

**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT, MAINTENANCE
AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING of
BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Queens Hall
on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7:30pm**



Present:

Councillor Chris Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Bob Felstead (8:05pm)
Councillor Steve Goodwill (Ex-Officio)
Councillor Jan Lepley
Peter Burnell (Co-opted Member)

Also present:

3 Members of the Public

EM127/2223

Item 1 – Chair’s Welcome

Councillor Chris Turner welcomed those present to the meeting.

EM128/2223

Item 2 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Duncan Ault, Councillor Katherine Howard, Terry O’Connor, Peter Riley, David Asher and Sylvia Tilford.

EM129/2223

Item 3 – To receive any disclosures of interest

None.

EM130/2223

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

None requested.

EM131/2223

Item 5 – Public Participation

A member of the public spoke about the importance of dark skies for our wildlife, including insects, and also for human health. In particular, the lighting in Grange Park, should be turned off as soon as the other Christmas lights were turned off. The Council was asked to request that the Christmas Lighting is turned off immediately after Christmas next year.

Another member of the public asked if the Council could include a ‘Green Tips’ section within the newsletter each month. They offered to draft the content and send it to the Clerk each month.

It was also requested that the field to the left of Iron Row was not mown around the edges to promote biodiversity.

EM132/2223

Item 6 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Councillor Steve Goodwill

Seconded by Councillor Jan Lepley

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

EM133/2223

Item 7 – Matters Arising from Minutes

Nothing to report.

Item 8 – Walkers are Welcome (WaW)

Walkers are Welcome reported:

1. A meeting was convened with the owner of Hag Farm, on 8 March attended by walking groups representatives and Cllr Lepley and Cllr Goodwill. It was agreed that a temporary diversion of the ILK 77 and ILK 61 footpaths away from the farm buildings during construction activity would make sense in terms of walker safety and a potential route discussed. There was general acknowledgement by walking group reps, however, that the preference was for the existing routes to be reinstated once construction had been completed, despite the outcome of the survey of alternatives undertaken by which showed a preference for a longer diversion.
2. A meeting was also convened on 8 March with ELG Planning, Harrogate, acting on behalf of the owner of the Shooting Lodge, Green Lane, Burley Woodhead, and attended David Asher and Cllr Goodwill. A proposal to reinstate a branch of ILK60 which provides a link to ILK63 (Green Lane) was discussed and a potential route agreed as likely to satisfy most users. This would avoid buildings on site, and would need three new gates, preferably self-closing, to be installed, plus a short causeway to link with the existing Moorside path.
3. A working party is organised for 24 April to improve the surface of the ILK 64 footpath between Hag Farm Road and the Hermit, with materials supplied by BMDC.
4. A working party is being planned for May to improve the bridge crossings of Mickle Ings Beck at the end of Eastfield Lane (ILK55) by installing handrails, repairing erosion and installing a new gate. This has been deferred from April due to the death of one of the landowners.
5. BMDC are still intending to repair the missing stepping stone at Burley Weir, as and when conditions allow. BMDC have responsibility for maintaining this crossing, as agreed with NYCC.
6. Comments were made recently on Facebook by the new owner of Burley Moor. He stated that he was intending to place boulders to restrict car access to the layby at Robin Hole as a prelude to fencing in the woodland corner bordering Moor Road, including adjacent to the Coldstone Beck bridge. Because of concern about how this would impact public access, given the permissive path running through the property which provides a safe off-road link between Stead Lane, Moor Lane and public rights of way on the Moor, David Asher has queried the legal status of the land with Fiona Plane, Countryside Services. Fiona has confirmed that it was designated as Common Land and referred me to BMDC Estates and Properties, who oversee all registered Common Land in the District. BMDC Estates and Properties have subsequently sent advice confirming the landowner needs to formally request permission from the Planning Inspectorate to permanently erect fencing, given it could impede or restrict public access. Government Guidance also indicates that while there are exemptions for temporary fencing or the placing of boulders to restrict car access, there is a formal process that needs to be followed through notifying the Planning Inspectorate. David Asher has suggested to the Parish Council that it might be useful to make contact with the landowner to ensure that he is aware of the legal restrictions involved with his plans.
7. On a related matter, David Asher has also pointed out that the landowner has

been requested by Fiona Plane to correct the new notices that were placed in January at all access points to Burley Moor, which currently state that walkers need to keep to public footpaths on Burley Moor. In fact, restrictions apply to two periods of the year only - 1 April to 20 June, and 10 August to 15 Sept. At all other times 'Right to Roam' rules apply. He was advised back in January, but to date notices have not been amended.

EM135/2223

Item 9 – Burley House Field

Since the last meeting of this Committee, working parties have finished the current round of patching and clearing work on the paths. Many thanks to all those who took part in what was distinctly hard work. Contractors have strimmed the orchard and we have trimmed away the long grass immediately around the trees. Damsons, plums and pears are blooming well and all but one of the apples (Nonpareil) look to be forming plenty of buds. The South HaHa has had a Spring tidy-up. More ox-eye daisy and red campion have been added to unmown patches.

One of the young rowan trees along the Bradford Road side had developed a serious list, and has been staked in a more upright position. Otherwise, the trees planted a few years ago look to be doing quite well.

The original notices regarding clearing up after dogs referred to bags being provided and to contact the Parish Council for more. As this is no longer the case, Terry O'Connor has replaced them with new notices.

EM136/2223

Item 10 – Burley Village Wildlife Group

This is a quiet time of year for the Wildlife Group and there is therefore nothing to report.

EM137/2223

Item 11 – Climate Change Working Group

The Council approved the purchase of a thermal camera to allow residents to see how efficient their homes are. This was included in the newsletter and several residents have contacted the Clerk to ask for a visit. Cllr Turner and Cllr Howard are in the process of making arrangements to visit those who have expressed an interest.

EM138/2223

Item 12 – Allotments

The Clerk confirmed that the East End Allotment Society has not responded to the request for an extraordinary meeting.

EM139/2223

Item 13 – Parks and Open Spaces

13.1 Budget Report

The budget for 2023/24 was circulated.

13.2 Recreation Ground

It was **RESOLVED** that a 3m strip of grass should be left unmown around the edge of the field to the left of Iron Row to promote biodiversity.

13.3 Village Green

There was a good turnout for the March meeting despite the weather. We planed out the plants provided by Linda and other gardeners from the park. The main jobs completed were: clearing up of fallen twigs and small branches after the recent wind, clearing the beck where flow was partially restricted, path clearance and some pruning.

Regarding the Big Volunteer Day for HM King Charles III Coronation, it was agreed that we will link the end of May Saturday morning to the Coronation volunteering initiative and attract new people to the regular slot.

The Clerk will speak to the contractor regarding the mowing schedule for the village green to ensure that the area with spring bulbs is not mown too early. It would be useful to have a plan of the village green with these areas marked to give to the contractor.

13.4 **Grange Park**

The Green Flag Award judges have confirmed that the inspection will take place on 2nd May.

EM140/2223

Item 14 – Dark Skies

A member of the public spoke about the importance of dark skies for our wildlife, including insects, and also for human health. In particular, the lighting in Grange Park, should be turned off as soon as the other Christmas lights were turned off.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will request that the Christmas Lighting in Grange Park is turned off immediately after Christmas next year.

EM141/2223

Item 15 – Footpaths

Nothing to report.

EM142/2223

Item 16 – Tree Management and Planting

The Clerk circulated two quotes for a tree survey on the Parish Council's land (from Bradford Road along the old railway embankment to Heather Rise).

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from Crown Tree Consultancy at a cost of £3500 + VAT.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 5th June 2023 at 7.30pm at The Queens Hall

Signed (Chairman): _____ Date: 05/06/2023

ACTIONS:

EM124/2223	CCTV is due to be installed soon. The Clerk will chase this up and get an exact installation date from the contractor.	CS
EM139/2223	The Clerk to speak to the contractor re: grass cutting on Village Green and Rec.	CS
EM140/2223	The Clerk to write to the Community Trust regarding the Christmas Lights on Grange Park.	CS
EM142/2223	The Clerk to accept the quote from Crown Tree Consultancy.	CS