

Minutes OF BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION GROUND AND PAVILION COMMITTEES

Meeting Nov 14th 2022 @ The Tolsey 5pm

PRESENT Cllr Rushton (Chair), Cllr Higgs, Cllr Taubenheim, Cllr Craven, Cllr Westmacott, Allan Tuckwell (Bowls Club)

1. WELCOME
2. APOLOGIES John McClaughlin (Football), Lucy Staveley, David Buckland
3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – Agreed and signed

4. MATTERS ARISING
 - a. New gates and security bollards have been fitted to the A40 gates and Tanner's Lane gate. It was noted that the bollards are very hard to open. Cllr Higgs to check.
 - b. We have heard nothing more from FC regarding a long lease which would allow access to FA funds. FC have now requested that we give permission for them to access funds from the Football Foundation Grass Roots Pitch Maintenance Fund. See further details in report below.
 - c. Overflow parking is now on the main rec and this seems to be working well.
 - d. A new 'Emergency Exit' sign has been put on the car park / rec gate. Comment was made that the sign is too small and difficult to see. There are possibly too many signs on the gate. Cllr Rushton to take a picture of the gate so we can review and remove or re-arrange if necessary.
 - e. The pavilion toilets have a new padlock to control usage. This seems to be working
 - f. A working party took place on Sept 29th, tidying and cutting back along the north wall and filling rabbit holes. There are no current plans for a further working party. We will aim to arrange one for the spring.
 - g. Pre-school are using the garden area. A new sign, 'slow, children crossing' is being fitted in the car park.
 - h. The hedge overhanging the allotments is scheduled to be cut once the leaves have dropped.
 - i. The Playground consultation took place involving families and children from Pre-School, Burford Primary School, Scouts, and Burford School Boarding House. We had 97 Replies to the online questionnaire and 36 playground design posters.

5. CLLR RUSHTON REC REPORT

As mentioned above, FC have requested that council give permission for them to access the Grass Roots Pitch Maintenance Fund. The original agreement was never signed due to Covid, so this would need to be actioned, and fees need to be increased as currently BTC costs are not being covered. An initial proposal has been put forward of £10 per team for training, and £30 per team for matches. The initial response was that this would cost them £200 per month per team (therefore approx. £25,000 in total). The BTC estimates this would be closer to an average of £75 per team per month, which is nonetheless a big increase for the FC. Costs of hosting football were discussed, and it was agreed that £300 pcm would cover our costs. Cllr Rushton to raise this at the coming Finance Committee meeting before suggesting it to the football club.

Now that vegetation is starting to die back, rabbit holes are becoming evident. Cllrs Rushton and Westmacott to arrange a walk around the rec to assess the current situation.

The new playground sub-committee was ratified at the last full council meeting and met on Monday 7th September. Committee members are now reviewing different playground suppliers and will meet again on Mon 21st November to review findings and select which companies we will invite to give free consultation and design. The committee need clarity please on the amount of space that is to be given over to the new playground. It was suggested that the playground area could extend further north towards the Jubilee tree and could extend west by a small amount. Committee are also reviewing potential funding options.

WODC has released its Playing Pitch Strategy, which was undertaken with local councils to review the provision of playing pitches in the area, looking at quality, quantity, demand and expected future demand considering residential developments. Burford's status is listed as 'One adult and two mini 7v7 pitches of standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity, the mini pitches have one spare capacity'. Recommended actions are to, 'improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and maximise spare capacity to alleviate overplay of other pitches in the area'. Cllr Rushton to talk to Cllr Ashton to find out when the information was collected as committee felt it is inaccurate to describe the pitches and having spare capacity, and it is felt that the pitches are currently below standard condition

Lucy Staveley has offered council 6 more spindle trees to plant in West Field. Concerns were raised that we do not wish to create a hedge as this would give more hiding areas to rabbits. It was agreed that we would ask Lucy Staveley to give the spindle trees to Cllr Westmacott so they can be planted with plenty of space between to facilitate grass cutting.

6. CLLR TAUBENHEIM PAVILLION REPORT – Smart meter is being fitted imminently.

7. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

FOOTBALL – No additional items for discussion

SCOUTS – Currently 72 on roll, the highest ever. Fundraising under the Tolsey on Saturdays is ongoing. Their storage container still contains items belonging to the football club.

BOWLS CLUB – The car park is flooding regularly after periods of prolonged rain. The ground is very compacted and there is no drainage. It was suggested that pictures be taken to show the extent of the problem. The area may require drilling to create drainage holes. Cllr Rushton to take photographs so we can see the extent of the problem. The Bowls Club are also considering options to pay for their water usage as the current arrangement has been insufficient to cover the costs of water used by the sprinkler this year. RFO Yeatman has suggested taking regular meter readings so they can pay for the amount they use. They are also considering having their own water mains connection so they could pay their bill directly. They have requested a couple of months to get quotes.

RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS – The Playground Sub Committee are meeting again next week to agree which suppliers to invite to view the site, so we can take advantage of free consultation and design, and to review information on potential funding sources.

8. AOB – Cllr Rushton mentioned the following on behalf of David Buckland. He will be making repairs to the car park fence and filling in potholes in the car park and will need to purchase wood and a bag of type 1. He had some complaints from dog walkers about sparklers being left on WestField after the bonfire. Over the winter he is aiming to repair the walls on the A40 boundary and extend the bench-base near the Tanners Lane footpath for the new bench.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 9th January, 5pm Burford Tolsey.