

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 13th April 2017 at 7:30PM in the Committee Room

Present: Cllr P Baylis (CPB) (Chair) Cllr J Fowler (CJF)
Cllr P Murray (CPM) Cllr D Olley (CDO)
Cllr T Stevenson (CTS)

Proper Officer: D Brooks

MINUTES

1. **Apologies.** Cllr S McCann (CSM), 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. Discussions with PCSO and funding of a traffic warden - No further progress has been made
 - b. Signage at College Farm – no further progress
 - c. Millstream Car Park – SODC has now decided against Benson Parish Council's adoption of the car park.
Action: Cllr Fowler to set up a meeting with Cllr Rob Simister; cabinet member responsible for car parks. **CJF**
 - d. There were no other maintenance issues.
5. **Rivermead:**
 - a. Renewal of shelter seats – measurements have been obtained and materials sourced. **Action:** Clerk to order materials and Groundsman to fit **CLK**
 - b. The flooring of the Jetty has been refurbished, a new lock installed on the gate and the posts have been capped. Salters completed the work at the request of the council.
A request was made for all trees in the parish to be professionally assessed **CLK**
Action: Clerk to approach appropriate companies
6. **Allotments.**
 - a. There is now a waiting list for allotments. Cllr Olley suggested that where allotment holders may be incapacitated and allotments are not being cared for that they are offered on a short-term lease. **Action:** HMR to approach possible parties on an informal basis. **HMR**
 - b. St Helens Avenue ruts – the bricks which were standing proud of the surface have been removed. An offer has been made to approach H&J for road planings, if possible for ruts either side of the road.
 - c. There were no other issues raised.
7. **Play Areas:**
 - a. The school children voted for the pieces of equipment and the Grant application has now to be completed before the end of April for 4 pieces in total.

- Action:** RFO to complete grant RFO
- b. A revised quote from Wickstead has still not been issued. **Action:** Clerk to chase CLK
- c. Actions from the previous Play area inspection have been completed or are ongoing. Cllr who is to do next monthly inspection to be added as an agenda item for full council. CLK
- d. There were no other issues raised.
8. **Bertie West Field (BWF).**
- a. Discussions between BPC and the Primary School concerning the use of Bertie West Field as a 'Forest School' have progressed well. The aims of a Forest School and an outline of the programme has been requested.
- Recommendation to Full Council:**
- “Recommendation that Benson Parish Council agrees, in principle, to allow Benson CoE Primary School to conduct Forest School classes on Bertie West field as of 1 September 2017, subject to the following: that the Landowner/Governor Agreement be reviewed by the Finance committee; that the trees be inspected by a qualified tree surgeon.”**
- Once agreed, in principle, a recommendation will need to go to the Finance Committee. Some maintenance/clearing work will be required and new fencing plus a gate. CLK
- Action:** Clerk to investigate costs and budget for this
9. **Sunnyside.**
- a. Wallingford School sixth form may wish to take on the maintenance and planting of the small garden at the front of the Hall. This would be a project involving budgeting, design and planting and would incorporate existing plants. CLK
- Action:** Clerk to progress
- b. The various quotes and necessary work for paving around the hall were discussed.
- Recommendation to Full Council:**
- “Benson Parish Council to spend no more than £3500 to employ E W Crocket to remove and replace the walkway around the post office due to deteriorating condition and safety concerns.”**
- c. Remedial work on the overflow car park has been completed. Cllr Baylis is investigating a long-term solution. Major tree work has been postponed until the Autumn and the tree on Sunnyside due to be felled will also be postponed if possible. CPB
- d. No other issues were raised.
10. **Benson War Memorial.**
- a. Cllr McCann had sent an update but it was agreed to defer further discussion until the next meeting.
11. **Benson Brook.**
- a. The initial work on Millbrook Boardwalk has been completed. Further work may be possible on 13th May. CLK/
- Action:** Cllr Stevenson to inform clerk of materials required who will then order on his behalf. CTS

b. There is fast growth of Hog weed in two areas – next treatment has been offered for 24th May. **Action:** Clerk to push for an earlier date

CLK

12. General.

a. No further updates from the Chiltern Society.

b. To receive an update on the placement and costing of additional litter bins around the village. No progress reported

c. An official opening of the commemorative benches and photo shoot took place on 7th April; the Henley Standard attended.

CLK/

d. The Clerk is obtaining quotes for replacing the chain link but progress is slow. Cllr Stevenson to investigate which trees/shrubs have been cut down. **Action:** Clerk & CTS

CTS

e. CPM and CPB have re-visited requirements for the anti-dog-fouling signage. Using existing poles etc. the cost has been reduced to about £780. CJF recommended any decisions were deferred until the next meeting to allow a proper assessment of the effectiveness of the pink spray. This was generally accepted.

f. The issue of access around the gate on the Thames path at Rivermead is being progressed by the Thames Path National Trails contact.

13. Any Other Items to Note or for the Next Agenda - none

14. Date of Next Meeting. 8th June 2017.

D. Brooks
Parish Clerk
18th April 2017