

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



**Present:**

Councillor Duncan Ault  
Councillor Simon Budd  
Councillor Vicky Evans  
Councillor Jan Lepley  
Councillor Fiona Pacey  
Peter Burnell (Co-opted Member)  
Peter Riley (Co-opted Member)  
Sylvia Tilford (Co-opted Member)

**Also present:**

4 Members of the Public

**EM019/2324**

**Item 1 – Chairman 2023/2024**

Proposed by Councillor Vicky Evans

Seconded by Councillor Duncan Ault

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jan Lepley be elected as the Chair of the Environment, Maintenance and Allotments Committee for 2023/2024.

**EM020/2324**

**Item 2 – Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Terry O'Connor, David Asher and Councillor Steve Goodwill (ex-officio).

**EM021/2324**

**Item 3 – To receive any disclosures of interest**

None.

**EM022/2324**

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

None requested.

**EM023/2324**

**Item 5 – Public Participation**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**EM024/2324**

**Item 6 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Councillor Vicky Evans

Seconded by Councillor Duncan Ault

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**EM025/2324**

**Item 7 – Matters Arising from Minutes**

It was confirmed that the grass cutting date for the bypass is 8/9/10<sup>th</sup> August.

The contractor has been instructed to fix the picnic table and secure it at Burley House Field.

EM026/2324

**Item 8 – Walkers are Welcome (WaW)**

A report was circulated by David Asher:

- WaW have a working party scheduled for Friday 21 July to clear the footpaths in Stead between Dog Kennel Farm on Stead Lane and Moor Road.
- Two benches will be installed on or adjacent to Sun Lane Nature reserve on Wednesday 19 July. One bench will be installed on Otley Golf Course property adjacent to Eastfield Lane on Tuesday 25 July.
- The riverside path between Greenholme Mill and the water meadow towards Otley has had a light cutting back of bramble. I suspect this will need a full strim later in August or early September.
- Similarly, the old railway line (Greenway) has had a light prune of bramble and saplings between Heather Rise and Bradford Road. However, nettles are beginning to take over a short stretch either side of Menston Old Lane and will need a strim back before too long. I have also had concerns raised about the steps up to the old railway line at Heather Rise needing to have undergrowth cut back, so it may be that the light prune was too light at this point! I would be able to organise a working party for the end of August, but the Parish Council may wish to consider whether it can wait that long.
- The fourth WaW walks leaflet, Rambles from Askwith, is now with the printers having secured four sponsors to cover the cost and will be available for sale during the Summer Festival.

EM027/2324

**Item 9 – Burley House Field**

A report was circulated by Terry O'Connor:

- Working Parties have concentrated on the 'summer jobs' of keeping paths and ha-ha free from rampant vegetation and clearing Himalayan Balsam from the beck. The balsam problem seems to be less than in previous years, which is encouraging, though BHF is very much dependent on what happens upstream. So far, we have not noted any casualties from the Spring drought. Several trees in the orchard are producing suckers. Whether that is a consequence of drought or mowing is anyone's guess. We will tackle the suckers at August's Working Party.
- We have been approached by a couple in Harrogate who are keen scythers, asking whether the community orchard would be better cut by scythe than by machine. Coincidentally, some of our volunteer group had been mulling over the possibility of a late summer or autumn scythe cut for the north-east corner of BHF (towards the Bradford Road stile), where a large patch of unmown grass has become very coarse and tussocky. Such a cut might give the cranesbill and yarrow a head start in the spring. I have suggested a meeting on site to discuss possibilities. So far, we have not heard back from them.
- Weather and other factors permitting, we will do a butterfly survey of BHF shortly as part of the Big Butterfly Count, and will post the results on the two noticeboards. At the last WP, we noted a lot of ringlets and meadow browns, and a few assorted whites, commas, small tortoiseshell and a gatekeeper.

EM028/2324

**Item 10 – Burley Village Wildlife Group**

Peter Riley reported that Bradford Council has confirmed that the bypass will be cut on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> August which is disappointing as it needs to be cut slightly earlier than this.

EM029/2324

**Item 11 – Allotments**

Cllr Ault circulated a draft letter which he proposed should be sent to the East End Allotments Society. The letter addressed the footpath, bollard and stream bank. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should send this letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

EM030/2324

**Item 12 – Parks and Open Spaces**

**12.1 Budget Report**

The budget for 2023/24 was circulated.

The Clerk reported that the water feature was currently the only item running over budget. This was mainly the electricity cost. The Clerk has arranged for a smart meter to be fitted to this supply. It was agreed that this would be closely monitored going forward.

**12.2 Recreation Ground**

Dog fouling was still an issue and new signs are required. The Clerk will look into this.

Cllr Budd reported that CBMDC had agreed to contribute funding of £200k towards the cost of the improvements on the Recreation Ground.

**12.3 Village Green**

Sylvia Tilford reported that unfortunately the social media posts and news articles requesting new volunteers for the working group generated no new volunteers at all.

**12.4 Grange Park**

The Green Flag Award judges attended on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A press release will be published by the Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**12.5 Other Green Spaces**

**RESOLVED** that a plan of all green spaces be produced with 'no mow' areas clearly marked. This can then be given to the contractor each year.

EM031/2324

**Item 13 – Footpaths**

It was reported that there was a lot of overgrown vegetation on the path through the Cricket Club and onto Langford Ride. This had been reported to the Council by a resident. The Clerk will speak to the Cricket Club.

EM032/2324

**Item 14 – Tree Management and Planting**

A tree has been removed in Grange Park. The Clerk confirmed that this was within the ownership of Salem Church. The church will be contacted to establish if they have any plans to replace the tree.

The tree survey has now been carried out on the Greenway land and has identified several trees which require work carrying out. The Clerk has received 3 quotes for this work:

Quote 1: £8,316

Quote 2: £1,200

Quote 3: £3,000

Due to the significant variance in the three quotes, the Clerk has spoken to the Tree Officer at CBMDC for advice. They will visit the site and also provide a quote for the work.

The Clerk also informed the Committee that replacement trees and locations for replacement trees must be considered. For each tree that is removed, the council's policy is to plant 3 trees. It was **RESOLVED** that a working group shall be set up to look into this matter. Membership of the group shall be Cllr Budd, Cllr Ault, Cllr Pacey and Cllr Lepley.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm at The Queens Hall**

Signed (Chairman): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11/09/2023