



# H A D D E N H A M

## Parish Council

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### **Facilities Committee Clerk's Report** **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

#### **Maintenance of assets and amenities**

##### **Street Lights**

The street light maintenance contract has expired and a new three contract is being advertised on Contract Finder. We hope to get three quotes with a view to bringing them to the Finance and Governance Committee for a decision. In the meantime, we continue to use Eldridge for all our street light maintenance and the program of upgrading the lights continues.

##### **Benches**

A new inclusive bench has been installed in the Woodways Playground. It is made from recycled plastic and the bright colours have been a hit with the children.

##### **Dog bins**

Tibbs Road bin has been reinstalled after being knocked over. Emptying frequencies need to be assessed due to overflowing during the winter.

##### **St Mary's Churchyard Witchert walls**

The Conservation Architects have now completed the necessary engineer assessments, specialists and diocese permissions to proceed with the repairs and rebuilding of the wall on St. Mary's School access path and the replacement of the Manor Farm boundary wall in a Witchert style.

The Planning permission has been submitted and the decision should be received by the end of the month. The historic buildings officer has now reviewed the application and is requesting that the school wall is reinstated to its full height and the Manor Farm wall is rebuilt in witchert. See letter from Conservation architects with his recommendation.

Quotes have been requested for both walls.

The work to the walls will be prioritised in the coming months.

##### **Church End Green**

After a meeting with TFB the council still awaits a quote for the installation of the Granite Sets to edge the village green.

##### **Woodways and Tibbs Pitch Maintenance**

The autumn pitch maintenance has been completed. The Woodways pitch has been vertidraind, herbicide treatment and fertilised.

Tibbs Road has been vertidraind and due the poor condition of the grass had two fertilise treatments. The improvement in the grass surface has been noted by the football clubs.

### **Tree work**

**Sheerstock:** Lime tree at Sheerstock recreation ground has been felled and the resulting logs stacked for public use.

**Sheerstock Footpath:** Section H2, to rear of properties, adjacent to boundary with industrial unit. Reduced height and side backed will be returning to complete task.

**Old Mill Close:** Reduced height to 1.8 metres and removed ivy and dead items, reduced facings on both sides.

**St Mary's Churchyard:** Reduce and crown lift Sycamore, Copper beech and Sycamore. Cut Ivy at base of Limes and the Sycamore at the front of the church.

**Thame Road:** Verge cleared opposite the station cutting down all self-seeded trees and re-emerging the original Hawthorn Hedge.

The resulting woodchips have been distributed between, The Orchard, allotments and Snakemoor.

### **Planned Tree Work:**

We await quotes for minor works at Townsend Green and Longwall.

### **Play Areas**

#### **Woodways Refurbishment:**

The Woodways Playground has now opened. It has been a difficult install with some play equipment failing the initial inspection. Unfortunately, the netball post snapped over the first weekend and we are in negotiations with Wickstead regarding a refund or possible replacement.

Whilst this has been disappointing the playground has received very positive feedback and has improved the play provision especially for disabled parishioners.

#### **Inspections and maintenance**

Annual inspections have been carried out for Banks Park and Sheerstock playgrounds and the Woodways BMX track. All three playgrounds were found to be low risk. Woodways playground does not require an annual inspection this year as it has only just been installed. The Aspen Park playground at Tibbs Road is scheduled for its annual inspection later this year.

2 medium risk faults were identified at the Aspen Park playground in the last quarterly inspection. We are arranging for ARD to carry out a repair to the Track Ride Tower. We are also arranging for Aspire to apply topsoil and grass seed to areas across Aspen Park, Banks Park and Sheerstock where the surfacing is starting to show wear.

Aspire's Weekly inspection has not highlighted any problems.

## **Pond Maintenance**

The Autumn maintenance has been carried out by the pond specialists at Rudd's pond and Banks Parade pond. To maintain a good condition, the specialists recommended removing and cutting a section off the drainage grid, this has been carried out by Aspire and has improved the outflow of water and blanket weed dispersal.

After researching to find a low impact and efficient way to remove the silt in Church End Pond, a recommended company has now carried out an inspection and advised carrying out a formal assessment including lab testing and have provided a quote for consideration.

We are looking at the feasibility of pump removal rather than using diggers, which would mean having to drain the whole pond and then remove the silt in lorries. They instead suction the silt out into tankers, taking full responsibility for removal and disposal of the silt. This has minimal impact on wild life and silt can be removed in stages as a sensible way to manage the costs. We await further information.

## **ReLeaf**

Buckinghamshire Council has submitted an application to the Forestry Commission for a grant from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund, and have recently received confirmation that the grant has been awarded. Parishes and voluntary groups were invited to submit applications to Buckinghamshire Council for a share of the grant money. Parish Council and ReLeaf volunteers assessed the boundaries of Woodways as the next priority for improved tree planting, as well as replacement of trees on the Sheerstock footpath and a list was agreed for submission to Buckinghamshire Council for a grant. The Grant Agreement and memorandum of understanding with Buckinghamshire Council have now been signed. ReLeaf will be able to help with reporting and possibly with some planting or watering if necessary.

The Clerk attended a meeting with all participants in the project to discuss the agreement and reporting, which helped to clarify some issues. Another meeting was held with the BC Communications Officer regarding publicity for the Treescapes Project are part of the wider tree planting initiative across Buckinghamshire.

A meeting has been held with Kathy from Aspire and Kirsten from reLeaf to discuss the sourcing of trees and division of responsibilities for planting and ongoing maintenance. One nursery who will plant the trees and guarantee them is being asked to quote, and a nursery specified by Buckinghamshire Council will also be asked to quote. If the planting isn't done by the nursery it will need to be done in phases and the time limitations may mean the total number of trees planted with funding will be reduced.

## **Woodways Pavilion**

### **General maintenance**

The PAT testing for the Pavilion has now been completed which has brought the Pavilion up to date on the outstanding health and safety issues. We now need to put procedures in place to ensure that proper logs are in place for Legionnaires, fire safety etc.

The damage to the guttering and some soffit boards has now been repaired. There are some boards covering windows and there needs to be further investigation on whether the boards / windows need replacing.

The Pavilion is now cleaned once a week by a contract cleaner and this has improved the overall cleanliness of the building.

We await the professional cleaning of the oven and extractor which has been delayed due to volume of work and short staff.

The Parish Council has booked a locksmith to replace locks on the boiler and oil rooms at the Pavilion.

We await a quote for the installation of a fire door for the kitchen.

As recommended an outside tap has now been installed with the related stopcock under the kitchen sink.

## **Improvements**

### **The kitchen.....**

We have now received a quote for the replacement of the kitchen at Woodways and we await a comparative quote.

## **Energy Usage**

It has been identified through the lockdown period that the cellars in the Social Club use the vast majority of the electricity usage. Kirsty Shanahan from Bucks Community Energy will look at the usage figures and suggest ways we can make the cellar less expensive to run.

## **Community Orchard**

A meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November - the draft minutes to be included.

## **Allotments**

### **Plot rent**

Invoices for plot rent went out at the end of September. Plot rent has been collected from all but 3 plot holders, one of whom only took on a plot in October.

### **Allotments boundary tree work**

Prunus- reduce group of trees by 30% to contain and allow more compact crowns. Also to reduce large overhanging prunus by 20% removing apical and lateral growth.

Aspire have cut back the full length of the boundary hedge overgrowing the footpath to Slave Hill and Sheerstock.

## **Snakemoor**

The wood chippings for the tree work at Sheerstock were taken to Snakemoor to use for path maintenance over the winter.

See updates on working parties from Julian.