

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Footpaths Committee
held at the Parish Office on 11th July 2019 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr S Briscoe (Chair) Cllr M Bishop Cllr J Langford Cllr J Chapman
Cllr B Ayling

In attendance: Mrs C Lamb (Clerk), Mr C Moses (Amenities Officer)

H19/12 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – to accept apologies
Cllr N Haughton and Cllr C Collier

H19/13 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR
It was **RESOLVED** to elect Mr B Ayling as Vice-Chair of the H&F Committee

H19/14 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – to receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests from councilors on items on the agenda and to grant any requests as appropriate.

None received

H19/15 TO RECEIVE ANY STATEMENT OR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC -The meeting may adjourn for a period up to, but no longer than, 20 minutes

No members of the public were in attendance.

H19/16 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES – to confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2019 (circulated). Minutes to be taken as read.

Minutes from 11th April 2019 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

H19/17 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR REPORT ONLY – (that are not already on the agenda).

H19/07 Meeting with Elaine Cox of WBC had taken place. After the meeting it was agreed Elaine Cox would meet with a Purley Resident who required wheelchair access. Cllr S Briscoe reported that this meeting had not taken place and not no report had been received from Elaine Cox.

H19/09-1&2 The latest update had been obtained from Cllr Haughton on 17th June 2019 and was now on the PC website. Springs Farm had objected to the Definitive Map Modifications Order WB062 and WB061.

H19/18 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE ON ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr Moses presented his report to the Highways and Footpaths Committee.

- a. AMENITIES OFFICER REPORT (including Allotments) – received and noted
- b. ACTION LOG – Noted and updated

H19/19 TO RECEIVE FURTHER REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING (if any)

- a. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS –
Some residents had raised the issue of overgrowth from gardens obstructing pavements. Officers would investigate ways to approach property owners about the issue. The Clerk had received complaints about the long grass on the Thames Path running by Springs Farm (by Thames and Sul). The Clerk had contacted Springs Farm who had said the responsibility was with WBC. The Clerk was waiting for a reply from WBC. The PRSC Scoop the Poop campaign would start on Thursday 18th July – Purley resident, M Maybank, was the key organiser for this event. Example flyers and posters were available for Cllrs to see.
- b. PIKESHAW –
- c. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE –
- d. FLOOD MANAGEMENT – More wardens were needed. The new permanent Lock Keeper had started working at Mapledurham Lock and was living at the lock house.
- e. BUS SERVICES – It was asked that the 143 Bus timetable be publicized for residents by Officers. It was also asked that the pick-up point in Reading be highlighted, also.
- f. STREETLIGHTING -
- g. LITTER – Officers were asked to assess the need for a bin located on PC land in River Gardens over the summer. If a bin were needed a temporary one could be provided for the summer period.

H19/20 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LAST NAG MEETING (if any)

Questions raised by PRSC were raised by Chair Cllr Sue Briscoe at the meeting.

- The drug Diversion Programme has been in place in the local area since January 2019. No figures available to hand about the success or impact of this. Under this scheme a referral for rehabilitation is preferred before a fine or prosecution is recommended.
- Possession of 'laughing gas' (nitrous oxide) capsules is not an offence currently. To be in possession with intent to supply is an offence
- Police can only search individuals for drugs if they have material evidence already eg drug paraphernalia. The smell of drugs is not enough. However, local people are encouraged to 'call-in' presence of the smell of drugs as police may then find material evidence on investigation. Should also 'call-in' vehicle details.
- Police are working actively with all the local secondary schools in the area except Little Heath where access is not encouraged by the school.
- During recent warm weather the PCSOs have made several visits to the riverside between Pangbourne and Purley on warm evenings eg a walking patrol 3 times last week.
- PC Murphy did not know who was responsible for putting up the notice at the end of Mapledurham Drive...presumes WBC. This would not be policed by the Police. The drinking of alcohol is not an offence but antisocial behaviour as a result of having done so, is. He will investigate the origin of the sign.
- There has been an increase in vehicle break-ins at motorway service stations.

H19/21 RESOLUTIONS

H19/21-1 **TO REPLACE THE DOG-LITTER BIN AT THE TOP OF MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE WITH A NEW RED LITTER BIN AT THE COST OF £240.00 (RETRIEVER 60 DOG WASTS BIN) WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE OTHER MODEL ON MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE OUTSIDE BUCKNELL'S MEADOW.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the dog-litter bin at the top of Mapledurham drive would be replaced as proposed (unanimous)

H19/21-2 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO ASK THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SUPPLY MORE BICYCLE RACKS IN PURLEY ON THAMES.**

The Clerk had investigated a report from a local resident that it was possible to obtain old cycle racks from West Berkshire Council free of charge and then install them in the Village. The Clerk reported that there was no WBC scheme and that any cycle rack would have to purchased.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not purchase a cycle rack on this occasion as no clear need had been identified in any particular location in the village.

H19/21-3 **TO REVIEW THE VILLAGE PLAN ACTION LIST AND TO AGREE ACTIONS FOR THE HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE.**

It was noted that a large number of the actions highlighted were already being worked on by the Parish Council. Additional actions **AGREED** above those already taking place were:

- To publicise the existing book exchange schemes in the Village (at the Memorial Hall and at Purley Park Social Club)
- To consider elements of a 'welcome pack' for new residents when the PC website was being upgraded.

H19/22 BUDGET 2019/20 – Noted.

H19/23 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE AGENDA

None received

Date of next meeting:

H&F 21st November 2019

ADDENDUM

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

MEETING 11TH July 2019

(Parish office report on matters not already listed in the Action Log)

Allotments

- Seasonal inspection of the condition of the plots was undertaken with the Honorary Allotments manager in June and letters sent out to 8 plot holders where improvement needed, seeking updates /proposals and/or confirmation as to whether allotment holders still wish to keep allotments. One termination letter sent and one plot vacated. Position to be reviewed 10th July (30 days after date of letters).
- Micro plots – one tenant has received a warning letter and, unless significant improvement is seen, the tenancy is due to be terminated on 10 July. The other three plots are well-maintained; one tenant is waiting to transfer to a larger, quarter plot.
- There is a short waiting list for both half and quarter plots, as well as requests for second plots of both sizes. There is no waiting list for micro plots.
- Notice re the help from Springs Farm and Barlows Woodyard in establishing the micro plots attached to the entrance of the micro plots.
- New software for the administration of the allotments has now been installed and input of existing data being taken forward and will be completed by the end of July.

Noticeboards

- We continue to see steady demand for our 10 notice boards – and restriction to A5 size is enabling us to accommodate requests
- As previously reported, consideration will need to be given in the relatively short term to the Barn notice board being replaced and potentially re-sited. 2020 is due to see the next 10 year structural report on the barn, which we anticipate may recommend the repainting of the cladding of the barn. This would seem a good time to dovetail the notice board upgrade.

Bins

- No further problems have been reported re the dog/general litter bins since the last report.
- Have not yet been able to check whether the new lock keeper has placed the large litter bin we provided 2 years ago, on the lock side entrance to Blounts Meadow.
- The 1100 Litre waste bin at the end of Mapledurham Drive by entrance to Blounts Meadow has been in place since the beginning of June and will be there for another 3 months. Disappointingly it should have been there since the beginning of May- contractor once again incorrectly placed down at the Lock and took 4 weeks to rectify.
- Salt Bins are full.

Pikeshaw

- Bee Tree Surgery is finishing the next full survey at Pikeshaw by the beginning of July- cost of the survey £300
- He has advised that there are approximately 30 ash in the woodland and worst case if all required felling due to 'Ash Die Back' being seen, this would require a budget of about £6000.00.

Highways and Footpaths

- The 3 new energy efficient/lower maintenance lights were installed in Goosecroft Lane
- We have responsibility for the other 3 lights on Footpath 5- we have not had the opportunity to chase up a response from WBC as to how/at what further cost these might be adopted by them. We are aware that upgrading them would cost around £1300. We will follow up so that ongoing options can be considered.

Annual Village Grounds contract

- The contract has been renewed for a further year with the existing contractor- cost held at just under £3000. We obtained a comparative quote from another contractor, who came in at £6750.

Speeding

- We have not had any further formal complaints re speeding in Sulham Lane/Westbury Lane or elsewhere
- Pam Beddoes and Gordon Adams are going on SID course in August to bolster the number of accredited SID operators
- Consideration can then be given to the potential siting of a SID in Sulham Lane over a week in early autumn

Colin Moses
Amenities Officer