

## BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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### Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7:30PM in the Committee Room

**Present:** Cllr P Baylis (CPB) (Chair) Cllr S McCann (CSM)  
Cllr P Murray (CPM) Cllr D Olley (CDO)  
Cllr T Stevenson (CTS)

**Proper Officer:** D Brooks (CLK)

#### MINUTES

1. **Apologies.** Cllr J Fowler (CJF), 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 pot hole at College Farm is still in need of repair. **Action:** Clerk to chase Hazell and Jeffries yet again **CLK**
  - b. The Residents within College Farm need to be reminded that the car park is owned by the Parish Council and there is no allocation of parking spaces for residents. **Action:** Chair and clerk to compose a generic letter to all residents in the College Farm area. **CLK/CPB**

A reminder that Mr John Sharman is organising his first volunteering activity at Bob's corner on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 10am – 1pm. Please support the event if you can. **ALL**
5. **Rivermead:**
  - a. The clerk is obtaining quotes for work to be completed on the Rivermead entrance. In the meantime, it remains closed.
  - b. The gate between Rivermead and the Café has now been adapted so that it opens both ways. Many thanks to Benson Waterfront for doing this. **CLK**

The oldest picnic bench has been deliberately damaged and now has only one seat. It was agreed that the old bench should be removed and a replacement discussed at the next meeting. **Action:** add to next agenda **CLK**
6. **Allotments.**
  - a. There is still a waiting list for allotments.
  - b. A broken ballcock on one of the water troughs has now been repaired.
7. **Play Areas:**
  - a. Following the St Helen's Avenue site visit from HAGS, a document was circulated with potential positions for the new play equipment. The following were discussed:
    - The need for all dimensions to be provided
    - If the equipment were closer to the rest, it would make it easier to supervise young children

- Double check necessary clearance on the zipwire
- Consider moving an existing piece of equipment?

**Action:** compose a letter to nearest residents giving dimensions and positioning of equipment **CLK/CPB**

- Wicksteed have now advised that their quote did not include labour for painting the helter skelter. They have been told to go ahead anyway and we will find another contractor to do the painting.
- Cllr McCann will do the Play Area inspection 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> September.
- The end of the low wall in the Green Close play area has now been repaired.

**CSM**

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

- The contract for the Forest School is progressing and the clerk has written to the scouts informing them of the situation. There has been some concern expressed with regard to the work done on the Willow. **Action:** clerk to put an entry in the Benson Bulletin.
- The fence and gate at the entrance have now been replaced. Wallingford School have agreed to stain the fence and paint the gate plus tidy the area generally.

**CLK**

#### 9. **Sunnyside.**

- It was reported that there may been a problem with the sycamore but Cllr Stevenson re-assured members that the trees are in good condition.
- There were no other maintenance issues.

#### 10. **Benson War Memorial.**

- A volunteer has come forward to take over the maintenance of the garden. **Action:** CPB to send a formal letter of thanks
- Cllr McCann has registered the War Memorial but still needs to upload photos which will be done once the work has been completed. **Action:** CSM to send quotes for the work to Clk, RFO & CPB
- There were no other maintenance issues.

**CPB**

**CSM**

**CLK**

#### 11. **Benson Brook.**

- Some overgrowth of the Brook was reported plus a tree trunk in the brook upstream from Old London Road. **Action:** CTS to check the overgrowth and engage the services of the Green Gym if appropriate.
- Gunnera plants have been mistakenly treated by the Hog weed contractors. They have been informed and are to send a Senior Operative to investigate. **Action:** clerk to ask for site visit on a Tuesday or Thursday morning with CPB/CTS

**CTS**

**CLK**

#### 12. **General.**

- CPB noted that there have been two cars parked on the pavement near Castle Square. CSM raised the problem of inconsiderate parking by customers of the Fish and Chip shop again.
- We have been informed by the Chiltern Society that the results of the grant application for the kissing gates should be known by the end of October.

- c. The bin at Rivermead is to be installed soon.
  - d. There is no update on the chain link fence currently.
  - e. Anti-dog fouling signs are in hand.
  - f. The current contractor has suggested other areas which may need to be added to the new contract. Extra cuts for BUFC need to be agreed. **CLK**
  - g. Office staff have sourced a temporary maintenance contractor to install the bin at Rivermead and re-point around the paddling pool.
13. **Any Other Items to Note or for the Next Agenda**
- a. CDO noted that the trees on Aldridge Triangle need some attention. **Action:** CTS **CTS**  
to investigate.
  - b. CDO noted that there may be a breach of SODC advertising laws on the garage doors next to the Village Plaice? **Action:** CPM to investigate. **CPM**
  - c. CPB requested any precept projects be identified. **Action:** All **ALL**
14. **Date of Next Meeting.** 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dianne Brooks, Parish Clerk  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2017