



# Environment & Amenities Working Party

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## PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT:

The playground replacement is complete. The playground is extremely popular with young families (our target users), in constant use, seven days week rain or shine. This project is a great success.

The equipment and area is checked weekly by Councillor Mussell. Recent mild weather has promoted rapid grass growth - Groundsman is aware and will be carrying out additional cuts as he can to keep the area manageable.

As a result of the playground's popularity, the play bark requires regular raking and even distribution in some areas of high use.

## VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND:

Having completed the annual tree survey, Meyrick Estate have notified BWPC three trees within the recreation ground require work. Unfortunately, two are noted as dangerous and require felling. Meyrick Estate's tree specialists will undertake this work during April. The survey also identified two further trees belonging to Places for People as "dangerous" requiring immediate attention. The Clerk will be contacting Places for People.





As part of general maintenance, the larger holly trunks within the perimeter hedgerow have been reduced in height, the existing hedgerow has been topped and cut back from the path and roadside to reveal the kerb and storm drains on Martins Hill Close not seen in decades. Bramble regrowth was cleared to ground level to encourage the newly planted hedgerow to thrive. All large trimmings and vegetation waste was removed from site. This work was delayed by City Fibre showing up unannounced, however, the work was completed before the end of February in line with Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and Countryside Code to protect wildlife.

We are delighted Burton Primary School accepted BWPC's invitation to be part of the final stage of the rejuvenation – the creation of a wild flower bank. This event will take place at the end of March. A group of young pupils and teachers joined councillors on the recreation ground to begin the wild flower seeding of the east flank. Burton Primary School will be providing authorised photographs of the event for publication.

We are seeking advice and quotes for service repair and/or replacement the two entrance barrier gates that require attention.

The entrance on Martins Hill Lane is a mishmash of wooden fences either side of a pedestrian swing gate and a narrow vehicular access gate. This arrangement is not DDA compliant, is not wide enough for a fire engine and presents a risk of unwanted incursions.

We have a quote of £3620 Net to remove all existing elements including fencing and replace with a Woodstock kissing gate with mesh infill and a wider 4m galvanised barrier gate, also with mesh infill, and make good with uniform fencing either side. Additional quotes being sought.



Example of kissing gate and low barrier gate without mesh infill.





## VILLAGE GREEN:

The agreed replacement of the vandalized cherry tree was ordered in December – the specimen delivered in January was rejected as too small. Supplier sourced and planted a taller tree of 2m and mid March. A protective galvanized mesh tree guard has been fitted around the new tree to prevent accidental or deliberate damage occurring again. The replacement tree is currently in bloom.



## VANDALISM AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Teenagers reported on the roof of the scout and football huts on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Both tenants were notified and the incident reported to the police.

## FOOTBALL:

- **Defibrillator supplied to AFC Burton by the Football Foundation** – For practical reasons the defib may have to be installed on the scout hut – Richard Davis of AFC Burton will pursue with the Burton Scout Group. Advice since received by the Clerk from BCP Planning confirms the Parish Council has the same permitted development rights under Part 12 of the GPDO so won't need planning permission for the external placement of a defibrillator on either the football hut or scout building. The superior landlord has also confirmed agreement to external placement on either hut. Any necessary modification to the electrical supply to either property will need to be certified to satisfy the terms of the tenant's lease and building insurance policy **No further update.**

## MEMORIAL BENCHES AND TREES:

No enquiries have been received since the December meeting. The benches on the recreation ground are well used and enjoyed by a great many.

## FINGERPOSTS:

Staple Cross fingerpost – is awaiting repair to prevent the fingers being swung to give the wrong directional information. At a previous meeting the BWPC agreed costs of remedial works to retrofit a countersunk tamper resistant torx driven screw. **CLERK TO UPDATE**

Subject to confirmation and approval from BCP Council, the final fingerpost is intended to replace the existing signage at Winkton Green.



It was decided at a previous meeting this project should be placed on hold pending repair of the existing fingerposts, however, as repairs are carried out by a completely separate company, unconnected to the specialist manufacturer, any outstanding maintenance and repairs to existing fingerposts should not delay placing an official order for the Winkton fingerpost.

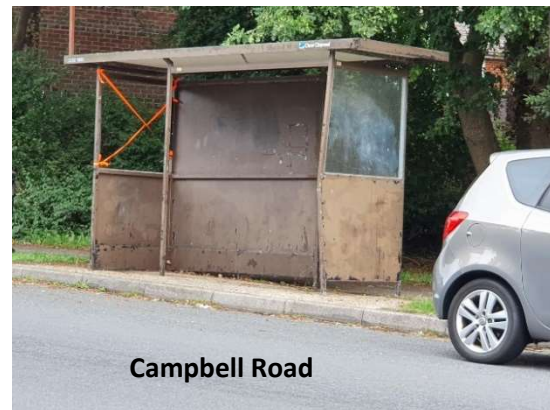
The specialist manufacturer has confirmed the quote of £3700 remains live and also advised that they can manufacture the fingers in a fixed position to prevent movement. **Subject to receiving BCP Council approval to remove existing signage and replace with a single fingerpost, majority approval sought for this expenditure. CLERK TO UPDATE**

## FOOTPATHS:

During the public participation of the July meeting a resident raised concern about a footpath in Bockhampton that had become overgrown and impassable. Councillor Tony Bragg has since reported he had a meeting at the end of July with BCP to discuss cutback of this footpath in early August. The Environment & Amenities working party will undertake a coordinated review of all footpaths and signage throughout the parish. **Possible opportunity for Coronation Big Help Out initiative – to be discussed at meeting.**

## BUS STOPS:

From BWPC's original list, there remains one bus shelter waiting for replacement on Salisbury Road at the junction of Campbell Road. Following a request from the Burton Bus Campaign group, BWPC made representations to BCP to add the very sad bus shelter on Campbell Road to the list of shelters requiring replacement - BCP confirmed by email on 20<sup>th</sup> October both bus shelters will be replaced but were unable to provide a date. Further update from BCP received 20 January confirmed the bus shelters are part of the 2023/24 programme due to commence in April. BCP will keep BWPC informed, we will continue to chase.



## ROAD SIGNAGE and ROAD MARKINGS:

BWPC continues to advise BCP of road markings and signage in need of refreshing and/or replacement.

## FLOODING

Following the recent flooding that brought Burton to a standstill, Councillor Howland and Councillor Mussell met with Doug Troke, a resident and appointed Stony Lane Flood Warden. Mr Troke has attended a training course run by Environment Agency. The Stony Lane properties nearest the railway bridge are at high risk and have a Local Flood Plan in place. During 2014 the Environment Agency funded flood prevention modifications to these properties ie flood barriers to external doors, installation of underground pumps and dug pits below floors where necessary



in an effort to prevent water ingress. However the most recent flooding event in January escalated very quickly and in addition to their flooded gardens and drives it also caused the closure of Stony Lane, gridlock on alternative routes, accidents and car breakdowns. Road users ignoring the CLOSED ROAD signage further exacerbate the situation by displacing the water mass towards the properties.

Mr Troke showed us around the affected area. It is apparent the overgrown neglected ditches and blocked storm drains in Stony Lane, Martins Hill Lane and those roads that feed into Martins Hill are adding to the problem and require attention. Whilst regular maintenance might not have prevented the flooding under the railway bridge, a planned preventative maintenance (PPM) schedule is required to minimise the impact of heavy downpours. Kerbs, ditches and storm drains along Martins Hill Lane and Stony Lane all need to be regularly cleared of debris, vegetation and silt to allow surface rainwater to enter the drainage system.

In addition to the single use flood sacks supplied by Burton Parish Council some years ago, Mr Troke was able to collect sandbags etc from Christchurch Civil Offices but this building is now closed and his request to BCP for updated instructions and supplies has been ignored. In view of the serious problems and disruption experienced by our residents in recent weeks it is important that BWPC follow up and ensure the local flood plan also covers Stony Lane itself in addition to the properties. – **REFERRED TO WARD COUNCILLORS**

### POTENTIAL COMMUNITY GROWERS PROJECT:

BWPC is in communication with the landowner and researching funding opportunities. Some progress has been made, the landowner is willing to make the land available to BWPC on a three year trial basis. Councillors Howland and Mussell have arranged to visit the Townsend Community Growing Project to look at their model and paperwork.

### BOCKHAMPTON LAND OCCUPATION: AKA HOLFLEET GREEN:

BWPC has been advised the two pigs were removed from site on 23<sup>rd</sup> February leaving the area in an unsightly mess. We understand the historic owner is aware.

### BURLEY ROAD – Swans, Power outages:

The electricity supplier has stated that they have surveyed the site and no further action can be taken to prevent further outages caused by bird strike. Suggest residents take photographs and contact RSPB or Dorset Wildlife Trust for further advice. In the unfortunate event of a death of a swan call the DEFRA helpline 03459 335577

### STAPLE CROSS: – NO FURTHER UPDATE

*Taylor Wimpey provided the following response to question raised by Alinda Howland relating to the proposed development of Roeshot Hill and the impact on Staple Cross a historic landmark and scheduled monument.*

*QUOTE: Re the Scheduled Ancient Monument, again the plans have not yet been finalised. A Heritage Management Plan has to be prepared by Taylor Wimpey and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of any works in this parcel of land. The Outline Planning Consent stipulates that the developer has to undertake an archaeological investigation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, repair the cross (resetting and repointing the stone by specialist stonemasons) and fund landscape works, but again no detail has yet been prepared. UNQUOTE*

