

Chinley Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council

Parish Room, 3 Lower Lane, Chinley, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 6BE

Parish Clerk: Mrs Georgina Cooper
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Clerk's Report – September 2017

Agenda Item 6 (d) – Seating/benches in the parish – Ten benches have been identified from the bench audit to be stripped and painted. A quote from Phil Manford has been approved with a majority of Councillors via email and work has begun on these benches. Unfortunately the wet weather has meant slow progress on this front and only three benches have been done so far. One of these benches has been identified as in too poor a condition to paint (New Smithy) and a decision will need to be made on whether this should be replaced. The memorial bench requested by Charlotte Turpie is now in place and the old, damaged bench on Derwent Square has been removed. Many thanks to Cllrs Drabble and Smith for installing it. The bench is made from recycled materials and should require little to no maintenance going forward. The other memorial bench request from Shirley Williamson was previously agreed for Buxworth playing fields. However since the last meeting Shirley has advised that another memorial bench for Len Crumpton is now going to be sited at Buxworth Club and as a result Shirley would prefer a different site. Also there is not a specific need for a further bench on the playing fields. I would like to discuss the option of siting this bench along the tramway. This needs to be investigated further with DCC, Heritage England and permission gained from landowners but I think it would make a great addition to the tramway if we would consider taking on responsibility for the maintenance. Patricia Kirk, walk leader for the High Peak Walking for Health Scheme, has secured funding for a second bench from DC Cllr Alison Fox should all the necessary permissions be sought. Benches sited along the tramway would encourage more people to walk further as currently there is a total lack of places to rest along the way.

Agenda Item 6 (e) – Buxworth broadband – I have been in touch with BT Openreach Community Fibre Partnership. I am waiting to hear back from them with details of other parish councils that have acted as a contracting body to clarify what is involved and the financial implications of it on the parish council. Dianne Davies is still waiting to receive the draft contract for circulation. We are hopeful it will arrive very soon and can be circulated before the meeting as the original deadline for the extra discount currently being offered is 30th September.

Agenda Item 6 (f) – Tree Survey – The works that had been recommended in the tree survey from Autumn 2016 have now been completed. I am doing a walk around with our contractor next week to check everything has been completed prior to payment. Looking forward we need to schedule in the next annual survey.

Agenda Item 6 (g) – Parish newsletter – The Autumn edition of the parish newsletter is now available for local distribution. Thanks to Liz Stillo for her help in compiling the articles once again. I have investigated the option of Royal Mail delivering our newsletters for us but they have a minimum spend of £500 per leaflet drop which is too expensive for the number of newsletters we would require. However I am meeting someone from The Review newspaper next week to get a cost for our newsletter to be delivered at the same time as The Review. This looks to be a far more cost effective method of getting the newsletter distributed more widely. We would be tied to their production and delivery dates but they are very similar to ours anyway and dates are advised in advance. I understand that Whaley Bridge deliver their newsletter by this method already. More details will be provided at the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (h) – Grounds Maintenance – There are a number of issues to discuss. Firstly Cllr Smith has raised the issue of the path requiring sweeping at Buxworth (from the new car park

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down to the play area). This is not covered on the current DCC contract. Phil Manford has quoted £20 per visit to do this. HPBC would be far more expensive as they would need to send two operatives. We need to make a decision on whether to go ahead with this work and on what basis. Looking at our wider grounds maintenance schedule we need to clarify our requirements for April 2018 onwards. I am meeting the Senior Landcape Supervisor from DCC next week to discuss our current contract and raise some of the problems we experience. I will provide an update at the meeting. Further to this I have been in contact with HPBC to clarify the situation with litter bin collections and to consider whether we can consolidate the emptying of our parish bins to one supplier from April 2018 onwards. I will provide a further update at the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (i) – Friends of Chinley Park – Cllr Pettitt and I attended a meeting of Friends of Chinley Park earlier in September. Two of their long-standing members are looking to stand down at their AGM next February and as a result they are looking to recruit more members to both their committee and working parties. They are hoping to hold an event at the Parish Room in November to highlight the work they do and explain what's involved to members of our parish in a bid to recruit more volunteers. A further update will be provided at the meeting. In addition, Cllrs Pettitt and Hewitt have been to help carry out some work in the park that was in need of attention.

Agenda Item 6 (j) – Path at Chinley playing Fields – Cllr Drabble has brought to my attention the overgrown path that runs along Chinley playing fields from the bottom of the slope towards the Skatepark. The path is so overgrown it can no longer be made out. We need to consider any action and expenditure required at the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (k) – Christmas 2017 – Provisional dates have been provided for the Christmas Lights Switch On events in both Buxworth and Chinley. Chinley's date has been confirmed for Monday 4th December at 7pm on Squirrel Green followed by carols and refreshments in St. Mary's. Buxworth's date is still to be confirmed. I am awaiting confirmation from Whaley Bridge Band as to their availability for Buxworth and will confirm at the meeting. All other arrangements for Christmas to be discussed at the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 (d) – Insurance – Our insurance policy is due for renewal on 1st October 2017. We have been provided with three quotes and a recommendation from Came & Company. I met with our representative last week and am now awaiting some historical material to confirm a number of items, including the value of items to be insured. Updated quotes will be provided at the meeting for approval. We can sign up to a three year deal which will provide a 5% saving each year or just go with one year.