



Minutes of a Meeting of the
AMENITY COMMITTEE
 held on
 Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 8:00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs: Mike Coker (Chairman), Steve Collett, Mark Feazey, Katherine Giles and Paul Smith
Also Present: Ceri Rance, Parish Clerk, Purveen Hira, Amenity Officer,

65. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Leake.

66. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

67. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

68. **REPORTS FOR DECISION**

68.1 **RESURFACING AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN WICKS GREEN CARPARK AND SILVER JUBILEE FIELD**

In the March Council Meeting (*dated: 14.03.23 Min: 146.10*) the Clerk and the Amenity Officer were instructed to carry out further discussions with contractors to ensure that a similar proposal was quoted by all for fair comparison.

The Amenity Officer spoke to Burrows Contractors to extend their spec to include drainage from the Silver Jubilee Field and not just to address the standing water along the footpath.

Emails and calls to the office have been made but no reply has been received to date.

Cllr Coker requested a meeting with the Amenity Officer and the Clerk to discuss the project.

68.2 **BENCH AND TREE TO COMMEMORATE BINFIELD SINGERS**

The Binfield Singers have now disbanded and they have residual funds. They wish to donate about £826 to the council so a tree can be planted in the Parish with a small plaque. They understood that the Parish will need to retain some funds for maintenance.

The proposal was put to the February Amenity Committee and the office was asked to source quotes for a Mulberry Tree and a bench, which will have a plaque.

A bench was researched as the Binfield Singers requested a plaque. This is not possible as the Memorial Policy states no memorial plaques are to be placed around trees or shrubs. It was agreed to accept the quote from Pro Landscapes to supply and plant the tree in the arboretum in Silver Jubilee Field.

Members agreed that a bench should be installed in the northern part of Wicks Green overlooking the bowl.

The bench would not contain a plaque as it cannot be situated near the Binfield Singers tree.

Members requested that the office post on BPC social media when the planting date is confirmed.

68.3 **BINFIELD TREE TRAIL**

There have been a few discussions within the Binfield Environment Group regarding the idea of holding a Binfield Tree Trail, which highlights many of the specimen trees within the centre of the village. The Amenity Officer, along with Stuart Bell from BEG walked a potential route in the village which picks up on trees which are significant within the Parish. The route is approximately 2 miles long and starts off at Pope's Meadow and finishes in the centre of the village.

The Amenity Officer is currently designing the leaflet, which will be a 2-fold information sheet. It will include some information regarding the significant trees on route with a map.

Around 100 copies will be printed, with the costs coming out of the BEG budget line.

Members approved the recommendation for the Binfield Environment Group to set up the Binfield Tree Trail and for paper copies to be distributed via local outlets and online with the view to launch it at the BINFIELD WHAT'S HAPPENING EVENT, which is being led by LETS Steering Group on 4th June 2023.

68.4 **BINFIELD 10K COMMITTEE REQUEST TO PUT UP ESTATE AGENTS' BOARDS**

The Binfield 10K Committee have requested permission to put up some estate boards around Knox Green corner, (against the bunting posts) and one or two along Wicks Green on one or more of the fence posts for the Wicks Green Open space as it really helps getting people to think of the route as they travel around the village. They will be going up the first week of May and coming down the week after the event. Members agreed to the request.

69. **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

69.1 **UPDATE REPORT**

The report was **NOTED** and the following comments were made.

69.1.1 The Clerk provided an update regarding the outstanding work needed to be completed by SCS, the parish open spaces contractors, prior to the end of their contract on 31st March 2023. Very little work has been completed, mainly due to the weather conditions throughout the month. A credit note is being issued against the March invoice.

69.1.2 The Amenity Officer updated members regarding the completed work undertaken by Pro Landscapes around Wicks Green, Silver Jubilee Field, York Road and Foxley Fields. All work has been completed to a high standard.

69.1.3 The Parish Warden and Amenity Officer will continue to monitor any cracks that appear on the York Road Play area equipment.

69.1.4 The Amenity Officer was asked to organise repairs to the bridge between Wicks Green and Silver Jubilee Field as the side panels have become detached with some cracking and splitting.

69.1.5 Members acknowledged the underspend from the Amenity Budget but commented that two significant inspections are due in April 2023 – the tree inspection will be taking place on 4 and 5 April and the play inspection happening before the end of the month.

69.2 **ALLOTMENT REPORT**

The report was **NOTED** and the following comments were made.

69.2.1 Pocket Copse Allotments

The Amenity Officer updated members regarding the new keypad lock being installed on the gates for the Pocket Copse Allotment site. It can be difficult to lock/unlock the gate with the current combination lock. There was a current underspend of £540.50 in the Pocket Copse budget line. The cost of a double sided keypad lock (the same as the one installed on the Red Rose gates) was £149.99, and the cost for fixing the gate to allow for the lock to be installed, plus the cost of plant hire (need generator to carry out work on site) and making good, cost £300. The total cost for the works came to £449.99 and the works will be carried out over the Easter holidays to avoid the school term time.

69.2.2 Blue Mountain Allotments

A summary of the first meeting of the Working Group which took place on Tuesday 28 March was reported. The following actions were discussed.

- The Amenity Officer will research appropriate contractors to carry out the ground works once a final layout has been approved.
- Mike Thomas and Peter Brown will liaise to draft another layout based on the suggestions from the working group discussions.
- The Amenity Officer will seek one more fencing quote.

Members discussed the proposed plot sizes and expressed concern that some of the smaller plots will not allow tenants to properly rotate their crops on a seasonal basis, and subsequently leave part of the plot fallow in order to restore its fertility.

Following discussions, members agreed that a minimum of 50m² should be considered for a small plot size and a minimum of 70m² for a large plot size.

69.2.3 Red Rose Allotments

Members reviewed the current layout and requested that the Amenity Officer and Amenity Administrator work towards merging some of the smaller plots back into adjoining plots as they are not large enough to allow the tenants to use the land effectively.

70. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Meeting Closed at 21.03pm

