

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8.00pm on Thursday 28 May 2020 VIA ZOOM

001/20

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mrs J Forker-Clark(Vice Chair)
Mr J Barkham
Miss S Watson
Mr K Williamson
Mrs S Patel
Miss G Reynolds

In attendance:

Mrs E Petyt-Start (Clerk)
Mrs K Lumb (Deputy Clerk/RFO)

Press

Mr D Jackman

002/20

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Barkham and AGREED that Cllr Forker-Clark be elected as Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

003/20

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Neville and J. Share-Bernia.

004/20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors in any item on the agenda.

Cllrs Williamson and Patel joined the meeting during this item

005/20

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2020, previously circulated, were approved and the Vice Chair authorised to sign them.

006/20

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no representations from the member of the public

007/20

CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

008/20

FINANCES

The RFO provided an overview and explanation of the more unusual items in the report and changes to cost codes.

The committee finances as at 31 March, previously circulated, were noted.

009/20

RECREATION AREAS

- a) The Clerk updated the committee that following consultation using Survey Monkey the new piece of equipment for Kings Place had been selected. In addition there was now a priority list created for additional new equipment. It is hoped the equipment may be replaced before the playground is re-opened.

The meeting with EFDC regarding the proposed new aerial slide at

Roding Valley Recreation Ground and a new playground for Hornbeam Road had not yet been able to take place due to the lockdown.

Cllr Forker-Clark expressed an interest in participating in meetings with EFDC. The Clerk to liaise and arrange meeting.

- b) The annual inspection reports for the playgrounds and ball court had been undertaken in April. There are minor repair works to carry out in addition to on going maintenance. Notably some standards have changed and if the same equipment were to be placed in the same locations now, they would be non-compliant but as they are pre-existing there is no cause for concern. The repair and maintenance works are now in progress.

010/20

GENERAL AMENITIES

- a) The Clerk provided an update on Bus Shelters, benches, and noticeboards. The bus shelter at 'the Roebuck' has been graffitied, three noticeboards have needed replacing with the one at Hornbeam Close still to be fitted. It was suggested to seek alternative noticeboard covers that are less shatterproof and to seek to re-site one of the station boards on the external wall of the station building.
- b) The Clerk updated the committee on the status of the current planters noting the current challenge with watering and that all planters had been 'adopted' by local businesses. There was a general discussion around additional planters, locations, and agreement for any new to be placed in areas of high footfall. Station Way was suggested as a location for street planters and lamp post planters were also suggested as an alternative.

Members also noted concern for footway trees as a general amenity, their loss and removal without replacement. They would like the parish council and Planning and Environment Committee to progress this as a matter of concern. The Vice Chair agreed to write a letter of concern to EFDC on this topic.

011/20

OPEN SPACES

New planting at Stacey Gardens was completed at the beginning of March. The Clerk noted she was very delighted with the quality achieved by the new contractor.

The bench has been repositioned at Donkey Green.

The solicitor's letter to the owners of the Village Green advising of their legal obligations had now been sent.

The committee noted the importance of keeping the Village Green in a good and acceptable condition.

012/20

MAGAZINE

The committee agreed to push back the copy deadline for the magazine to 10th July with the aim that the summer edition would be able to capture community group activities and information as changes due to COVID19 become evident.

013/20

ONLINE MEDIA SERVICES

- i) Following a discussion of the website, it was agreed members would each review its content and provide improvement recommendations for the Clerk to action. It was agreed to add a section onto the website about the Planning, the role of the Planning and Environment Committee and how residents could become more informed about process and public participation. Cllr Williamson offered to write this section.

The Vice Chair agreed to write to the District's Planning Department

advising of concerns of residents that they do not know about Planning Applications in progress which will affect them.

ii) There was agreement to promote social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter but acknowledged this need local and relevant content information to engage with residents and increase followers.

014/20 **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

After a discussion around potential events for 2020/21 it was acknowledged this item should be the focus of the next meeting at which time it is anticipated the ability to run events will be clearer following the COVID 19 pandemic. It was noted the committee will need to be flexible and insurance cover established for any future events.

015/20 **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Clerk provided an update on progress of the Management Agreement between BHPC and the BHLGCIC. The previous draft agreement had been discarded and a new draft created using the existing National Allotment Society model as a basis. Legal services had been retained with the only matter to be concluded being the review of annual rents. The committee members expressed it wished to conclude the matter and retain the spirit of the current clause (4.1.12) whilst seeking a reasonable decision which was fair to all parties. Members noted the BHLGCIC manages the allotments owned by the BHPC and the agreement should reflect this understanding, specifically the role and responsibility of the council to protect taxpayer's money.

016/20 **RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ITEMS**

- a) Items of concern raised were the Buckhurst Court Bus Shelter and the littering of the area with disposable masks and gloves
- b) Community Events
 Buckhurst Court Bus Shelter

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 21.10PM.

Chairman

Date