



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
**AMENITY COMMITTEE**  
 held on  
 Tuesday 6 June 2023 at 8:00pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Hilary Doyle (Chair), David Ellis, Andy Fish, Matthew Furber, Katherine Giles (Deputy Chair) and Ian Leake.  
**Also Present:** Ceri Rance, Parish Clerk, Purveen Hira, Amenity Officer,

5. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
 None

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**  
 None

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
 None

8. **REPORTS FOR DECISION**

8.1 **RESURFACING AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN WICKS GREEN CARPARK AND SILVER JUBILEE FIELD**  
 Members discussed the quotes in detail. It was proposed by Cllr Leake and seconded by Cllr Doyle and **RESOLVED** to appoint Pro Landscapes to carry out the resurfacing works in Wicks Green car park and the drainage works in both Wicks Green and Silver Jubilee open spaces. It is further **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that £25K of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding is allocated for these works, for approval at June Council.

8.2 **ALLOTMENT REPORT**

8.2.1 A plot holder at Red Rose Allotments was asked by the Parish Council to move their shed to allow an area to be used for communal deliveries. The plot holder incurred a cost of £60 and requested that the Parish Council reimburse their expenses. It was proposed by Cllr Leake and seconded by Cllr Doyle and **RESOLVED** to reimburse the tenant. The funds will be taken from 21/6/1 Red Rose Allotments.

8.2.2 An area in the southern corner of the Red Rose allotment site is being used by some of the plot holders to dump garden waste. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Giles and **RESOLVED** to appoint Pro Landscapes to clear the garden waste at a cost of £350. The funds will be taken from budget line 21/6/1 Red Rose Allotments. The office was asked to ensure all allotment holders were reminded that they must dispose of their garden waste responsibly.

8.3 **PLAY INSPECTION**

The findings from the Annual Inspection Report were considered by members. There were no high risks and one moderate risk. The basket swing on Wicks Green was not fully inspected due to the seat and ropes being taped up due to some wire strands being broken, so a full assessment could not be made. This has been the case for some time. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Giles and **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Kompan for £1,646.40 to replace the basket. The funds will be taken from budget line 24 – Amenities Maintenance and Improvements. All other low risk recommendations will be carried out accordingly and any costs will be taken from the approved budget line.

8.4 **MAINTENANCE WORK ON BUS SHELTER ON TERRACE ROAD SOUTH**

A request was made by Bracknell Forest Council to straighten the bus shelter which is located on Terrace Road South. Concerns were raised that the bus stop was partially obscuring the recently installed signal heads for the new crossing. Members asked the Amenity Officer to contact BFBC and ask them to raise the signal head as this was considered a more cost-effective solution.

## 8.6 TREE INSPECTION

The biennial tree inspections were carried out in April 2023. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Fish and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation to appoint Berkshire Tree Care to carry out all works at a cost of £4,555.00. The funds will be taken from budget line 21/5, Tree Work.

## 8.7 REQUEST FOR TREE BEHIND PARISH OFFICE BUILDING

Residents overlooking the parish car park requested that some form of screening be provided to improve the outlook from their properties. This request was originally presented to the Parish Council in 2019 as the landscaping formed part of the original planning permission. It was proposed Cllr Leake and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to plant a flowering cherry tree along with some additional shrubs. The Amenity Officer was asked to cost the project to be funded from budget line 21/8, Landscaping.

## 8.8 BRITAIN IN BLOOM

A request was received from a resident asking if the Parish Council would consider participating in the Britain in Bloom competition. Following discussions, members asked the Amenity Officer and the Clerk to investigate the rules of the competition and to consult with the residents to see if they would be willing to participate by planting their front gardens.

## 8.9 SEN PLAY EQUIPMENT

Councils have a responsibility to provide accessible play equipment where possible. Following conversations with some residents who have children with special educational needs, the parish council considered improving its provision in this area, especially for older children. Accessible play equipment can currently be found at York Road in the form of sensory boards for toddlers, and a spinner on Foxley Fields with an age range of 8 to 12 years old. Following discussions, the Clerk and Amenity Officer were instructed to undertake additional research and prepare a project proposal to be presented at a future Council meeting.

## 8.10 VANDALISM OF THE SHELTER ON FOXLEY FIELDS

On the 27 May 2023, the Parish Clerk was notified that the shelter on Foxley Fields had been vandalised. One of the panels was completely smashed and litter was left behind in and around the shelter. This incident follows other reports over the past 12 months of increased occurrences of antisocial behaviour. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Leake and **RESOLVED** to replace all the panels on the shelter. The Deputy Clerk has informed the insurance company and is waiting to see if some or all the cost can be recovered. If the costs cannot be recovered, the recommendation to allocate £5000 of CIL funds to cover the cost of the repairs will be presented at the next Council meeting. The initial quote was for three panels, however, members requested that all panels be replaced. The Amenity Officer was asked to investigate whether the Perspex panels could be more robust.

## 9. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

### 9.1 UPDATE REPORT

9.1.1 Members raised their concerns about the monthly cost being invoiced by Pro Landscapes, BPC's grounds maintenance contractor, as over the 12-month period, the final amount would exceed the approved budget of £21K. The Parish Clerk was instructed to clarify this with the contractor before the next payment is made.

9.1.2 Members requested further information about an upcoming charity event on Foxley Fields. A more detailed proposal is required and should be presented at the next Council meeting.

## 10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting Closed at 21:30

