

**MINUTES of the COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING of BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held via a remote meeting platform on
MONDAY 22nd MARCH 2021 at 7:30pm**



Present: Councillor Chris Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Duncan Ault (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Vicky Evans
Councillor Bob Felstead
Councillor Jan Lepley (Ex-Officio)
Terry O'Connor, Friends of Burley House Field (Co-opted member)
Peter Riley, Burley Wildlife Group (Co-opted member)
David Asher, Walkers are Welcome (Co-opted member)

Clerk: Clare Smith

Also present: Love Burley Representative
Burley Trojans Representative
Village Green Working Group Representative
East End Allotments Society Secretary

CE123/2021 Item 1 – Chairman's Remarks

Councillor Turner welcomed those present to the meeting.

CE124/2021 Item 2 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Pete Burnell, Allotments Representative (Co-opted member).

CE125/2021 Item 3 – To receive any disclosures of interest

None

CE126/2021 Item 4 – To consider written requests for a dispensation on any matter to be discussed.

None requested.

CE127/2021 Item 5 – Public Participation

East End Allotments Society Secretary was asked by Members whether he felt there was anything that could be done to encourage allotment owners at the East End site to lease their unused plots to people on the Parish Council waiting list. The Secretary informed the Committee that the plots were privately owned and there was little that could be done. It was agreed that the Secretary could put out a request to allotment owners informing them that there is a large waiting list for Council allotment plots and to ask that they give consideration to leasing out their plot.

CE128/2021 Item 6 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Councillor Bob Felstead

Seconded by Councillor Vicky Evans

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

CE129/2021 Item 7 – Matters Arising from Minutes

Nothing to report.

CE130/2021 Item 8 – Community Update – Love Burley

Love Burley has been supporting the community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. There are currently 200 people being supported by over 200 volunteers. The support on offer ranges from food shopping, food bank referrals and linking with the Shipley Covid Support Hub. As we move out of the pandemic the work of Love Burley will continue and the positive relationships which have been built with local organisations and services such as Grange Park surgery will be built upon. Love Burley are also working towards registering the organisation as a charity and are looking into the different options available to them.

Love Burley has recently arranged for a bench to be installed on a small area of land at Sun Lane/Hall Drive. Volunteers have come forward to clear the area and there are plans to create a small community garden.

Love Burley were thanked for all of the help and support they have offered the community during the past 12 months.

CE131/2021 Item 9 – Village Green Working Party Update

It was reported by the Village Green Working Party representative that in the run up to the Millennium, the Burley Community Council (BCC) worked to create the village green including the introduction of the row of cherry trees and shrub/flower beds.

From the start of the Parish Council (2006), BMDC continued with grass cutting, tree maintenance and removal of green waste.

The PC decided not to incur expenditure in maintaining the shrub beds, beck side etc and undertook the work on the green through a working group of parish councillors and volunteers. Monthly working groups on the last Saturday of the month were set up and organised and led by the Parish Council. They were listed in the Environment section of the Parish Plan and reported to the (then) Maintenance and Allotments Committee. As well as the village green there was a responsibility for the small garden behind the wall in Cornmill Lane and adjacent to the church.

For the first few years there were roughly equal numbers of parish councillors and volunteers in the working groups. Three volunteers have been involved since 2006 and a few others for most of this time. Over recent years the number of volunteers has fallen as a result of ill health, moving away etc. The core group currently stands at around 5 members. The participation of councillors also reduced in more recent years and mostly discontinued for a period of a year. The regular volunteers continued during this period and decided from month to month what needed doing. Cllr Ault has now joined the group. The amount of work that can be completed is less than it used to be although some of the demand has also reduced following the change of two of the beds to the herb garden and a flower bed planted and maintained by others. The tools for the work are kept in the container on the Burley House Field.

Since it is almost 15 years since the village green working group was set up it was suggested some months ago that the current Parish Council might wish to review and clarify the purpose, composition and the organisation of the group and its work prior to recruitment of some additional volunteers. Unless there is a major task 10 -12 volunteers has always seemed to be an optimal maximum. Currently there is also a need to review a number of practical issues:

- i. The removal of prunings and green waste.
- ii. The agreement and carrying out of a mowing schedule for the green to ensure that flowers in specific areas are not destroyed by cutting too early.
- iii. The division of responsibilities in relation to the large shrub bed adjacent to Lewis Buildings is not really clear.

Cornmill Lane plot across from the pond:-

The responsibility for this came as a result of the church managing to replace, through its own

insurance, the coping stones which had been stolen. The ownership of the piece of land could not be clearly established. In return for the replacement of the stones the PC was asked to tidy up the area which was badly overgrown and vulnerable to tipping of garden and other rubbish. Since the working group numbers have fallen the work on this area has mostly had to take place outside the Saturday working group. Because of covid regulations it has also not been possible to work on this area other than on an individual basis.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk shall contact the grass cutting contractor to request that they do not cut areas with flowering bulbs until later in the year. All Members will put thoughts together for the frequency of cutting of each area and sent to the Clerk to put together a draft schedule.

The Chairman took Item 16 at this juncture.

CE132/2021 Item 16 – Recreation Ground

Burley Trojans provided an update on the long-term plans to improve the sports facilities at the Recreation Ground. The football club currently have 350 children registered and as now merged with the adult teams to make one club with members from Under 6 through to a Veterans (40+) team. There are also now girls' teams from Under 7 to Under 12 and a women's team.

Changing facilities are required at the Recreation ground along with toilet facilities and the amenities to provide refreshments. The Club has spoken with the Bradford MDC, the Football Association and the Football Foundation and all have been very supportive. Plans are currently being finalised with a view being in a position to submit a planning application as soon as possible. Parking was also being considered and residents will be consulted on the plans in due course.

It was **RESOLVED** that this matter will be taken to the next Council meeting on 13th May. The Clerk will also chase the matter of the transfer of ownership of the land to the west of Iron Row which is currently owned by the Department for Transport.

CE133/2021 Item 10 – Walkers are Welcome

David Asher reported that a bench had now been installed at Hag Farm Road and hard core has been laid on the paths at Heather Rise and Bleach Mill Lane to improve the surface. Bradford Council have been contacted with regard to the installation of a footpath on Bingley Road and have managed to source funding to carry out the project. Improvements have been made to the riverside path.

The Burley Bridge Group has applied for West Yorkshire Combined Authority funding to create a walk from Ripon Cathedral to Bradford Cathedral. The walk will pass through Burley (and can be diverted over Denton Bridge if the stepping stones are not passable). The Environment Agency has confirmed that the fish ladder will be installed during 2023/2024 which also provides a deadline for the bridge funding as both projects should be carried out at the same time.

CE134/2021 Item 11 – Burley House Field

Terry O'Connor reported that apple and pear trees in the Orchard have been pruned. Thanks to David Asher for his help. The plum and damson trees will be pruned in late summer. Two of the apple trees that were leaning badly have been straightened a little and re-staked. The picnic table was reinstated and fixed in position, then removed with bolt cutters apparently to facilitate access to a drug-drop in the copper beech tree. The table has been removed altogether for the time being and the police informed. The bench that has been occupying the tool container has been put back on the Field.

The condition of the main open area is concerning, as the greatly increased foot- and paw-traffic over the last 12 months has led to quite intensive trampling damage in places. Given a good mix of summer weather and some reduction of impact as Covid restrictions are eased, the grass should recover, but it is likely that the trampling will effect some longer-term changes in the grassland composition. The path from the Langford Lane gate to the bridge has taken quite a battering and will need some repair work in addition to the patching that we undertook last spring.

CE135/2021 Item 12 – Burley Village Wildlife Group

Peter Riley reported the Working Group does not carry out any work at this time of year so as not to disturb wildlife. The bypass grass cut will be carried out in July.

CE136/2021 Item 13 – Allotments

See Minute no 127/2021.

It was also reported that there are 5 plots which are not in a satisfactory condition. The Clerk will write to the tenants.

CE137/2021 Item 14 – Tree Management & Tree Planting

14.1 Tree maintenance work on the old Railway Embankment

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the two requests for work can be carried out subject to the trees being crown thinned rather than reduced in height which may encourage thicker growth in the future.

The following is therefore approved:

Millstone Close - crown thin the trees, reduce the Ash tree by 30% to prevent sail effect and remove overhanging branches.

Holme Park – Reduce or remove conifer tree, crown thin the trees and remove saplings.

It was also **RESOLVED** that all residents along the boundary of the land should be written to and informed that overhanging branches may be removed however if they wish to carry out any other tree work, permission should be sought from the Council. A letter will be drafted and circulated to members for comment.

14.2 Planting Projects and Other Tree Maintenance

It has been reported that 3 Ash trees at the rear of the library have been severely pruned by a neighbour without prior consent. It was **RESOLVED** that a letter will be sent to the resident requesting that no further work is carried out to the trees and that they contact the Parish Council should they wish to request work in the future.

The Yew tree at the Bowling Club is in need of pruning. The Clerk will contact Bradford Council to request that this work be carried out urgently as the shade created by the tree is affecting the playing surface.

Peter Riley circulated some information regarding the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's tree planting scheme which could be useful if planting locations cannot be found within the village. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Tree Planting working group would look at potential wildflower planting sites and bring this back to the next Committee.

CE138/2021 Item 15 – Grange Park

It was reported that several complaints have been received regarding the zip wire attracting large groups of people and the fact that social distancing was not being practiced. Concerns had also been raised about the lack of hand sanitising. Advice had been provided by the

Bradford Council Parks Department who advised that they had removed the seats from their zip wires across the District. The Clerk, Chairman and Chairman of the Community Trust had made arrangements for the zip wire seat to be temporarily removed in line with this advice. It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee was in agreement with this decision, as playgrounds must be operated in a Covid-secure way, and that the zip wire would be re-opened as soon as measures could be put in place for it to be operated safely.

CE139/2021 Item 16 – Recreation Ground

See Minute no CE132/2021.

CE140/2021 Item 17 – Other Parks and Open Spaces

Concerns were raised over the Riverside area and it was agreed that a meeting of the Riverside Group should be called to address issues such as maintenance and the proposed Public Space Protection Order for Ilkley riverside.

CE141/2021 Item 18 – Date of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will take place on Monday 19th April at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 9:40pm

Signed (Chairman): _____ Date: _____