

Bierton with Broughton Parish Council

Clerk: Margret Smith

10 Lammas Road, Cheddington, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0RY

Tel: 01296 326128 e-mail: parishclerk@biertonvillage.org.uk

Clerk's Report June 2011

1. Sports Centre/Pavillion

- Jack Batson has fitted the refurbished shower pump in the home changing room. Lester Wellington who runs the Karate classes at the Sports Centre has agreed to run the shower for five minutes each week as advised by Jack during the summer period. Jack also has stopped the leak in the home changing room and the fan and the light appear to be working.
- The two lights in the hall corridor were reported as out and I instructed Shaun Kempson to go in and sort out the problem. The lights are now working.
- Cllr Cotton reported that a door had come off one of the units in the kitchen. Steve Holdham has taken a look and will go in next week once he has got new hinges as they had been twisted off. He will also replace the Sports England sign at the same time.
- I have received two more quotes from local tradesmen regarding the items on the list produced by Cllr Cotton and Cllr Webber during the recent Asset Inspection.
- I ordered the five tables for the Sports Centre from Furniture@Work, as it was the first order I was asked to put it on credit card. The tables were delivered on Friday 10th, and were used over the weekend.
- I have contacted Anne Piggford from the Tennis Club regarding the water bill. She is still waiting to hear from Thames Water as she went back to them and pleaded poverty as a small non profit-making club. She is aware that the Parish Council has said they will recompense the bill which she says is much appreciated by the Tennis Club, if Thames Water do decide to charge the full amount. Zurich Insurance obviously are also awaiting the verdict of Thames Water to proceed with the claim.
- Done & Dusted are negotiating another contract and asked for a 'whom it may concern' reference, which I supplied on behalf of the Parish Council.
- I received an e-mail from Jo Redwood of Bierton PreSchool outlining the plans for the outside area and the items that they are going to purchase using the money from the Aylesbury Community Chest grant. She also advised that she had attended a Aylesbury Community Chest event and presentation and that project grants of up to £25,000 are available to develop outdoor sports area (like the basketball area or cricket net) but could also be used to refurbish existing halls and kitchens etc. and wondered if the Parish Council could benefit.

2. Recreation Ground

- Steve Holdham has again put weed killer down on the playground and car park areas. He has strimmed around the edges of the car park and play area. He has asked for some clarification of the areas that he should be strimming and those that Maple Leaf Services are responsible for.
- He also spent some time collecting the rubbish on the recreation ground and also behind the Pavillion and Sports Centre. He said that he removed vodka bottles and orange juice cartons from the bins on the playground so it would be assumed that teenagers are using this vicinity to drink.
- He has cut back the hedge between the road and the playground as it had overgrown the seat.
- He has purchased the posts to repair the fence around the car park but he has to angle the posts and drill the holes in each of the posts himself so it is taking some time.
- I also asked him to quote for the removal of flattening of the pile of soil, nettles etc next to the playground near the back of the goal. He stated that it is not a small job and that he will need a digger to shift it all and lorries to remove the soil. However the site is full of nettles and seems to be an area for dogs to foul or for their owners to deposit full plastic bags. He promised to give me a price before the meeting.
- Cllr Horne reported that the plastics and can recycling bin was overflowing and that there was no lock. I phoned Martin Jarvis at AVDC who said he would arrange for the bin to be emptied and the lock replaced. Cllr Horne also reported that the second step up on the children's activity unit was loose.
- I have contacted AVDC regarding the cost of clearing the litter at the recreation ground on a commercial basis but I am still awaiting a quote.

➤ I phoned ROSPA to ask if the annual inspection had been carried out. Apparently they attended the week beginning the 23rd May and a report should be on the way.

3. St Osyth's Well

A parishioner phoned stating that the grass and weeds at the well needed cutting. Maple Leaf Services was due to cut the grass and this has now been done and Steve Holdham has again treated the weeds. The same parishioner then phoned to say the rubbish bin on the railing behind the bus stop was overflowing. I contacted Jackie Robain at AVDC who said she would make sure the bin was emptied.

4. The Wetlands Project.

On advice from Tony Strevens I contacted Lesley Davies who is Leisure Services Manager for AVDC and also the official contact point for the RSPB Aylesbury Vale group. She was not available on 20th June but said she would be happy to come to talk to the Parish Council about the Wetlands Project. I sent her a list of the next three meetings and am awaiting her reply.

5. Arla Application

I contacted Devcon who sent the Arla application in the form of a number of discs due to the size of the application. I forwarded these discs to Councillor Robson.

6. Bucks County Council

I contacted Bucks County Council regarding the Horse Chestnut tree at the front of Barnett Way. I wrote to Transport for Bucks regarding the uneven pathways at Parsons Lane and Oldham's Meadow, and also the overgrown seat at Barnett Way, the overgrown footpaths between the allotments and Oldham's Meadow and mentioned again the village gate on the right hand side of the road entering Bierton from the Rowsham direction. I am awaiting replies.

7. Local Elections

I wrote to Mark Tubb explaining that he was unsuccessful in the vote to fill the Parish Council vacancy. He replied that because of Bill Horne's long record of service he understood the vote but would like to be considered if another vacancy arose for any reason.

8. Play Around The Parishes

The play around the parishes event took place on 1st June and was well attended by about forty children. There are three more events booked for the Summer Holidays on 29th July, 16th August and 1st September.

9. Internal Audit

I have collected the accounts from Roger King. He has signed the annual internal audit report section but he did have a query over the risk assessment i.e. 'Has the council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these'. It would seem that the council needs to update the paperwork in this regard although it would be of more importance if any major projects were being undertaken. Mr King said he would send me his report before the meeting on Monday.

10. Street Lights

I reported a faulty street light outside 3 Church Farm Close and 32 Parsons Lane and both have been repaired. I received a phone call from a resident of William Hill Drive and went and picked up the cover of a street light which is broken and needs replacing.

11. Clerk's Training

I attended a meeting with a mentor on 23rd May in Wokingham, which covered the first section of the course on Roles and Responsibilities. It was a useful meeting but a long way to go in terms of both mileage and time.

12. Society of Local Council Clerks

I will be attending a meeting of the Buckinghamshire Branch of the SLCC on Thursday 23rd June at Chesham Town Hall.



Margret Smith
Clerk to the Council