

**BRACKNELL TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**
12th April 2016

Present: Chairman:

Cllr. Clive Harrison.
Cllrs: Diane Finch, Sandra Ingham, Roger Meakes (Sub)
Mary Temperton, Jo Woodcock.
Apologies:
Cllr: Ash Merry, Mark Phillips, Paula-Elizabeth Pooler.
Absent:
Cllr: Michael Skinner.
In Attendance
R Reeve TC, Burgess OSM, A Moffat RFM.

The Meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 8.25pm

1305 Declarations of Interest

None

1306 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 26TH January 2016 were proposed by Cllr Mary Temperton and seconded by Cllr Diane Finch as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1307 Matters Arising not to be considered elsewhere on the Agenda

1241 – Mill Pond - Cllr Temperton reported that there is still McDonald's litter collecting in the underpass and spreading on to Great Hollands. Unfortunately this area is out of BTC jurisdiction so whilst we can remind McDonalds they need to litter pick this area we don't have any power to enforce it. McDonalds definitely litter pick around Mill Pond and the new bins are working well. Cllrs requested a discussion be held with McDonalds about installing a sign asking customers to dispose of their litter properly.

1141 – Mill Pond – The faulty equipment has now been replaced by Proludic.

1245 – Play Areas. The RFM confirmed that extending the safety surfacing under the slide at Jurassic Park is on the schedule of works to be carried out.

1245 – Play Areas – Cllrs reported that the new piece of equipment designed like a hedgehog has been well received. Work on the bank slide had to be halted due to the recent weather conditions. Work will resume on Monday with the rubble from Yardley being used as back fill.

1248- Ringmead – permission has been given for the Scouts to use the field at Ringmead on the afternoon on 23rd April 2016 when they have the official opening of the Scout Hut.

1308 Great Hollands Pavilion Rebuild.

BTC are progressing towards securing a design/ construction supervision team through the contract to be awarded under OJEU procedures. The final date for receipt of bids was 28th March, with five bids received by this date which are currently being evaluated, with a recommendation to be made to S&F Committee on 26th April.

The result of the application made to Sport England towards a grant is still awaited. It is hoped that £1m loan funding can be enabled via BFC, and the possibility of increasing the internal BTC funding element is being looked at as our year end accounts position becomes confirmed.

Next steps will be to work with the appointed Design Team on a design, including with further consultation with facility users, over the next few months.

We have recently had a request from the Pavilion pre-school nursery to also cater for their requirements in the new building – this is also to be considered by the GHP WG, and S&F Cttee. NOTED

1309 Great Hollands Recreation Ground

Drainage of Field to provide extra pitches. – BTC were approached by Berkshire County Football Club a few weeks ago asking if we would consider using a £130k Sport England funding that they have obtained for elsewhere towards pitch drainage work at Great Hollands. They were proposing this be used to provide additional pitches either side of the cricket pitch, similar to those they have at Lock's Ride for Royal Ascot Cricket Club. They would ensure this arrangement did not impact on the cricket pitch. The reasons they are keen are the on-site pavilion, parking being available and a number of their sides are already playing at Great Hollands. We await the results of the club discussing this possibility with Sport England. NOTED

Softball Baseball – We plan to have this activity underway soon, which Councillors will recall is similar to baseball but played with a softer, bigger ball and slower underarm delivery.

Parafit – 'Bootcamp' style fitness sessions are also due to start soon, with reasonable initial attendance expected.

Park Run - The Park Run continues to be highly popular on Saturday mornings. It has now been going just over a year. Amongst the headline statistics at end of March were: The total number of different runners that had taken part is 2764; the total number of runs is 11,622; the average number of runs per head is 4.1 and the average attendance each week is 215. These numbers compare favourably with other local Park Runs and each week new runners are taking part. BTC had taken action to cope with muddy conditions by laying more wood chip around much of the route where this leaves existing paths, and also tried to improve drainage. BTC had reminded runners to be considerate to dog walkers and to not use buggies in very muddy conditions. NOTED

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Ball Courts – A football club who use the ball courts for training had complained about the courts being left open and the public having free access. This had always worked well in the past with the young people moving off the courts if there was a booking. AGREED that the courts should stay unlocked for general use at the present time.

1310 South Hill Park

Parking on North Field: BTC had put in place an agreement with SHP allowing controlled parking for the SHP larger event now scheduled for 30th July on our North Field within a designated area. Linked to this, SHP had informed nearby residents of their plans and held a consultation event as asked as a condition for granting approval.

North Lake: It is hoped that remedial works to the sides of lake/ fishing platforms at SHP North Lake can be undertaken by a contractor working for Thames Water (TW), to deal with the erosion of the banks, as evidenced by the sinking fishing platforms. The works will be to the West side of the lake, and require use of the car park on the North side as a depot and also some metal track to be laid for vehicles alongside the footpath around the lake.

Fun Fair: Due to the Ground Conditions the arrival of the Fun Fair at North Lake has been put back to 9th May 2016
Trees – Around thirty (MIF funded) trees were provided by Cllrs Heydon and I McCracken and planted in February.
NOTED

1311 Summer Activity Days.

BFC had informed the Town and Parish Councils that they would not be organising any summer activity events this year. Local residents benefited from these events and BTC Officers were asked to continue them. Officers are currently discussing matters with BFH who are keen to be involved and contribute to the finances. Officers were asked to aim for 3 events and, subject to funds and capacity, to extend up to 5 across the summer weeks. AGREED

1312 National Citizen Service.

Permission was given for the National Citizen Service to hold a Community Fun Day on 1st August at Yardley Play area. AGREED

1313 Jocks Lane

Tennis: The tennis facilities were complete with the floodlights now working and a card entry system was being installed for controlling entry to the refurbished courts. BTC are implementing the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Clubspark computer system which will enable online bookings via the BTC website and a payments system for tennis at both Jocks Lane and Great Hollands. The new facilities are being launched on 24th April. BTC expect to increase local participation in tennis through a household being able to secure unlimited tennis for £50 per annum, plus a £5 per hour charge for floodlights. NOTED

Tennis coach, a tender exercise had led to the appointment of a local, experienced and well regarded coaching provider, GD Tennis, who will be starting to teach at Jocks Lane shortly. NOTED

Shop revamp: BTC have a more customer friendly shop at the pavilion, which includes new coffee, ice cream and other vending equipment and a new layout, constructed in house. Cllrs commented that the cream teas were an excellent addition NOTED

The Activities day on 24th April will be the launch date for our 2016 ‘In Bloom’ activities, as well as tennis facilities,

Pipelines: The installation of the Thames Water sewer pipeline at the end of the Cut was completed at the end of October. Thames Water contractors re-seeded the grass area and planted mature trees to return the grounds to ‘as found’ good condition. This had been completed in two stages.

SE Water had more recently advised they wanted to lay a water supply pipeline along the Cut. This is due to start on 18th April, with works to be complete by 21st June to avoid the Teddy Bears Picnic. The work is quite urgent, including for a supply to the new school on the Berkeley Homes site. This had understandably caused some concern locally amongst nearby residents. Some compensation is to be paid/ grounds reinstated and possible provision of a new supply in the direction towards the pavilion/ splashpad discussed.

Crazy golf – following receipt of design suggestions from the Fusion workshops, some of these designs are to be installed next week. NOTED

1314 Brooke House

Alongside the installation of the better ‘shop front’ downstairs, BRP had agreed to undertake refurbishment of the upstairs office windows, and new front/ rear doors at Brooke House. These works have been scheduled for about August. Plans are being made to replace the existing radiator boiler as well. The public (downstairs) toilets operated by BFC, but paid for by BTC, had closed at the end of March.

NOTED

1315 Wildridings

The Bracknell Show is being organised for July 23rd by the Bracknell Lions. Following experience gained last year, some format changes are planned, including allowing some car parking on the field. We will be liaising with the Lions on event details.

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- 1316 **Braybrooke**
Fishing at Jeans Pond – Initial Fishing Club committee meetings have now been held, as well as a launch event on 9th April. The event was a success and as well as signing up members, this raised £240 for the Club. NOTED
Memberships are now being sold (by BTC and a part paid to the club) and the Club has been awarded a £5k grant from the Environment Agency to install reed beds at the pond to improve water quality and allow fish to breed.
Braybrooke pavilion improvements - Looking ahead, we are planning to refurbish the toilets as well as improve the kitchen/ lighting at Braybrooke. We are also investigating installation of a bio-mass boiler, to enable use of woodchip to provide heating for the depot/ pavilion, with the cost possibly partly financed through Renewable Heat Incentive payments in the first years. However, this will need to be justified against the significant extra initial boiler purchase cost. More research is needed before a report can be presented to Committee.
Paws in the Park – this year, this event is being organised by local volunteers in August. Officers were proposing to allow this to be held at Braybrooke field, with events details to be advised/ to follow. NOTED
- 1317 **Bracknell in Bloom**
Plans for the current year are now in place and whilst we are not competing in the ‘judged route’ aspect of the BIB competition this year we will be entering two parks into the Parks Competition (Jocks Lane and South Hill Park). The Yours Gardens Competition is expanding, the aim of the BIB committee is to perform strongly in our Region in 2017 as a step to competing nationally in 2018, to exhibit the Lexicon and new town centre green spaces. NOTED
- 1318 **Clean for the Queen Event.**
BTC led the national ‘Clean for the Queen’ campaign in Bracknell and it was a resounding success. A motion was put forward for Bracknell Town to organise a litter pick every year. Councillors AGREED to the motion but Community Groups must be involved for this to work. NOTED
- 1319 **Play Areas**
Work is complete at Stoney Road and Yardley will be started shortly. Moving the slide at Birch Hill has been delayed due to conditions but work is hoped to start again on Monday. Work for 2016/17 will focus on remedial works for existing play areas with quite a bit of resurfacing to be undertaken. NOTED
- 1320 **Ringmead**
The Scouts have successfully moved on to the site and are holding an official launch on 23rd April 2016. NOTED
- 1321 **Trees**
Surveys are continuing across our sites. Several trees were lost in the recent storm namely at Jocks Lane, Great Hollands, Braybrooke, Ludlow and The Elms. NOTED
- 1322 **Small Grant Request.**
A grant request had been received from Pilgrim Hearts Trust to buy beds for the Bracknell winter night Shelter that they run between January and March each year. Councillors were supportive of this aim but agreed that it does not meet the criteria for an exceptional funding need as these items are needed for January 2017. The Town Clerk was instructed to go back and recommend they investigate other funding sources and come back to BTC in early Autumn if they have not been able to reach their goal. The Town Clerk to thank them for all their work and explain the reason for the refusal at this time.

Date of next meeting – 24th May 2016 at 7.30 pm

Signed

Dated