



# Bracknell Town Council

## Environmental Services Committee Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Held via Zoom

### Attendance

Councillors Present	Lizzy Gibson, Jennie Green, Diana Henfrey, Anna Kempster, Sanjeev Prasad, Mary Temperton, <b>Malcolm Tullett</b>
Apologies	Councillors James Alexander, Gill Birch, Michael Gbadebo, Stuart Foston and Michael Titheridge
Substitutes	Councillors Marc Brunel-Walker, Isabel Mattick
Co-opted Councillors	Chris Turrell
In Attendance	Jackie Burgess (TC), Ian Evans (RFM), Rachel Gordge (OM), Members of the public

### The meeting opened via Zoom at 7.30pm and closed at 9.30pm

<b>ES1209</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	There were no declarations of interest
<b>ES1210</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
	The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held on 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were proposed by Councillor Sanjeev Prasad and seconded by Councillor Anna Kempster. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the recommendations contained therein are received and adopted as a correct record and signed by the Chair
<b>ES1211</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>
	<b>ES1031 North Lake Island</b> – The island expansion has been completed, fencing has been added to stop access. The island will be planted with seeds including pond plants which should grow up by spring <b>ES1191 Birch Hill Toilets</b> – The Changing Places grant application has been submitted and committee is to await the decision. The lease cannot be passed over during this process
<b>ES1212</b>	<b>Green Champion</b>
	Councillor Mrs Isabel Mattick gave an update on her work as Green Champion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The blue bin grant (recycling incentive scheme) – Officers applied for the Green Champion to be one of the choices if residents want to donate their recycling points. This was successful and the Green Champion will be a choice from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 for three months. Any money donated will be used to provide seeds for local schools to invest in a love of gardening for local school children</li><li>• Plans for allotment visits and Mill Park visit are on hold due to Covid but they will move on as soon as possible</li><li>• A rubber band around the grebe's neck at Mill Pond will be checked by the RFM</li></ul>



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<b>ES1213</b>	<b>Mill Park Improvements Working Group</b>
	The Chair of the Working Group gave an update following a visit of the site. The fishing swims are due to be completed in the next few months out of existing budgets and the boardwalk handrails are in the process of being fitted. There has been an influx of rodents at the site due to them burrowing underneath the bins to access food. The pest controllers are visiting more frequently to manage this whilst replacement bins are being trialled. These will be concreted into the ground to avoid the same issue again
<b>ES1214</b>	<b>Carbon Reduction Working Group</b>
	The carbon reduction energy audit was started on 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021. Some Councillors attended a session on electric vehicle charging points which will be discussed at the next meeting. The next meeting will be arranged around the completion of the energy audit
<b>ES1215</b>	<b>Community Events Working Group</b>
	Officers gave an update on the recent actions undertaken regarding the Remembrance event including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Officers liaised directly with all organisations that were invited to confirm their attendance and order their wreaths if required</li><li>• Road closures are arranged</li><li>• Booked a bugler</li><li>• Helping to manage reduced numbers within the church</li><li>• Officers met the videographer at The Angel</li><li>• Procured a PA system for free from BFC</li><li>• Arranged first aid, SAG, insurance and risk assessments</li><li>• Councillors are encouraged to volunteer to marshal the event, contact the Town Clerk to put your name forward – an email will be sent out to ask for volunteers</li></ul> The Officers were thanked for their hard work on this event
<b>ES1216</b>	<b>Birch Hill Fence</b>
	The quotes received show two simplistic ideas as to what can be done at Birch Hill to improve the fencing around the AstroTurf. Due to the cost this would need to go out on Contact Finder. A more detailed report with visuals will be brought to the next Environmental Services meeting showing the options/schemes and then quotes can be obtained from there to be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee
<b>ES1217</b>	<b>Helicopter Park</b>
	The RFM gave an update on the refurbishment on Helicopter Park. The equipment has been re-painted and the slide has been removed and is being fixed by a professional welder. Work will start on the paths and the planting of additional willow trees in the autumn/winter



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<b>ES1218</b>	<b>Shades for Play Areas</b>
	The quotes for the shades at Great Hollands pavilion were discussed. There were concerns over safety if climbed on and vandalism. It was proposed by Councillor Lizzy Gibson that we could use trees planted near play areas to create natural shade instead of using shade sails. This was seconded by Councillor Isabel Mattick <b>APPROVED</b>
<b>ES1219</b>	<b>Ullswater Park</b>
	The quotes for the park renovations were discussed and it was agreed that a public consultation would be required before replacing all the equipment at the site. In light of taking over three new play areas soon, it was decided that the RFM would create comparative condition reports for all parks so that the conditions could be checked and renovations for the most needed can be arranged first including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Age of users</li><li>• Age of equipment</li><li>• Map of equipment</li><li>• Condition of equipment</li><li>• Photos of equipment</li></ul>
<b>ES1220</b>	<b>Larges Lane Biodiversity</b>
	Larges Lane is a living cemetery, however the grasses have overtaken the wildflower areas and are stifling the growth of the flowers. In order to get control of the grasses by next Spring, the wildflower areas need to be reduced down before re-seeding new wild flowers. The main wildflower areas will be along the left side and back of the cemetery and a large section on the left hand side meaning that any graves regularly visited will have mown grass and clear access <b>APPROVED</b>
<b>ES1221</b>	<b>Cherry Trees</b>
	The delivery of cherry trees is expected in late November. The sites that the trees should be planted in were discussed. It was decided that recommendations from the RFM based on ground conditions would be useful. The main sites of Braybrooke, Jocks Lane, North Lake, Great Hollands, The Elms and Mill Park would be discussed with the Town Clerk before planting in groups of 5 or 6
<b>ES1222</b>	<b>Recreation and Rent Charges</b>
	The recreation and rent charges were reviewed. The cost of maintenance on our sites increases each year and we have not raised the fees for a few years. Committee discussed the recommended level of increase and decided that a 6% increase in fees would be justified as long as the showers are all operational. It was proposed by Councillor Sanjeev Prasad to increase the rent and recreation charges by 6% for 2022-23 on the proviso that the showers are working at all changing rooms. This was seconded by Malcolm Tullett <b>APPROVED</b>



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<b>ES1223</b>	<b>Parkour Equipment</b>
	The request for a resident to include some parkour play equipment for children aged 11+ was discussed. It was agreed that the current play equipment for older children would be included in the audit of the play areas and then the need for it can be assessed
<b>ES1224</b>	<b>CIL</b>
	Councillors were reminded to send CIL ideas to the Town Clerk. A list of current and wish list CIL items along with updates of the progress will be brought to future meetings
<b>ES1225</b>	<b>Work Started and Completed</b>
	The list of work started and completed was <b>NOTED</b>
<b>ES1226</b>	<b>Items for Future Discussion</b>
	Councillors are to email the Town Clerk with any items for future discussion
	<b>Confidential Business</b> <i>To move that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting</i>
<b>ES1227</b>	<b>Police Report</b>
	A written report from Thames Valley Police was received. Any questions about the report are to be sent to the Town Clerk offline
<b>ES1228</b>	<b>Emergency Grant Funding Application</b>
	The emergency grant application was discussed. It was decided that the application does not fit within the criteria for an emergency grant in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Costs for general routine maintenance of buildings and equipment are not eligible</li><li>• Organisations applying for an exceptional funding grant must satisfy the Council that the grant will be spent for the benefit of local people and that the money is not available from any other source.</li><li>• Exceptional grants are not payable for the benefit of individuals.</li></ul> The application is <b>REJECTED</b>

*The date of the next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022*

Sign:	
Date:	