

**BENSON PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
10 MAY 2018**

**RECREATION & LANDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following briefly outlines the achievements and ongoing challenges of the Recreation and Lands committee during 2017 / 2018.

**RECREATIONAL**

The additional play equipment, chosen by Benson Primary School children last year, has now been installed at St Helen's Avenue play area. The zip-wire and the viper rope swing look impressive, and the council is planning a grand opening of the equipment with pupils from the school shortly.

The replacement equipment at Green Close play area has taken longer to install: one piece has been installed, but it is possible this will be moved to a more central location in the play area. Both this project, and the second piece of equipment's installation, is currently in-hand.

The broken piece of play equipment had to be removed from the Sunnyside play area, and the area made good. Unfortunately, this piece had reached the end of its life, and it was no longer repairable. The committee will be considering what piece of equipment, if any, should be installed as a replacement during the coming year.

Thanks are due once again to the Green Gym who have helped through the year (as in past years) with the maintenance of the Millbrook Mead, including the boardwalk. Sectional reparation is an on-going project

**VILLAGE CENTRE**

During this past year, a new voluntary group has been formed by Mr John Sharman, called Benson Tidy Group. The council owes sincere thanks to Mr Sharman for being pro-active in forming this group, and in taking it forward. So far, the Group has tidied (weeded and litter-picked) areas of the village centre and is looking to start planting flowers and shrubs in neglected corners of the village. The Group meets monthly during the summer months, and we are sure will welcome anyone who wishes to become involved.

Many thanks are also due to all those who give of their time to make our village flower tubs look so wonderful. Thanks are also due to Grundons for their continuing welcome donation of daffodil bulbs, as well as to Mrs Delia Carlberg for her continued planting and maintenance at the Millstream Toilet Block and a stretch of land along Church Road.

Thanks are once again due to Mr Peter Keable for his welcome donation of a Christmas tree, and to Mr Pete Eldridge (our former Parish Clerk) for continuing to organise much-needed village-wide litter-picks.

## **WAR MEMORIAL**

As was announced last year, the group who kept the war memorial looking so good for many years retired. After a call-out, Mr Richard Irwin came forward to take over this job, and has been doing a wonderful job since last autumn. The council wishes to extend sincere thanks to Mr Irwin for carrying on this job on behalf of the Council, and all parishioners.

## **BERTIE WEST FIELD**

Remedial work was carried out last autumn on the grand old willow in Bertie West Field, due to some of the branches being in a dangerous state. This was completed satisfactorily. The Council also agreed to contract with Benson Primary School for a Forest School to be carried out on Bertie West Field: the contract is now in place

## **ALLOTMENTS**

There is currently a short waiting list for allotments.

## **RIVERMEAD**

Wallingford School Community Projects: students completed the project to re-paint the bridges over Benson Brook off St Helens Way. Students also cleaned up the small building on Rivermead. Thanks, as always, to both School and students for the work they do for the community of Benson.

The informal entrance has been refurbished to make it much safer for users to access Rivermead.

## **THANKS**

Finally, I would like to thank all Parish staff for their hard work, including our Parish Clerk, Dianne Brooks; our Halls Manager, Tanya Ellis (who also manages the allotments and some playground inspections); our Responsible Financial Officer, Anna Field; and our groundsman, Adrian Bates. It is only due to them that the Parish Council, and all committees, can continue to do the work we do.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to all members of the Recreation & Lands Committee for their work and input to the committee's work during 2017/2018.

Patricia Baylis  
Chairman  
Recreation & Lands Committee  
Benson Parish Council