



Minutes of a Meeting of the AMENITY COMMITTEE

held in the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road on
Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 8:00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs: Paul Day, Hilary Doyle, Dave Ellis, Katherine Giles.
Also Present: Ceri Rance, Clerk, Purveen Hira, Amenity Officer

30 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dover, Fish, Leake, McLean and Meka.

31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

32 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

33 **REPORTS FOR DECISION**

33.1 Open Spaces Schedule

At the last Amenity Committee Meeting (date: 4 March 2025 Min: 27.1) members agreed that at least three fixed price quotes should be obtained from contractors regarding grounds maintenance work around the Binfield Parish Council's open spaces. The Amenity Officer sent the specifications for the works to nine local companies requesting unit costs for grass cuts, shrub and hedge maintenance and play area moss treatment and leaf clearance. Only one company responded. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Giles and **RESOLVED** to engage Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to undertake some of the grounds maintenance tasks throughout the 2025 growing season.

33.2 Issues with Flooding on Residents' Boundary with York Road Open Space

A resident contacted the office in April 2023 regarding an issue of water flowing into their garden from the York Road open space following heavy rainfall. The resident believes that the French drain, which was installed along the southern boundary, has failed resulting in large quantities of water entering their garden and making it boggy. A site visit was conducted but was inconclusive. Further contact from the resident was received in February 2025 following heavy rainfall, raising the same concerns.

The contractor who fitted the drain visited the site and commented that the effectiveness of the drain would be controlled by the water table, especially during constant or abnormal rainfall.

The Amenity Officer was asked to investigate the effectiveness of the ditch line running through Red Rose Allotments and monitor the situation.

33.3 Blue Mountain Allotment Waiting List

Whilst the works are being carried out on the new allotment site, all those who were on the Blue Mountain waiting list were contacted to check if they were still interested in a plot. Some have been on the list since 2018. Twenty residents were no longer interested and as of 24 March, there were 37 residents remaining on the list. They have been contacted with the plot sizes and prices (as agreed at March Council dated: 11.03.25 Min: 121.2.1). It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** that once all plots on Blue Mountain had been allocated to the waiting list, the office should contact residents on the Pocket Copse Allotment waiting list to see if they would like a plot at the BM site.

33.3 Damage to the Recreational Shelter on Foxley Fields

On 14 March 2025, the recreational shelter was covered in graffiti. This took the Amenity Officer and Parish Warden several hours to clean off.

On 25 March 2025, the Parish Warden noticed that a couple of the panels had 'shattered' following a group of senior school children climbing on top of the shelter. The shelter has been cordoned off with barrier tape, so it is currently out of action. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Ellis and **RESOLVED** to remove the plastic panels and the centre bar as soon as possible. It was further agreed that an alternative shelter design be researched and suggestions brought to the next Amenity Committee meeting.

34 **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

34.1 Update Report

This was **NOTED** and the following comments were made.

34.1.1 Plot 8B Clearance

The Clerk provided a verbal update to the committee. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to contact the resident to arrange for the repayment of the plot clearance. The committee agreed that it would not be cost effective to pursue the matter any further.

35 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

Meeting closed 8.54 pm

Alamy Doyle
8/04/2025



Minutes of a Meeting of the AMENITY COMMITTEE

held in the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road on
Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 8:00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs: Hilary Doyle, Andy Fish, Katherine Giles, Ian Leake, Amanda McLean and Kiran Meka
Also Present: Ceri Rance, Clerk, Purveen Hira, Amenity Officer

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Paul Day & Dave Ellis

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

27 REPORTS FOR DECISION

27.1 Open Spaces Schedule

Members were asked to consider a way forward for the ground's maintenance works in the Binfield Parish Open Spaces for the next financial year. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Leake and recommended that at least three fixed quotes are obtained from contractors with the following items:

- A fixed cost per activity (grass works, hedge works, flailing)
- A specification for each activity
- What the minimum requirement would be for each task (i.e. up to 15 grass cuts per annum)
- A timeline for each activity
- Fixed quote for the term April 2025 – March 2026

The quotes will then be presented at the next Amenity Committee meeting on 1 April 2025, and a recommendation will be brought to full Council on 8 April 2025.

27.2 Removal of unused bus shelter

Following recent complaints about anti-social behaviour in and around the unused wooden bus shelter on London Road, members were asked whether to remove this Binfield Parish asset. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr McLean and recommended to remove the bus shelter. Quotes will be obtained and will be presented at a future meeting.

27.3 Request from a Red Rose Allotment tenant to move to a site closer to their residence

A Red Rose tenant requested to move to the Pocket Copse Allotment site which is closer to their residence. It is not stated in the rules whether this is allowed. The tenant is already on the Pocket Copse waiting list. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Fish and recommended that the tenant can move allotment site, only when their name reaches the top of the Pocket Copse waiting list.

27.3 Rental charges for the Blue Mountain Allotment Site

The Blue Mountain Allotment site is currently being redeveloped, and members were asked to consider the rental charges for this site. As there are various plot sizes, members were asked to consider whether

to charge tenants a cost per square metre. It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Fish and **RESOLVED** that the rental charge for the Blue Mountain Allotment site be set at 50p per square metre.

28 **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

28.1 Update Report

This was **NOTED** and the following comments were made.

28.1.1 Tree labels from Binfield Environment Group

The Binfield Environment Group have requested to purchase black acrylic labels with a nail and spring to be placed on approximately 30 specimen trees within the Binfield Parish. Members approved this request on the basis that it is safe to do so. It would also be beneficial for the group to share a register of the trees which have these labels on, and the information being shared with the Council.

29 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

Meeting closed 9.02 pm

Mary Doyle
8/04/2025