



Minutes of a Meeting of the AMENITY COMMITTEE

held in the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road on
Tuesday 6 August 2024 at 8:00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs: Paul Day, Hilary Doyle, Dave Ellis, Katherine Giles
Also Present: Ceri Rance, Clerk

11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Katie Dover, Andy Fish, Ian Leake, Amanda McLean & Kiran Meka.

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Doyle declared an interest in agenda item on 7.2 Consultation with Allotment Holders as an allotment holder.

13 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

14 **REPORTS FOR DECISION**

14.1 Joining the National Allotment Society

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation for Binfield Parish Council to join the National Allotment Society at a cost of £55 (plus £1.00 joining fee) to be funded from the Subscriptions budget line.

14.2 Tree Survey Report & Findings

Following Council approval to spread the surveys of parish owned trees over a 2 year period, the contractor was appointed to carry out their assessments of trees in Foxley Fields, York Road, Red Rose Allotments and Mutton Oaks. The last survey took place in April 2023. The condition of the trees has been based on a visual inspection made at ground level. The results of the survey identified work required on four trees. Three quotes from local contractors were obtained. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Day and **RESOLVED** to appoint Contractor 2 to complete the work, at the cost of £1,080.00 with the funds coming from budget line 21/5 Tree budget.

14.3 Plans for Border Area on Foxley Fields

The border area which runs along the front of the tennis courts in Foxley Fields has not been managed well. The original shrubs and plants, planted by a previous contractor, did not survive due to the runoff from the tennis courts and possibly getting damaged by passers-by walking on them. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Day and **RESOLVED** to appoint a contractor to improve the border area and install a drainage system along the length of the tennis courts, at a cost of £3,770.00 to be funded from Open Spaces Maintenance Reserves.

14.4 Potential Autumn/Winter Ground Works

The current work schedule with the grounds' maintenance contractor consists of regular grass cuts in all the parish owned open spaces, with additional hedge works, spraying etc. to be agreed on an ad hoc basis. The Amenity Officer is now looking towards Q3 and Q4 and has identified several tasks that will need to be completed over the Autumn/Winter months.

It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended works be carried out by the contractor at a cost of £5,190 to be taken from approved 21/1 Open Spaces Contract budget line.

14.5 Maintenance Works Required to the Footpath Around Wicks Green

The item was deferred to the September Council Meeting.

15 **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

15.1 Update Report

This was **NOTED**.

16 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

17 **Part II – Standing Order 3C**

17.1 Consultation with Binfield Allotment Holders

It was proposed by Cllr Ellis and seconded by Cllr Giles and **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Day to chair this item.

Members reviewed the consultation questions and process. It was proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to approve the consultation subject to the discussed amendments being made.

17.2 Plot 8B Clearance

Councillors received a verbal report from the Clerk regarding the current situation. Members **AGREED** to allocate £200 from the Red Rose Allotment budget line.

Meeting closed 9.07pm

H. Day
10/9/2024