

BURLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on November 18th 2009

Present: John Gundry(JG); John Horton(JH); Caroline Jones(CJ);Clive Myatt(CM); Tom Sumner(TS); Sylvia Tilford(ST)

Apologies for absence: none

In the chair: Bruce Speed (BS)

Introduction: BS explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider the future of BCC now that the main reason for its continued existence, the Burley House Field campaign, had been resolved. Another issue has now arisen that may make it sensible to keep BCC in existence.

1 Burley House Field

1.1 The third Public Inquiry: this had taken place in April and, as widely reported, had recommended that Burley House Field should be registered as a village green. The Miscellaneous Licensing Panel at Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) had met and agreed the registration. JG had received a communication from the Panel stating: 'I am pleased to be able to confirm to you that, following the decision of the Miscellaneous Licensing Panel on 8th September 2009 the register has been amended to reflect the full registration of Burley House Field , Bradford Road, Burley in Wharfedale as a village green. I enclose a copy of the decision sheet of the Panel'.

1.2 Future relationship of BCC to BPC with regard to the field: the responsibility for negotiating the lease on Burley House Field now lies with the Parish Council. Members of the Parish Council had met with a representative of Asset Management on 5th November to begin procedures on negotiating a long lease. (see Parish Council Minutes for 12.11.09)

1.3 Funds available for the development of the field: The Parish Council has been informed that funds, up to £10,000, from the airport monies may be available for work on the field. A bid has to be submitted before the end of the year. This is currently under preparation. A resident has also offered to fund the repairs of the bridge. Residual funds in the BCC account (currently £391.56) might be contributed for work on the field. Any donations received by BCC towards works on the field would be passed on to BPC.

1.4 Suggestions re. the field .

Replies had been received to the questions posed by JG and circulated to all residents in the October Parish Council newsletter. JG has coordinated and passed on to Burley Parish Council the replies he has received. Other replies have been sent directly to the Parish Council. There seems to be broad support for retaining the field substantially as it is at the present time. There

are differences of view about continuing a grazing license on the field – whether this involved cows as at present - or sheep. Replies have said that Improvements in access to the field are needed, improvements to the bridge, dog fouling to be dealt with effectively, and some tree planting is needed to replace dead or decayed trees. A number of people have suggested the provision of a community orchard. A proposal has been made that an archaeological survey of the field be undertaken and any important features protected. The Parish Council is looking into this and also the condition of the high wall adjoining Langford Lane and the condition of the existing trees.

2. Round House lease implications

The transfer of the lease for the Roundhouse from BCC to BWCT has been sought. In order to do this BMDC has indicated that it would increase the rent to £500 a year, from the current £100. In the light of this, it was agreed that the lease should, for the immediate future, be retained by BCC.

3. Future of BCC

Following the decision on the Roundhouse lease it would be necessary to keep BCC in existence beyond the next AGM in June 2010 when the expectation has been that it would finally be closed down. Apart from the Roundhouse matter it was thought to be a good thing to retain BCC in the event of any future issues arising where it could add weight to any actions. This has also been recommended by Cll Chris Greaves. If agreed, therefore, at the AGM that BCC should continue beyond June 2010 it would only meet when necessary to do so. For the remainder of this year the next meeting, for the approval of expenditure and agreement of accounts for the year, will take place prior to the AGM

4. Date of the next meeting:

a date to be agreed in May/June but prior to the June Neighbourhood Forum.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Sylvia Tilford, Hon Sec