

Clerk's Report
Environment Committee
3rd June 2019

UPDATES FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

STREETLIGHTS:

New Columns

New columns have been fitted for Rosemary Lane, Willow Rise and the High Street. The High Street and Rosemary Lane columns were Victorian in design to complement the conservation areas. We were able to receive a refund from UK Power Networks for The High Street – as a road closure was not necessary. The High Street's new street light has been universally appreciated, in Rosemary Lane, we have one complaint that it is too bright. We will be looking at ways to see if this can be improved for this resident. 4 Woodlands and 2 Standbridge Road have been repaired and are now working.

Street Light Survey / Street Light replacement rollout

Eldridge have got up to date on the outstanding maintenance work and are now starting to work on the identified replacement street lights. This work will continue through the summer and hopefully when the clocks turn back we will have a lot of the replacements already up and operating.

Street Light Connections

SparkX have notified us that they now have the accreditation to undertake the 'jointing' of electricity to the street lights. We have asked them to provide costing on how much each connection would be as it would be great to have alternative supplier to UK Power Networks for this service.

2 Rosemary Lane.

This is still with UK Power Networks and is still unresolved.

Stokes Lane (outside number 11)

The residents have removed the ivy and we are waiting for UK Power Networks to disconnect the power supply - this work is due week commencing 13th June. Eldridge will then remove the column.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Telephone Box in Churchway

The telephone box in Churchway is in a poor state and needs refurbishing. We contacted BT and they only repaint them when the Queen is visiting or for the Olympics! As we said we would undertake this task on their behalf, BT have provided (free of charge) a full painting kit for the phone box and we have asked The Rotary Club if they will undertake this refurbishment. Ideally it would be good to get this project finished before Best Kept Village judging.

Suspected Hemlock

It has been noted that there may be some Hemlock growing at Green Lane. A sample has been taken and sent to the RHS for formal identification (as apparently there are a number of plants which are harmless but are routinely mistaken for Hemlock). We are currently awaiting the results. In the meantime, we have spoken with BCC regarding the management of the (suspected) Hemlock, as it is still their Rights of Way. BCC have spoken with their Ecologist and they have advised that we can cut it down. The use of chemicals is not advised and it will be case of continual maintenance. It is worth noting that BCC said that Hemlock was especially prevalent this year.

Verges and Biodiversity

Aspire has started to cut the grass in a more biodiverse way, allowing more wild flowers to grow and encourage more insects. This new approach has been popular with residents with favourable comments regarding managing verges this way. To maximise other opportunities for wildlife, certain areas around the parish will be identified to leave the grass to grow into meadows and include bird and bee boxes.

There are other ideas from Aspire to improve the biodiversity and improve the appearance of the village and these include:

More bulb planting - Sheerstock

Planting of trees – Longwall

Additional planting – Banks Park

Cleaning and Painting of Bus Shelters

Increased floral displays around the village

All the associated costs are included within the quote on the Agenda for consideration.

Future action would be for the Council to consider a Biodiversity Policy for the Council which would incorporate our approach to grounds maintenance and include any actions from the proposed Climate change workshop.

Additional verge grass cutting at Franklin and Willis Road

Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust stopped cutting the grass in these roads, after they discovered that this work should have been undertaken by Bucks CC. Bucks CC have devolved grass cutting (in 30mph zones) to the Parish Council -so therefore had not undertaken any cuts. Unfortunately they didn't inform the Council of the extra roads and we were only advised when we had angry residents calling the office to complain. These roads are outside our Devolved Services Agreement and we are trying to get hold of BCC to confirm the exact status. In the meantime, we have used our delegated expenditure to authorise Aspire to cut down the grass for residents.

Stockwell

A meeting is scheduled on the 31st May with Transport for Bucks to agree the exact locations of bollards and signage for Stockwell. This includes the additional bollards at the top section of the Stockwell. We have had reported from a resident of some 'poor' parking along Stockwell. This is having been investigated and passed to the PSCO's but there is little they can do as the car is taxed and not parked illegally – though is very close the road junction.

Update:

Following a productive site meeting with Tfb – they will provide a revised design statement based on 11 bollards situated along grass verges at both ends in Stockwell. There will also be new and improved signage.

Road lines

Faded road lines were identified at Churchway, Dollicott, Station Road, Aston Road, Slave Hill, Whitecross Road and Sheerstock. These were sent through to our Local Area Technician and were actioned very quickly. There was a problem at Sheerstock as the parked cars were in the way, so they were unable to repaint the access restriction lines (hockey lines). The middle section of the road at Sheerstock is in poor condition and would be difficult to paint onto. Our LAT is investigating the best way forward to reinstate lines along this road as it will demonstrate to people who park along Sheerstock that the road is 'two way' and not a single road.

Haddenham Village Fete

The road closure has been applied for to BCC Highways. We were delighted that our LAT was able to provide the road closure and road diversion warning signs which saved the Parish Council having to buy additional signage.

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD

The first section of the collapsed wall has been fully restored and looks very good. It involved recovering a vast quantity of stone which had fallen into the pond and this was supplemented with carefully sourced stone from a local quarry. The work was of a high standard and was completed on time and in budget. A subsequent quote has been obtained for the next section along the front of the pond and this includes ivy removal. We are awaiting a Council resolution.

TREE WORKS

Met with Tree Contractor to review tree survey and action any work which has been identified for the summer. This included re-assessing seven trees which has had ivy severed and the ivy has now died back, allowing the trees to be fully surveyed. We will be working on a consultation process for the Lleyandii at Sheerstock to make sure we can schedule this work in affectively.

Householder – Roberts Road.

Quotation to approve of £595 (+VAT) to undertake the cutting back of overhanging branches over the property. This needs Council resolution.

Snakemoor

A tree branch came down at Snakemoor which blocked the pathway. This was visited by our Tree Surgeon to ensure not dangerous and was actually cleared by a volunteer who wanted some of the wood. A survey of Snakemoor has resulted in the recommendation to pollard two willow trees. I am awaiting confirmation of cost and availability.

Householder - Slave Hill

A resident reported overhanging branches into their garden from the allotment site. I have asked the Tree Contractor to survey the area and provide the Council with a cost.

SENTINEL

Has not been booked out by Haddenham since the last meeting. We have asked the Cuddington co-ordinator if they would be willing to help galvanise and support Haddenham's volunteers. He has agreed to assist the new volunteers and we will be setting this up shortly.

PLAY AREAS

Woodways

The old Zip Wire has been taken out of service and we will be installing the new one in July. It should be finished in time for the summer holidays.

Unfortunately, we seem to be having some anti-social behaviour around the playground and Pavilion Car Park. There were numerous smashed bottles in the playground and the car park is being strewn with takeaway wrappers and the small gas canisters. This has been reported to the PCSO's who have asked that the 'night time' traffic police car makes a circuit around this section of Haddenham.

Banks Park

The fence extension has been installed which provides the additional bit of protection which was highlighted as advisory in the safety report. Sadly, we had to ask the contractors to come back twice to fix snagging. This included bolts not finished off correctly and some touching up with paint on some scratching.

On the 24th May, some time during the day from around 10 – 3pm, there was some vandalism done to the grass matting (by the boat). A section had been pulled up and thrown around. Sadly in doing this the 'perpetrators' damaged four mats. We have asked our repair contractor to come and make the necessary repairs and we have backfilled with soil so there isn't a trip hazard. It is so disappointing and very bold to do this in daylight when the site is so busy. Alas nobody has reported seeing anything. We have advised the PCSOs.

Sheerstock

I have had the first site meeting with Proludic regarding the new playground. We have a start date of 8th July and I will have an addition meeting with the installation manager prior to this date. Reaction from residents has been really positive and we hope this will be straightforward install.

PONDS

Signage

We have the signage in the office regarding not feeding the ducks bread. Exact locations still need to be decided.

UPDATES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Parking Phase 2

A meeting scheduled for 14th March was postponed due to illness and will be re-scheduled, therefore nothing to update.

Pavilion Doors

Still chasing Providers for a cost of installing steel doors. Hope to get this work scheduled shortly.

MATTERS OF REPORT

Filming at Church End

The filming went ahead smoothly, and everything was left back the way it should be, even the dog poo on Ponny was picked up for us (and quickly started to reappear!!). Feedback received about the production company was positive

On 5th, 24th & 25th June, Midsummer Murders will be back at Haddenham for filming. They will be filming by Dragon's Tail on the 5th June and on the Woodways Recreation Ground and Pavilion on the 25th June. The Council will receive a donation for the use of these facilities.

CORRESPONDENCE