

Clerk report to Bourn parish Council 15 July 2015

Where I have information to support the agenda this is detailed below.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Loynes (personal reasons).
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 17 June – attached.
- 4.1 Broadway public open space – report on meeting with contractor – Cllr Blair to report.

Rockery Farm S106 agreement

The Parish Council raised with the S106 officer at SCDC whether the land should have been brought up to an usable standard before transfer to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had the land transferred to it in March 2014. The land itself is in very poor state and certainly cannot be used by children for play until substantial work has taken place on it.

The land requires –

- clearance of weed growth removal of stone builders rubble and other debris
- Improvement to the condition and permeability of the clay soil,
- Breaking down and grading the existing soil to levels and compacting, Importing an organic top soil, spread, level and light compaction,
- Drilling for selected grass seeding.

It is unlikely that the Parish Council could achieve a seed bed before the autumn growing season therefore aiming to seed in time for next spring is more realistic.

It is estimated that the works will cost somewhere in the region of £3000 to £5000.

Would the District Council be able to require the builders who used the field for materials storage to remove the large chunks of rubble and contribute to the restoration works?

Would the District Council be able to assist with the costs towards making this area useable?

SCDC have replied as follows:

This is more of a matter for the planning department, insofar as the issue relates to a planning condition that has been discharged, and I will make enquiries with the landscape officer to see whether he has visited the site and signed off the works.

However, given that the Parish Council has already taken transfer of the land I am not sure what recourse the Council has in reality to require the builder to remedy the situation.

In terms of financial support offered by the District Council it may be that the works would qualify for a community chest grant but I understand these are to a maximum award of £1,500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/community-chest-grants-201415> “

The Parish Council should note the planning requirements for maintenance of the perimeter hedge.

- 5.3 Tree works applications – none at the time of writing
- 6.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills – attached.
- 7.5 Footpaths report

The following report has been received from Angela Marcham:

Item 1

On 29 July I contacted Peter Gaskin to enquire about the delay in the surface cutting programme. He said the delay was due to various reasons, including the necessity to go out to tender and the lengthy EU procurement procedures. All is now in place to start the cuts. Routes are to be done on a priority basis in this order: those that are affected by public events, those on which complaints have been filed, and finally the rest. Further cuts should be taking place later in the year.

Item 2

I obtained additional funding for this year to make additional surface cuts, due to extensive nettle problems, for FP10 (the ditch along the boundary fence in the playing field) and FP21 (water lane starting from near Dick Knights house). The first cut was done around 25 July (I had asked for it to be done earlier but contractor staff changes and machinery failures held things up).

8.1 Heidi Allen MP – request for flood risk information

Heidi Allen MP requested information on flooding issues.

Nigel Ball has kindly replied and provided the following information:

I have been asked by the clerk of Bourn Parish Council to provide some background material on flooding issues caused by Bourn Brook.

I have attached a set of documents to this email that will (hopefully) give the context from our perspective.

The (recommended) order to read this collateral is –

1. BFAG_Objectives – this is the manifesto of the village flood group that was setup after the flooding of 2001
2. Status_2014 – this gives the latest summary in meeting the objectives set out in (1)
3. The minutes from the last public meeting that discussed issues about the brook (held in February 2014); most of this can be skimmed over but the EA's position re the brook is relevant and I have highlighted the text in red
4. The minutes from the June 2014 annual parish meeting that discuss the current activities in the village

You will see from (2) that a lot of minor improvements have been made to the drainage infrastructure which have increased confidence in the system.

However there are still a couple of “big ticket” infrastructure items that the village are concerned about –

1. Completing the enhanced drainage in Riddy lane
2. Making improvements to the Great Bridge to increase flow capacity

Involvement with the Environment Agency has been limited to date. However the village would like to work with the EA and other groups to try to introduce a more “wholistic” approach to the problem whereby communities on the watercourse work together to attenuate water wherever possible. It is in this area where perhaps the EA could play a stronger leadership role.

I hope that this is the right amount and type of feedback for you.”

Attached also are the four documents forwarded to Heidi Allen with the response.

8.2 Bourn Sports Club – request to investigate insurance cover

Cllr Jagers has written:

We have received another request from Bourn Sports Club to investigate insurance cover.

Specifically, Giles Nelson asks:

"I would like to understand whether we can cooperate on putting in place better insurance for activities organised at the recreation ground. I would imagine that the parish council has some form of insurance already and my thought is that if this was extended to cover a wider range of activities then, by consequence, the sports club would effectively be covered for all events that it organised that took place on the recreation ground.

Of course, this is likely to incur extra costs. The sports club would be willing to bear these."

When this was last raised and discussed in November/December 2014 the PC reported back that the PC's insurance at the pavilion/playing field only covers PC run events. I would like to ask the PC to discuss (a) whether it is willing to take another look at this and, if so, (b) to look into other

means of providing cover (it might for example be useful to know how other PCs and sports club manage this situation).

Note: The Clerk advises again that the Parish Council does not have the power to do something which is not its direct responsibility.

The Council's insurance company has written "The policy we arrange for Bourn Parish Council can only provide Employers' and Public Liability Insurance for events and activities which they are responsible for organising.

Due to The Bourn Sports Club being a separate entity, the Parish Council has no governance over or responsibility towards the activities the club chooses to arrange on the recreation ground. Assuming they currently possess their own Public Liability Insurance policy this should remain in place. We may be able to offer an alternative quotation for their insurance needs."

8.3 CGM request confirmation on top dressing of Hall Close football pitch

CGM have written as follows:

"We are in the process of checking outstanding job tickets, to this end I have been asked to ascertain if you still require the above works to be completed.

It is my understanding that the go ahead was given on 29th September last year for this works and that a job ticket was raised for the Autumn, the work was not carried out as weather conditions were not favourable.

To this end, would you like the work to be completed this year or would you like me to cancel the job ticket."

8.4 Cambridge Ramblers – request for permission to use Recreation Ground car park on 22 July
Pamela Landshoff of the Cambridge Ramblers asks:

I am leading a walk from Bourn on July 22 and request permission for us to use the Recreation Ground car park that day from about 10am to about 3pm, please.

8.5 CCC Local Sustainable Transport Fund Minor Local Improvements – to consider bid

We are inviting Cambridgeshire Parish Councils situated along the A428 corridor and the A10 south corridor as well as St Neots and Wisbech Town Councils to bid into funding to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and bus users. This funding has been provided by the Department for Transport and the criteria for use of this funding means that it can only be used in the areas already described and that priority may be given to areas along the busiest transport routes to Cambridge.

Attached is a brief that provides some more detail and please note that we are requesting expressions of interest by Monday 17th August 2015. Once we have received these expressions of interest we will be able to gauge the demand for improvements. Support will be available at this point to make sure these facilities can be installed by the funding deadline of 31st March 2016. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything clarified or have any questions.

Regards

William Rayner

Major Infrastructure Delivery

Cambridgeshire County Council

Further details of the scheme and expression of interest form attached.

8.6 Resident/BSC - grass cutting to the rear of the pavilion and around the container
CGM do not seem to have cut behind the pavilion again. There is long grass and nettles. Also brambles are encroaching on the back of the car park and the container.

I wonder if they could also cut the undergrowth back a strip around the back of the container so we can get at all sides of the container to paint it.