

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00pm on Thursday 29th June 202

001/23

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mrs J Forker Clark (Chair)
Mr R Kaul
Mr S Neville
Mr K Williamson

In attendance:

Mrs E Petyt-Start (Clerk)

002/23

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Williamson and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that Cllr Neville be elected as Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

(Cllr Kaul arrived during this item)

003/23

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received from Cllrs Chambers-Bagshaw and Saunders,

004/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was no declarations of interest received.

005/23

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023, previously circulated, were approved and the Chair authorised to sign them.

006/23

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

007/23

CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communications to receive.

008/23

TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed to provide comments to the Clerk for revision of the terms and this will be discussed at a future Full Council meeting.

009/23

GENERAL AMENITIES

- a) The committee was updated on the routine inspection and maintenance works of the general amenities: High Road Hills Road Bus Shelter roof has been replaced following vandalism; graffiti removal has taken place at Toby Carvery. The 'out' notice board at the station has been vandalised so a repair is in progress. Notice board at 2 Princes Rd has been moved without permission by the developer. The developer to be advised they should apply to Essex for a license for the new location and be requested to straighten the poles of the new sited board.

A suggestion was made to introduce a virtual notice board on the website. It was agreed the Clerk would look into this.

- b) All of the planters have now been refreshed for the summer, although there is concern with the level of watering of them all. The office will

continue to remind the shop keepers who are 'on board' with the planter scheme.

A suggestion was made to place planters in the pavement at Station Way. Cllr Forker-Clark AGREED to progress potential interest of shopkeepers in watering the prospective planters.

- c) An additional salt bin request at Fayers was AGREED.

A request was made for a new salt bin at the junction of Lower Queens Road and Cascade. Cllr Forker Clark and the Clerk to meet to determine a location.

009/23

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a) Next Community event is the Comedy Night 6th October. It was AGREED to have 3 acts plus the MC. The event should aim to be break-even with a ticket price of £12-15. Price to be confirmed once organisation of the event progresses.
The Clerk will begin to organise this event in mid-July.
- b) Future Community Event dates were noted:
i) Older people's lunch 24th November
ii) Tree light up event 1st December. To only advertised what its agreed to provide.
Volunteers are required for all events
iii) Buckhurst Hill in Bloom should be a photo celebration using the magazine to display

010/23

HORNBEAM ROAD PLAYGROUND

The Clerk updated the committee, that the new playground was now out for tender. There had been 9 expressions of interest with site visits facilitated by the Clerk.

The Tender Evaluation Panel was agreed to be Cllrs Forker Clark, Neville, Williamson and Saunders.

Cllr Williamson will provide an evaluation process previously used for consideration by the Clerk.

011/23

MAGAZINE

Members noted the Interim RFO had produced the July edition of the magazine

A revised timetable for 2023/24 UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

The October edition to include locations for Salt bins

012/23

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members noted the Christmas Lights contract is in the third year of a three year arrangement with a potential to extend by 1 year. A decision will be made after Christmas 2023.

013/23

TREES AT STACEY GARDENS

Information from the EFDC Tree Specialist was received in relation to the trees at the perimeter of Stacey Gardens bordering the garage of 2 High Road. It was AGREED Cllr Williamson would make further investigations regarding variety of tree which should be planted in place of the Leylandii Trees.

014/23

ALLOTMENT

Information on priority works for the allotments for 2023 -2024 was received. The Clerk was delegated to continue to manage the arrangement with the

BHLGCIC.

015/23

COMMUNITY HALLS

i) The Clerk advised there had been no progress or decision made to date on the structural movement and insurance claim at the Roding Valley Hall. The Structural Surveyor has suggested a meeting with the Chair. This may require an emergency meeting, as indicated at the last Full Council meeting, in order to make a decision.

The car park has been left unlocked past 6.30pm in the evening on 4 occasions over the past 3 weeks. On each occasion the Clerk has requested the three shop keeper and key holders to take action. She has either locked the gates or instructed the caretakers to lock which has been completed. This Clerk advised this situation cannot continue because it poses a risk to property, the car park and gives rise to anti-social incidents and complaints.

There has been a report of car repairs taking place in the RVH car park.

Fly tipping has taken place on two separate occasions when the gates have been found to be unlocked.

ii) The present and immediate issues for repair at the Roding Valley Hall are the replacement of water heater boilers in the Kitchen and men's toilets; replacement of one of three wall heaters in the hall.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to proceed with the replacement water heater and hall electric heater

iii) At the Woollard Centre some of the main hall lights have now been replaced.

The main hall floor breaking up and degrading due to subfloor dampness remains a concern.

The Centre needs re-decorating throughout.

The items identified in the condition survey of 2022 for the Woollard Centre and the condition of 2012 for the Roding Valley have not been completed.

016/23

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

Cllr Williamson and the Clerk explained the history and status quo of the SIDs/VAS and the relevance of the proposed license agreement. The EMR was noted.

It was identified one of the locations on the agreement was not within the parish of Buckhurst Hill therefore a request should be made to ECC to remove it.

Acknowledgement and thanks were made to Cllr Vance for the work undertaken in enabling the license agreement to reach this stage.

Members would like to consider a license for similar solar powered devices alongside the battery operated license.

A preference was suggested for solar powered devices and it was expressed that the pros and cons of each should be understood before providing a final decision of signing an agreement.

The Clerk was requested to make this request to Essex County Council and it was AGREED members would revisit this item when both draft agreements were in place for consideration.

ITEMS OF CONCERN

- a) Age of Spider park equipment
- b) Item for next agenda –
 - i) new trees to be planted for each new birth in the parish
 - ii) Hornbeam Rd tender progression

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 20.30PM.

Chairman

Date