
Notes of the Informal Advisory Meeting of the C&E Committee Held remotely (via Zoom) on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7:30pm

Present:

CLlr Duncan Ault, CLlr Steve Goodwill, CLlr Katherine Howard, CLlr Jan Lepley, CLlr Chris Turner, Peter Burnell (Allotments Rep), Peter Riley (Burley Wildlife Group), Silvia Tilford (Village Green Working Group/Burley House Field), Terry O'Connor (Burley House Field), David Asher (Walkers are Welcome/Burley Bridge Association) and Clare Smith (Clerk).

This meeting was being held in an advisory capacity to allow Members to express their opinion prior to the Clerk using delegated authority whilst the Council has reverted to online meetings due to the prevalence of the Omicron variant.

1. Welcome

2. Apologies for Absence – apologies were received from CLlr Bob Felstead.

3. Public Participation – there were no members of the public present.

4. Walkers are Welcome

David Asher reported that Walkers are Welcome reported that improvements have recently been made to the kissing gate at Stoney Lane, strimming work has been carried out on the Greenway route between Holme Grove and Bradford Road, four new benches have been supplied and installed at The Wynches, on Burley Moor and two at Sun Lane. More benches were planned for Audley Clevedon and possibly another on the Moor.

Work was planned to improve the crossing of Carr Beck to create better/safer stepping stones. Improvements were also planned for the Hag Farm Road footpath (very muddy) and the footpath between Hag Farm and the Hermit (laying hardcore down a short stretch).

Walkers are Welcome have now resumed their monthly walks schedule (3 per month) and are also planning the Summer Festival walks. A leaflet is under development for circular walks from Askwith and this has been sponsored by the Askwith Arms.

The Committee thanked David and the Walkers are Welcome team.

5. Burley House Field

Terry O'Connor reported that Orchard pruning was underway. The trees look in good condition. The Dog Snout apple tree which died is still to be replaced but it is unfortunately difficult to source this variety. The volunteers have requested two tonnes of hardcore be delivered on site to make footpath improvements. They would also like some assistance from the contractor with the removal of Himalayan Balsam.

6. Burley Village Wildlife Group

Peter Riley reported that the volunteers have now completed the work that is required to get ready for Spring. Peter thanked David Asher for assisting with the installation of the benches at the Sun Lane Nature Reserve and for the installation of the bench on Burley Moor which is in memory of Walter Flesher a past president of the Wharfedale Naturalists.

<https://www.ilkeygazette.co.uk/news/19830006.naturalist-walter-flesher-remembered-new-moorland-bench/>

7. Allotments

The Clerk reported that she has been reviewing the Allotments Tenancy Agreement and would like to incorporate a more rigid procedure for non-cultivation of plots. Clare will rewrite the tenancy agreement with a view to sending it out to tenants with the invoices for 2022. Clare will circulate the draft agreement to Committee members for comments.

The Clerk also reported that notice should be given in the invoices for next years' rents.

Therefore, if a rent increase was deemed appropriate then details should be given as soon as possible. The Clerk suggested that the rent for a full plot be increased in line with inflation (approx. 5%) and increased from £40 to £42 (+ water charge of £10). Members were supportive of the Clerk implementing this increase under delegated authority.

Full Plot – increase to £42

Half Plot – increase to £22

Quarter Plot – increase to £12

Aireville Terrace water connection should be complete before the end of the financial year and therefore their rent should increase to a standard Half Plot with a water charge.

8. Grange Park

The Grange Park gardening team are keen to apply for a Green Flag Award and will attend the next committee meeting to discuss this further.

They have also requested that a large compost bin be installed in the Park. A quote has been sought for this and the cost of a compost bin (constructed of railway sleepers) is £941. The Committee would like to have a better understanding of why it is needed and what it will be used for prior to approving the expenditure. This will be covered at the next meeting when the Gardeners are present.

The Clerk reported that a repair was required to the bottom step at Salem Church (which falls under the ownership of the Parish Council rather than the Church). The Clerk has arranged for BMDC to carry out the repairs on our behalf and will then invoice for the cost.

9. Recreation Ground, Village Green and other Open Spaces

Burley Trojans' consultant has now submitted to BMDC. This will be considered by the planning committee in due course.

10. Footpaths

The Council has approved some improvements to the Greenway footpath (laying hardcore over the very muddy areas).

A meeting has been arranged with Kevin Whitaker (Highways) regarding the improvements to the footpath next to the allotments. This work will hopefully be undertaken in the Spring.

It was reported that the footpath at Jumb Beck Close is very overgrown. The Clerk will speak to the relevant officer at BMDC. It is also worth noting that this footpath is now more heavily used following the closure of the right of way through the school.

11. Tree Management

Trees in Grange Park have still not been removed. Clare will chase this with BMDC.

A large copper beech tree was removed from land on Main Street which is owned by Incommunities. It doesn't appear that any replacement planting has taken place. The Clerk will ask Incommunities whether this is planned.

Duncan reported that he had received the Ilkley Town Council newsletter which contained information about 'Green Talk' and [ilkleytrees.org.uk. https://towncouncil.ilkley.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ITC-newsletter-WINTER-2021-22-8pp-final-261121-06.pdf](https://towncouncil.ilkley.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ITC-newsletter-WINTER-2021-22-8pp-final-261121-06.pdf)

12. Grange Park and Playground Equipment

The trampoline replacement is on order but no installation date has been confirmed at this stage.

13. Any Other Business

Katherine reported that she had been contacted by a resident regarding a proposal to hold a children's event. Katherine will email further details to Committee members and invite the resident to speak on this further at the next meeting with a view to the Committee considering how it can help/support.

Katherine also reported that she had attended a Climate Emergency webinar hosted by Friends of the Earth on behalf of the Council. Lots of information had been shared around how local councils can work with their communities to cut emissions and improve the environment. It was agreed that a Working Group shall be established to explore this further and take these ideas forward. The Working Group will meet on Zoom on Monday 7th February at 7:30pm. Clare will circulate a link.

Next Council meeting **14th February 7:30pm** – it is hoped that this will take place face to face in the Queens Hall, however the Clerk will advise nearer to the time of the meeting taking into account Covid rates in our area at that time.

Decisions to be made using Clerk's Delegated Authority:

1. To place an order for two tonnes of hardcore to be delivered on site at Burley House Field to make footpath improvements.
2. To request a quote for the removal of Himalayan Balsam.
To implement a rent increase for the allotments (1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023) and to give notice to the tenants. The rent for a full plot is to be increased in line with inflation (approx. 5%) and increased from £40 to £42 (+ water charge of £10). (Members were supportive of the Clerk implementing this increase under delegated authority.)
Full Plot – increase to £42
Half Plot – increase to £22
Quarter Plot – increase to £12
3. The Clerk will implement a more structured non-cultivation policy into the Tenancy Agreement. The reviewed Agreement is to be sent to all tenants with their 2022 invoice. The Clerk will circulate the reviewed Agreement to Committee members prior to finalising it and sending to tenants.
4. That a Climate Change Working Group shall be established to explore this further and take these ideas forward. The Working Group will meet on Zoom on Monday 7th February at 7:30pm. Clare will circulate a link.