

**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT, MAINTENANCE  
AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING of  
BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Queens Hall  
on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm**



**Present:**

Councillor Duncan Ault  
Councillor Simon Budd (Non-committee member)  
Councillor Steve Goodwill (Ex-Officio)  
Councillor Jan Lepley  
Councillor John McGovern (Non-committee member)  
Councillor Fiona Pacey (Non-committee member)  
David Asher (Co-opted Member)  
Peter Burnell (Co-opted Member)  
Terry O'Connor (Co-opted Member)  
Peter Riley (Co-opted Member)  
Sylvia Tilford (Co-opted Member)

**Also present:**

4 Members of the Public

- EM033/2324**            **Item 1 – Chair’s Remarks**  
The Chair of the Committee, Cllr Jan Lepley, welcomed those present to the meeting.
- EM034/2324**            **Item 2 – Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies received from Cllr Vicky Evans and Peter Riley.
- EM035/2324**            **Item 3 – To receive any disclosures of interest**  
None.
- EM036/2324**            **Item 4 – To consider written requests for a dispensation on any matter to be discussed.**  
None requested.
- EM037/2324**            **Item 5 – Public Participation**  
No members of the public wished to speak.
- EM038/2324**            **Item 6 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- EM039/2324**            **Item 7 – Matters Arising from Minutes**  
Nothing to report.
- EM040/2324**            **Item 8 – Walkers are Welcome (WaW)**  
David Asher reported that Walkers are Welcome had carried out the following work:
- WaW working party took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and cleared bracken at Stead.
  - 3 new benches have now been installed (2 at Sun Lane Nature Reserve and 1 at Eastfield Lane)
  - All existing benches have been strimmed around.

- The Summer Festival walks were very successful, and a new walk leaflet is now being developed.

EM041/2324

**Item 9 – Burley House Field**

A report was circulated by Terry O'Connor:

Burley House Field is coming into the Autumn in generally good order. The hay meadow areas were cut rather later than usual and have begun to regrow. In the Community Orchard, most apple trees have at least some crop, and a number are quite heavily laden. Plums and damsons have done less well, though a useful crop of damsons was collected and distributed when the trees were given their summer pruning. Removal of Himalayan Balsam from the beck has gone well, although there continues to be one short stretch that is difficult to access.

As mentioned previously, we arranged to meet two people (Mr & Mrs Haywood) who have expressed an interest in scything grass in the orchard. Fortuitously, the orchard had just been mown, leaving large areas of longer grass out of mower reach under the trees. We usually tackle these patches with shears. Instead, the grass was taken down with scythes, very quickly and effectively. We discussed possible cutting strategies, now that the trees are large enough for root competition with grass not to be a problem and propose that the orchard area should be taken off the contractors' mowing regime and cut by scythe twice through the summer, probably late-May and late August. This should allow a greater range of plants to establish in the orchard and would create a grass habitat that is not currently represented on BHF. My understanding is that the Haywoods would undertake this work for reimbursement of travel costs.

**RESOLVED** that the orchard area should be scythed twice per year and the area alongside Bradford Road (strip along the wall to the styre in the northeast corner) shall also be scythed once per year (late Autumn).

The tool container is getting very cluttered with items that appear to have become lodged there in perpetuity. It would be helpful if a meeting of users could be convened to allow a through clear-out.

**RESOLVED** that Terry O'Connor and Sylvia Tilford look through the contents of the container and put together an inventory to bring back to the Committee.

EM042/2324

**Item 10 – Burley Village Wildlife Group**

Nothing to report.

EM043/2324

**Item 11 – Allotments**

**11.1** Cllr Ault, Cllr Lepley and the allotments rep, Pete Burnell carried out an inspection of the allotments and identified several plots which require a warning for non-cultivation. The Clerk will write to the tenants of these plots. The Clerk will also provide a site plan for Cllr Ault, Cllr Lepley and Pete Burnell. Meetings/inspections will be held every 8 weeks going forward.

**11.2** A valuation of an East End Allotment plot has taken place and the plot has been valued at £3250. It was agreed that we should measure another plot which was purchased for £10,000 to establish what the size difference is. A **RECOMMENDATION** to purchase the plot will be made to Full Council and the Council will be asked to consider a maximum budget.

EM044/2324

**Item 12 – Parks and Open Spaces**

**12.1 Budget Report**

Nothing to report.

**12.2 Recreation Ground**

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

The annual verti-draining work has now been completed on the football pitches.

**12.3 Village Green**

Sylvia Tilford reported that the working party took place at the end of August and cleared shrubbery and debris from the storm drain. Balsam has also been removed from the beck. There is a problem with people using the compost bins which then means volunteers are having to sort through the compost bins each time they meet which can be time consuming.

A request for a memorial tree has been received. It was agreed that as a tree has recently been removed (diseased) from the village green, a replacement tree was required and therefore the request would be granted. However, a plaque would not be permitted in line with policy.

**12.4 Grange Park**

The surface under the swings in the play area requires repairs. This is on the list for Bradford Council Parks Department to carry out on our behalf.

**12.5 Other Green Spaces**

Nothing to report.

EM045/2324

**Item 13 – Footpaths**

It was reported that a complaint has been received from a resident who uses a mobility scooter regarding the lack of dropped kerbs at Burley Woodhead. There is no dropped kerb allowing access to The Hermit public house and he has asked if this could be looked into. The Clerk will ask Highways to look into this and take appropriate action.

EM046/2324

**Item 14 – Tree Management and Planting**

The Tree Working Group met in July and discussed various matters including potential locations for tree planting. It was agreed that Cllr Budd shall contact the Tree Officer at Bradford MDC and arrange a meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm at The Queens Hall**

Signed (Chairman): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 23/10/2023