



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
**AMENITY COMMITTEE**  
 held on  
 Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 8:00pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Paul Day, Hilary Doyle (Chair), Katie Dover, David Ellis, Andy Fish, Katherine Giles, Kiran Meka  
**Also Present:** Ceri Rance, Clerk and one member of the public

36. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Leake and Cllr McLean with their reasons having been supplied to the Clerk.

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Doyle declared an interest in the item, Flooding Issues on Pocket Copse Allotments as an allotment holder.

*[The meeting was adjourned at 20:00 hrs for public participation]*

38. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*[20:17hrs Cllr Kiran Meka joined the meeting]*

*[The meeting was reconvened at 20:22hrs]*

39. **REPORTS FOR DECISION**

39.1 Update on Tree Policy

Following the approval at Council to carry out the tree survey every year (dated: 13.02.24 Min: 131.2.1) the Amenity Officer contacted the Arboricultural Consultancy whose services the Council used last year, to confirm the yearly inspection. Following further correspondence, it was recommended that the parish trees be split into two groups which would be surveyed once every two years. If approved, this change would need to be reflected in the tree policy. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Day and **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** an amendment to the wording in the tree policy. The Clerk was asked to suggest the appropriate wording.

39.2 Flooding Issue on Pocket Copse Allotment site

Cllr Katherine Giles chaired the meeting for this item as Cllr Doyle had expressed an interest as a plot holder. A tenant on the Pocket Copse Allotments informed the office about the frequent flooding they are experiencing on their plot. Neighbouring plots are also being affected. Looking back at the inspection reports, the issue has been occurring since November 2023. A potential solution of re-levelling and grading the existing road and path surfaces was presented. Members asked the Clerk to investigate other options and present these at the next Amenity Committee meeting.

40. **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

40.1 Update Report

The update report was **NOTED**.

40.2 Update on Pocket Copse Community Project

Following the last report, which was presented to March Council, the 14 fruit trees were planted on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The bee hives were installed on 24<sup>th</sup> March. The only outstanding costs are for Ashfords LLP as they are dealing with the lease agreement between BPC and the Wokingham and District Beekeepers

Society. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to keep any underspend is kept in case there are any other associated costs for the project over the coming year.

41. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

42. **PART II – STANDING ORDER 3C**

42.1 **OPEN SPACES CONTRACT**

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Dover and **RESOLVED** to use John Jacobs to maintain the borders on Foxley Fields and Knox Green Corner and that these borders should be planted with appropriate plants. The Clerk was asked to prepare a proposal for the ongoing management of the other Parish open spaces which will be presented at the next Council meeting.

**Meeting Closed at 21.06 hrs**

*H. Langley*  
09/04/2024