

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes – General Purposes and Advisory Group
1st February 2022 at 1400 hrs via Zoom

Apologies: Richard Salmon and Pam Fraser

Present: Cllr Anne Howell-Jones
Cllr Pauline Steel
Betty Millard (Village Member)
Dawn Packham, Village Resident

1. **Membership of Group and Chairman:** Anne Howell-Jones standing in as temporary Chair until new Chair can be found.
2. **Christmas Lights:** Much discussion concerning performance and aesthetics. All agreed not satisfactory should potentially change contractors and purchase new lights, funds allowing. The lights on the tree on the Green belong to PC. Anne to speak with Sue regarding allowance in budget for 2022/2023. **Action: Anne.**
3. **Cemetery; Current Situation:** Since the last meeting Betty and Steve Dickenson (Cllr. Retired) had prepared a report and sent to Ramune to determine the problems. Anne to gain sight of report. **Action: Anne.**
4. **Cemetery Mapping update and next steps:** Ramune had received an update from Pear. Dawn volunteered to meet with Ramune to understand the software which she understood to be quite simple. If this is the case she would be prepared to train Ramune in the use of the software. **Action: Dawn.**
Much discussion regarding the updated report from Pear; there appeared to be gaps and doubling up of plot numbers. A visit to the Cemetery, complete with laptop, pen and paper was needed to compare entries between Pear and the actual plots. Dawn volunteered and also volunteered her husband, Martin. Betty and Pauline also said they would assist (although not as able as Dawn with technology!). Some to be completed before next GP meeting (01/03/2022) to ascertain ease or difficulty of the task. **Action: Dawn, Betty and Pauline**
5. **Letters to plot owners re noncompliance with regulations:** This was regarding 'gardens' created on graves. It was understood that it takes six months for a grave to settle.
It was thought that Ramune had already written to some residents who tended graves of relatives. The situation to be clarified before any further action is taken. **Action: Anne**
6. **Play Area – roundabout and zip wire:** An order has been placed but presently no delivery dates.
The spring equipment and balance beams will be taken out to make room for the roundabout. The balance beams to be put somewhere else. Equipment will need to be added to insurance and a Risk Assessment should be undertaken. Need to check if the regular site survey has been done. **Action: Anne to speak with Ramune regarding chasing Wickstead.**
7. **Biodiversity and Handyman:** Mark Ward has completed strategy regarding biodiversity in the village. Basically handymen should be doing things differently i.e. wild areas within grass cutting areas. This should be done in tandem with residents. Communication with the village i.e. small signs – 'I've been left for bees' etc. No action has yet taken place and it was agreed that handymen change of practice should come through this group.
Action: Anne to circulate Biodiversity strategy to this group.
8. **Replacement Mower:** Has been ordered but a long lead time to delivery. Insurance to be changed to include new mower.
9. **Location of Bins:** The Bins have been ordered and Sue and Dawn have done a survey as to where the ones around the fields should be placed. There is still the question of who will empty these particular bins BPC or VHT.
10. **Defibrillators Update:** The defibrillator, previously located in the Lion, will be located to the wall outside the Dentist. Bloor have a defibrillator on the Lucks Lane site but will donate to the Village when the site is complete. The Handymen will check all of the defibrillators once a week (Bloors when handed over)

AOB: There was a question as to who oversees the Churchyard wild area. Thought to be Richard.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st March 1400 hrs.