - a. Renewal of shelter seats – waits for Groundsman to fit
 - b. CTS commented that the grass is very long at the moment – RFO confirmed a cut is programmed for w/c 12th June
 - c. CTS expressed concern about the ash trees between Rivermead and the café. They will be assessed as part of the parish wide tree survey planned for August
6. **Allotments.**
 - a. There is now a waiting list for allotments.
 - b. The overgrown plots are to be cleared by McDonalds as part of their community day. Halls Manager will need to write to the plot renters to establish whether they still require the plots and inform them of the clearing (Halls manager has subsequently confirmed that the two plots are not currently rented out. Once they are cleared they will be offered to those on the waiting list)
 - c. Planings for levelling ruts – Mr Passey has offered to do this in the autumn
 - d. CTS reported that the Cuckoo Pen has not been maintained.
Action: RFO to check lease expiry date and send letter enquiring whether the lessor still wished to retain and maintain the area.

CPB/
Clk

HMR

RFO

7. **Play Areas:**

- a. The grant application is in progress for St Helens Avenue
- b. CPB reported a recent accident at Sunnyside play area due to a vandalised piece of equipment. It was immediately fenced off and the insurers have been made aware.

RFO

A revised quote from Wicksteed has now been received

Action: RFO is to query whether it includes the plywood decking for the piece of equipment mentioned above as that is not explicit on the quote

RFO

Recommendation to Full Council:

“Recommendation that Benson Parish Council spend a sum not to exceed £7499 plus VAT for a full refurbishment of play equipment at Sunnyside”

- c. The latest play area inspection report was accepted (carried out prior to the recent vandalism). Next inspection will be carried out by Cllr Lovesey
- d. There were no other issues raised.

8. **Bertie West Field (BWF).**

- a. The landowners agreement has been discussed at the Finance committee and a revised agreement will be submitted to the school for their use of Bertie West field as a Forest School

- b. The fence and gate at the entrance needs replacing before September.

Action: CDO may have a suitable gate and will check

CDO

The willow tree needs attention and will be included in the general review of trees in late summer

9. **Sunnyside.**

- a. Wallingford School sixth form have been asked to take on the maintenance and planting of the small garden at the front of the Hall. We are awaiting their response.

CTS

Action: CTS will chase them up

- b. The work to the paving around the hall is underway

- c. **Action:** Clk to chase Peter Eldridge for costs of the supporting wood for new infill trees.

CLK

Action: CTS to ask Wallingford School if they would be interested in a tree planting project in the autumn

CTS

- d. **Action:** Clk to cost 2 recycled plastic benches to replace those lost by the kicking wall and at the entrance to Hale Road.

CLK

- e. CDO reported complaints by the residents of Hale Road about footballs being kicked into their gardens from the kicking wall. Noted

10. **Benson War Memorial.**

- a. Deferred to next meeting

- b. Deferred to next meeting

- c. **Action:** RFO to ring Lynn Powell to check whether she is working permanently on

RFO

her own or whether other members of the group are still supporting her

As yet there have been no volunteers to take over the maintenance in September.

Action: Clk to put a request in the Benson Bulletin but if there is no response, to ask Nikki Hamilton if the RAF would be prepared to provide volunteers

CLK

11. **Benson Brook.**

- a. Further work to the boardwalk is likely to take place on 1st August at a similar cost to last time.

Action: RFO to order the plastic boards on the PC credit card to be delivered to CTS

RFO

- b. Treatment of the hog weed has taken place on 6th June

- c. CTS report on chemical discharge into the brook has been sent to the Environment Agency

Action: Finance committee to discuss the best approach to the owner of the willow tree overhanging the boardwalk

RFO

12. **General.**

- a. Complaint about parking in Horseshoes Lane – noted

Action: Clk to respond that this is not an issue BPC have any influence over

CLK

- b. Green spaces in new developments – this is a wider legal question and has been referred to the Finance Committee

- c. Kissing gates – no progress however CTS reported possible ragwort growing in the paddock.

Action: CTS will inspect and if it is present CLK will inform the renter. The Green Gym could offer to remove it in August

**CLK/
CTS**

- d. Litter bins – no update yet.

- e. Chainlink fence – there was some confusion about what area the quotes were actually referring to. The Committee also suggested quotes are obtained for “tennis court standard” fencing

Action: CPB and Clk to discuss.

**CLK/
CPB**

- f. Antidog fouling – CPB confirmed that the signage is to proceed but need to check with CLK what has been purchased so far

CTS

- g. Natural Management Signs (ie explanatory information at Aldridge Triangle, Millbrook Mead (boardwalk), etc)

Action: CTS to provide details of where the Ewelme signs were made

13. **Any Other Items to Note or for the Next Agenda**

- a. More soil conditioner is required at both allotments.

Action: Clk to ask Agrivert

CLK

14. **Date of Next Meeting.** 14th September 2017

A Field
9th June 2017