

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ

Tel: 01491 825038 e-mail: clerk@bensonpc.org.uk

Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2017 at 7:30PM in the Committee Room

Present: Cllr P Baylis (CPB) (Chair)
Cllr J Fowler (CJF)
Cllr S McCann (CSM)
Cllr T Stevenson (CTS)

Proper Officer: D Brooks (CLK)

MINUTES

1. **Apologies.** Cllr P Murray (CPM), Cllr D Olley (CDO), Cllr P Peers (CPP)
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. The proprietor of the Chiltern Greengrocer contacted the Council asking if some of the shops could set up a Saturday Market with stalls in Bob's Corner. Members did not object to this idea but emphasized that any Community Group/Charitable activities would take precedent. The establishments would also need to check if a Street Traders License was needed.

They also asked if parking restrictions could be introduced. Members felt this was not practical as it could not be enforced.

Finally, a request was made to site a cage with wheels for selling wood and coal outside the Green Grocers. Members did not object to this if it did not block the pavement. They requested more information about the size and position of the cage.

Action: clerk to respond CLK
 - b. The Keep Benson Tidy Group have continued to work on Bob's Corner and feel another day should complete the activity. The next task may be to clean up some of the more accessible road signs. The next day will be on Saturday 25th November. Any ideas for projects will be welcomed. To help market the group the clerk will investigate High Vis jackets with logos. **Action:** Clerk to investigate CLK
 - c. Members agreed that the letter concerning parking in College Farm, drafted by the clerk, could be distributed to residents. **Action:** clerk to distribute CLK
 - d. Many thanks to Peter Keable who has again offered to provide the Christmas Tree at Bob's Corner. Discussions with Cala Homes are taking place as they have also offered to sponsor some Christmas lights or decorations.

Another bicycle rack is due to be installed at Bob's Corner soon.
5. **Rivermead:**
 - a. Azalea has confirmed a start date of 4th December for the work at Rivermead; the type of non-slip surface will be agreed on completion of stage 1.

Recommendation to Full Council:

“Recommendation that Benson Parish Council engage Azalea Landscapes to refurbish the unofficial entrance to Rivermead, from the A4074, at a cost not to exceed £2500.”

- b. There was an incident last month when a number of ice cream cartons, complete with ice cream, were dumped into the river at Rivermead. This was reported to SODC who are treating it as a serious Fly-tipping incident.
6. **Allotments.**
- a. There is still a waiting list for allotments; although some have been re-allocated.
 - b. Wood chippings are needed for the allotments. These have been requested and are awaiting delivery.
7. **Play Areas:**
- a. The positioning of the new play equipment at St Helen’s was again discussed and it was decided that the Rope Swing should be sited near the top of the play area. This will entail further costs of around £800. **CLK/CPB**
Action: Clerk and Chair to progress, including contact with residents.
 - b. The painting of the Helter Skelter is the only outstanding task at Sunnyside. This should be completed soon.
 - c. The rota for Councillor Play Inspections is: October CTS, November CDO and December CPP. The procedure needs to be tightened up. **ALL**
 - d. CPB and CJF met recently with a resident who has objected to the siting of the Anthill Climber at Green Close. **CLK/CPB**
Action: Clerk and Chair to investigate the costs and practicalities of moving the piece of equipment.
8. **Bertie West Field (BWF).**
- a. The Forest School agreement has been sent and we are waiting confirmation from the Primary School.
 - b. No other issues
9. **Sunnyside.**
- a. Azalea Landscapes have been asked to quote for the work planting the infill trees on Sunnyside. **CLK**
Action: clerk to provide Azalea with further information including the type and number of trees.
 - b. The installation of the benches (kicking wall and Hale Road) are next on the work rota list.
 - c. No other issues
10. **Benson War Memorial.**
- a. A grant has been confirmed for work on the War Memorial
Recommendation to council:

“Recommendation that Benson Parish Council spend a maximum of £350, for works on the War Memorial, subject to receipt of the balance as a grant from the War Memorials Trust.”

- b. It was agreed by members, at the meeting, that the budget for the War Memorial garden could be increased to £600 for the Centenary year 2018.

Action: CPB to check budget allocation

CPB

- c. There were no other maintenance issues.

11. Benson Brook.

- a. The Green Gym are available to work on maintenance of the boardwalk on November 28th. The most damaged sections will be repaired first. A programme of removal of the chicken wire needs to be investigated alongside potential options for an alternative. **Action:** CTS and CLK

**CTS/
CLK**

- b. The Hog weed contractors have met with CPB concerning the mistaken treatment of the Gunnera. They have accepted liability for any plants which do not survive and the operative who made the mistake no longer works for the company. Members present have very reluctantly agreed to the next payment being made.

12. General.

- a. It was confirmed that CIL money could be used for Parking solutions if appropriate.
- b. The Oxfordshire Together contract was discussed at some length especially in terms of the timing of any grass cutting and the areas of responsibility. If the Parish Council took over the contract from OCC and used the Oxfordshire Together contractor, it would give BPC more control over the time and how the verges were cut.

Action: to establish how the grant application to OCC could work to the advantage of the Parish Council.

- c. We have been informed by the Chiltern Society that it is unlikely the kissing gates will be installed before next summer.
- d. There has been no progress on the chain link fence around St Helens.

- e. Risk assessments and maintenance logs – need to be investigated further by CLK and RFO.

**CLK/
RFO**

- f. “Your Rights of Way could be lost forever” It was confirmed that all local ‘Rights of Way’ are covered.

- g. Outdoor fitness within the community scheme – refer to Cllr McTeague to include in the overall strategy for the Parish as a whole.

CLK

- h. No other maintenance issues

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

Conversations between Cllr McCann and the Football Club are ongoing.

14. Date of Next Meeting. 8th February 2018



Dianne Brooks, Parish Clerk

10th November 2017