

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 29 April 2024

4 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

4.1 Update on Community Speedwatch

The group continues to conduct sessions at two sites each week, subject to the weather. Since the activity started, the group has recorded 33 motorists who were found to be traveling over the prescribed speed threshold. Details below:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Speeders</u>
Beaconsfield Road	2
Beeches Road	1
Collinswood Road	17
Farnham Lane	7
One Pin Lane	5
Parish Lane	1

Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 40mph road is 52mph with the average speed being 50mph. The maximum speed was recorded on Parish Lane.

Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 30mph road is 44mph with the average speed being 38mph. The maximum speed was recorded on One Pin Lane.

Since the last parish council meeting, sessions have been held in Collinswood Road, One Pin Lane, Farnham Lane, Beaconsfield Road, Parish Lane and Christmas Lane and the group have received lots of positive feedback. A huge thank you to the volunteers for supporting this safety initiative.

4.2 Update on Neighbourhood Plan

Paul Rowley, the Clerk and Steve Stagg met with Matthew Jennings of Oneill Homer to discuss the statutory and community responses received during the Regulation 14 Formal Consultation. Some minor amendments have been suggested to incorporate some of the comments received. Oneill Homer are currently making the amendments, which will be easily identifiable for review at the June 2024 parish council meeting.

4.3 Update on office lease

The new lease completed on Friday 26 April 2024.

In addition, invoices have been received for the service charge incurred since occupation in March 2023. The amounts requested are higher than expected and further details have been requested by the Clerk before payment.

4.4 Update on fence damaged during tree work in Jubilee Copse

You may recall that when this year's arboriculture work was carried out in Jubilee Copse a neighbour's fence was broken. The damage was reported to South Bucks Tree Surgeons Ltd, who carried out the work, and they arranged the repair directly with the resident. The work has been completed and the resident has confirmed that the work has been completed to their satisfaction.

4.5 Update on anti-social behaviour in Blackpond Lane

The anti-social behaviour being experienced by some residents in Blackpond Lane has been discussed at previous parish council meetings. A Rights of Way Officer from Buckinghamshire Council has now visited the area and a meeting has been organised for the stakeholders' group on 2 May 2024 to discuss possible solutions.

4.6 Update on replacement timber for basket swing at playground in Farnham Park Playing Fields

As previously reported, at the annual inspection carried out in July 2023, one of the legs of the basket swing was identified as rotten and required replacing. The basket swing was therefore removed for safety reasons and the Clerk requested a replacement timber under the warranty provided by the supplier, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.

Despite regular chasing and reassurances, the timber had still not been replaced so the Clerk submitted a complaint to Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. As a result, the matter is now being dealt with by the Head of Customer Services. Unfortunately, following a review and conversation with the previous maintenance contractor, they have advised that because the previous maintenance contractor was applying creosote to the base of all the wooden play items on an annual basis the timber playground equipment will not be covered under the warranty apart from any items where creosote has not been applied such as the top beam of the basket swing. The timber warranty is due to expire in 2026.

They have advised that creosote was once a very popular wood preservative however in 2003, the European Union classified creosote as a carcinogen and restricted its use for both professional and amateur use. It is not a micro-porous product meaning it does not allow the wood to breathe. Wicksteed Leisure Ltd's maintenance guidance states timbers can be re-stained as necessary using approved stains, preservatives or micro-porous coatings and creosote is unfortunately not suitable.

5 Policies:

5.1 Biodiversity Policy (New)

The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC) recently issued a reminder that all town and parish councils have a duty to consider within their powers, what actions and policies they put in place to consider biodiversity. They advise that there was a legal obligation for certain steps to have been put in place by the end of 2023 but not to worry if they weren't taken and to consider these at the next meeting.

BMKALC issued a model biodiversity template and draft model action plan which the Clerk sent to David Moore, Lead Councillor for Environment to review and prepare for consideration at this meeting. A copy of the model biodiversity template and draft model action plan have been circulated to councillors separately and further information will be available at the meeting.

6 Finance:

6.1 To consider increasing the litter pickers' hourly rate to reflect the increased National Minimum Wage

The litter pickers currently receive £10.42 per hour in line with the National Minimum Wage ("NMW") from April 2023. On 1 April 2024 the NMW was increased to £11.44 per hour.

6.2 To consider next steps for gyrospiral in playground at Farnham Park Playing Fields

As previously reported, following the first weekly visit of the new maintenance contractor the arm of the gyrospiral was removed as there was a crack in the welding. The Clerk was asked to obtain a parts list from the supplier, Proludic, but unfortunately, the supplier advised that this item had been discontinued so the only spares available were bearings.

The supplier therefore provided two options:

- 1) Return the unit back to a gyrospiral as it originally was c. £3,000 plus VAT.
- 2) Start again and install a new Hip Hop Unit c. £11,000 plus VAT.

This was considered at the February 2024 parish council meeting and during the discussion, Clive Robinson advised that the original gyrospiral had been replaced approximately six years ago and the Clerk was asked to investigate whether it was still under warranty. The unit was installed in April 2018 and unfortunately, the supplier has confirmed that the five year warranty has expired. They have however offered, as a gesture of goodwill as a valued customer, a 50% discount on parts on this occasion. The final quote is therefore £1,685.26 plus VAT. A copy has been circulated to councillors separately.

6.3 To consider purchasing two new Union flags

The village flags are both looking a little tired and it has been suggested that they should be replaced. The cost of replacing them is £295 plus delivery and VAT.

6.4 To consider payments and note receipts, as per the April 2024 cashbook

The cashbook has been reviewed and approved by Katherine Damsell, as Chair of the Finance Committee and has been sent to councillors separately.

7 Finance:

7.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The schedule of comments submitted to the planning authority has been sent to councillors separately.

7.2 To note recent planning decisions

The schedule of planning authority decisions has been sent to councillors separately.