



## Arborfield & Newland Parish Council

Parish Office, Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road,  
Arborfield, Berkshire, RG2 9ND

Tel 0118 976 1489

E-mail [parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk)

Clerk: Mrs Hilary Carless

### **Minutes of a Parks Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 7.30 PM at The Pavilion, Arborfield Park.**

**Present:** Cllrs Starkey (Chair), Stevens, Strong, Bailey

**In attendance:** Mrs Carless, Clerk; Mr Watts, The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Cllr Akers-Douglas

1. **Questions from members of the public in respect of the business on this agenda.** (allotted time – 15 minutes)  
No members of the public were present.
2. **To receive any apologies for absence.**  
No apologies received.
3. **To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**  
No items of interest were declared.
4. **Minutes of Council Meeting**  
The minutes of the Parks committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 were approved with all in favour.
5. **To give updates on previous agenda items:**
  - a) Replacement tree in Pound Copse – sourced by VS, purchased and planted by CW, permission from and photo sent to WBC – completed 6 February 2024.
  - b) Spread of White Poplars – advice was received from a very knowledgeable resident. If possible, handyperson will address or else, a working party will be formed to remove the new growth. To keep on agenda until solution is in place.
  - c) Old Churchyard Wall – all agreed that any renovation needed to be sympathetic. HC and VS to meet with the Head of Estates from UoR to discuss the way forward.
  - d) The flowerbed at Melrose Gardens – ES has acquired a dwarf apple tree. PS and ES to plant.
  - e) Poperinghe byway (Wokingham Lane) – an open meeting is arranged for 20 March at Poperinghe Way. Councillors, ASB officer and police will be present. Flyers will be posted through doors and put on website and Facebook. CCTV to be discussed at this meeting - providers to be asked for a reference site. Currently investigating the possibility of a change in status to the byway.

- f) Walks – Permission has been received to put up signage discs on UoR land. PS to revisit walks and fine tune maps and direction wording. PS, AB and ES to put up signage discs for Walks 1 and 2. To keep on agenda to finalise walks so they can be published.

**6. Capital Expenditure Plan on park equipment**

- a) Repair to zipwire service – RFO presented the Committee with 3 quotes. One supplier was selected as the preferred route subject to visiting a reference site and evidencing the efficacy of their surfacing system.
- b) Proposal to build a new multi-use games area at the park – RFO presented the Committee with three suppliers with variable equipment options. One option was favoured with a wider piece of equipment but Councillors were keen to visit a reference site prior to making a recommendation to Full Council. The aim is to have the equipment installed prior to the school summer holidays.

**7. Gates**

A proposal was made to keep the park gates open for a trial period of 3 months from 31 March to 30 June. The height bar will remain closed. The trial will be reassessed at the May Parks Committee meeting. Risks and benefits were thoroughly discussed by the Committee.

**8. Height Barrier keys**

Cleaner and Greener have requested a key for the height bar at the Recreation ground car park so that their waste lorry can more easily access the waste bins. All agreed that the key can be issued to the Cleaner and Greener team.

**9. Next meeting - Councillors to consider items for discussion at the next meeting.**

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 7 May 2024.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 20:29.