



Bracknell Town Council

Environmental Services Thursday 24th April 2025

Date	Thursday 24 th April 2025
Time	19:30 - 21:30
Location	Council Chamber, Brooke House
Present	Councillors: Simon Carter, Janet Cochrane, Ryan Frost, Ellen Mac Hale, Kathleen Nugent, Donna Pressland, Mary Temperton Cath Thompson, Lucy Young
Apologies	Councillor Gerry Webb
Dispensations	Councillor Imara Wright
Co-opted	Councillors Guy Gillbe, Elizabeth Mary Baker
Officers	Jackie Burgess, Rachel Gordge

Minutes

ES71/25 ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Gerry Webb. Councillors Graham Firth and Jenny Penfold were in attendance as substitutes and Councillors Elizabeth Mary Baker and Guy Gillbe were co-opted.

ES72/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ES73/25 MINUTES

The minutes from the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 21st January 2025 were reviewed. It was proposed to approve the minutes as an accurate record by Councillor Lucy Young and seconded by Councillor Cath Thompson, with all in favour.

Decision: The minutes from the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 21st January 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

ES74/25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from these minutes that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

ES75/25 CLERK'S REPORT

Jackie Burgess presented the Clerk's Report, providing updates on various projects and activities:

- **Jocks Lane Play Area:** The play area extension has been completed and opened for use during the holiday, receiving positive feedback.
- **Pump Track:** The planning application is live and has received positive comments. However, the tree officer raised concerns about root impact areas,

and the flood zone area has changed, requiring rework of the drawings. Discussions with the designer suggest possible adjustments to avoid impacting the trees.

- **Hot Food at Great Hollands:** The food service has been a massive success, with three orders placed since January due to high demand. Thanks were given to Rachel for masterminding it and Suzie for excellent customer service.
- **Jocks Lane Coffee Shop:** Improvements are underway, aiming to bring it in line with Great Hollands.
- **Chapel House at Larges Lane:** Compliance upgrades include new fire doors, distribution boards, and trickle vents funded from earmarked reserves.
- **Great Hollands Pickle Ball:** Following a meeting with the LTA, they are open to a multi-use court as long as it remains usable as a tennis court. The RFM is investigating costs and feasibility.

ES76/25 ONGOING PROJECTS

The various ongoing projects were discussed and noted:

- **Completed Projects:** Jocks Lane Play Area, Covid Reflection Garden, hedging at The Elms, accessible platforms at Mill Park Ship, springers installed at Bullbrook Drive, and the zip line repaired at Jocks Lane.
- **Ongoing Projects:** The Five-Year Plan for play area refurbishment, pipe lagging and overhead insulation in BTC buildings, bird boxes with cameras at Jocks Lane, funding secured for Ennerdale play area with equipment on order, and repairs to the slide at Hedgehog Park, Birch Hill.

Councillors provided an update on a nearby housing development, addressing tree felling controversies. It was confirmed that BTC should be proactive about tree works and replanting that is taking place before the work takes place to inform the public about the tree felling or pruning.

ES77/25 YOUTH WORK

A report from The Wayz on the last year of youth support provided in BTC parks was reviewed. The report highlighted the excellent work done by The Wayz, including their relationship with children, especially looked-after children and young carers. The Councillors agreed to write to Gareth Mephram and The Wayz to thank them for their fantastic job and encourage their continued efforts.

Decision: The council decided to write to Gareth and The Wayz to thank them for their excellent work and encourage their continued efforts.

ES78/25 BIRCH HILL RECREATION GROUND

The request from David Lloyds to put cabling and a substation on BTC managed land was discussed. The councillors expressed concerns about the impact on residents and agreed that David Lloyds should use their own land for the substation. The decision was to refuse the request.

Decision: The council decided to refuse the request from David Lloyds to put cabling and a substation on BTC managed land.

ES79/25 BUILDING AT BIRCH HILL RECREATION GROUND

Storyy's proposal to use one of the changing rooms and to create a reception area at Birch Hill Recreation Ground was discussed. The Councillors agreed in principle, provided the changes were not detrimental to the building long-term and Storyy covered any additional costs. The next steps involve detailed discussions to finalise plans and costs.

Decision: The council agreed in principle to Storyy's proposal to use one of the changing rooms and create a reception area at Birch Hill Recreation Ground, provided the changes were not detrimental to the building long-term and Storyy covered any additional costs.

ES80/25 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Completed and upcoming community events were discussed and noted:

- **Completed Events:** Twinning Quiz Night at Great Hollands on 21st February, Great British Spring Clean Event from 21st March to 6th April, and the 70th Anniversary of Bracknell Town Council exhibition from 22nd April.
- **Upcoming Events:** Marathon run for Home-Start on 27th April, Skate Competition, VE Day 80 on 8th May, Pride Event on 7th June, Teddy Bears' Picnic on 11th June, SHP Food Festival from 21st to 25th June, Culture and Community Day on 19th July, Great Hollands Summer of Fun on 6th August, VJ Day 80 on 15th August, Braybrooke Summer of Fun on 20th August, Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September, MacMillan Coffee Morning at the end of September, Mental Health Day on 10th October, Bracknell Town Remembrance Event on 9th November, Armistice Day at The Angel on 11th November, and the 60th Anniversary of Great Hollands in 2027.

ES81/25 CARBON REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the last meeting on 12th May were reviewed. Councillors thanked Rachel for her efforts in work on carbon reduction, highlighting initiatives such as solar panels and electric vehicles, and the installation of bird boxes with cameras at Jocks Lane.

ES82/25 CIL

The CIL report was noted, and new ideas for CIL funding were suggested.

The importance of maintaining a balance between budget constraints and community needs was emphasised regarding park upgrades. Councillors were reminded to inform residents that all parks are on a schedule for refurbishment.

It was recommended that South Hill Road play area is investigated for a refurbishment.

ES83/25 WORK STARTED AND COMPLETED

Work started and completed by the Grounds Team was noted. Specific projects included the refurbishment at Bullbrook Drive, repainting older equipment, and ongoing maintenance tasks.

ES84/25 CONFIDENTIAL: LARGE REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

There was an in-depth discussion regarding the large poppies following correspondence received from a BFC Councillor. The council agreed to recommend that the issue be referred back to BFC and it was emphasised that the Borough Council should lead the initiative to ensure uniformity and avoid confusion among the parish councils. The council requested the Town Clerk to send a response to CEO of BFC, expressing their preference for BFC to manage the poppies and handle the discussions.

Task: Send a response to BFC, expressing the council's preference for BFC to manage the poppies and handle the discussions. @Jackie Burgess

ES85/25 CONFIDENTIAL: EXCEPTIONAL GRANT REQUESTS

The Committee reviewed two exceptional grant requests. The first request was from a resident tennis coach at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground, seeking emergency funding to continue the free tennis programme. The programme had lost funding from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which previously supported it. The council discussed the popularity of the programme and agreed to provide the necessary funds to help sustain for the current year, thus allowing fund raising for future years, emphasising the importance of local publicity to ensure community participation.

The second request came from a school PTA within the Bracknell Forest Borough for funding for a recycling project. The council noted that the school's catchment area does not touch Bracknell Town area and the programme would only be accessible at certain times due to its location in the school car park. Concerns were raised about the environmental impact of driving longer distances for recycling and the existing local recycling initiatives. The Committee decided to reject the request, citing the lack of evidence that it would benefit the local community and the availability of similar recycling options within Bracknell.

Decision: The Committee decided to provide emergency funding to sustain the tennis programme at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground.

Decision: The Committee decided to reject the grant request from a school PTA for funding a re-cycle programme.

Task: Provide emergency funding to sustain the tennis programme at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground. @Jackie Burgess

Task: Reject the grant request from a school PTA for funding a re-cycle programme. @Jackie Burgess

Date of the next Meeting: 3rd June 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Brooke House

Sign:

Date: