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# Facilities Committee Clerk's Report 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Updates – not on the agenda

## St Mary's Churchyard Witchert walls

Planning permission (21/03925/APP & 21/03926/ALB) has been granted for repairs to a section of Wychert boundary wall and the rebuilding of concrete block boundary wall. We await revised quotes and a schedule of works.

## **Church End Green**

It was agreed at the Planning Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February not to proceed with the granite setts at Church End currently, whilst it looks at whether the Streetscape project may affect the proposals.

## Spring Grounds Maintenance- Tibbs Road and Woodways football pitches

The spring maintenance will be starting in March for Tibbs Road and Woodways recreation grounds. Both sides will be vertidrained, fertilized, seeded and sand dressing (if necessary). Woodways will require more additional maintenance of harrowing and rolling to make sure the cricket outfield is prepared properly after the football season. This work will be undertaken using our preferred supplier for football pitch maintenance in conjunction with Aspire starting the mowing season.

## reLeaf and Treescape

The Treescape project has already commenced with Buckinghamshire Council coordinating the planting of trees in the Haddenham Highway verges.

The scheduled planting of the trees and hedges at Woodways and Sheerstock Footpath will commence on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, weather permitting. Aspire will be responsible for the ongoing watering. reLeaf would like to plant some hawthorn along the Churchway footpath that has been tarmacked by Dandara. We are waiting for a response from Dandara who are currently still responsible for this path.

## **Agenda Items**

## **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

See monthly reports from Aspire.

The Parish Council staff have increasingly experienced difficulties with requests to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor for works that are in the Contract. The Contract Manager is requesting extra payment for tasks that are clearly defined in the contract, so these remain outstanding. Communication by email and meeting with the Senior Groundsman have not

been able to resolved these issues which will be discussed at the next Contract meeting with the Contract Manager.

## **Pond Maintenance**

We have now received the Lab test results which concludes that the waste is nonhazardous, but with a raised level of carbon and some other chemicals. The higher levels of Carbon may be advantageous to the argument for depositing the silt locally and more cheaply, suitable sites would need to be considered, as suggested by the Environment Agency. We have also received a quote for the process of pumping out the silt, waste water etc. and removal to land fill (they are taking responsibility for disposal) so that is reflected in the higher cost.

Once we have confirmed all paperwork required by The Environment Agency the Parish Council will start a tender process to source competitive quotes which will include the alternative dredging and local depositing of silt options and bring the results to the Facilities Committee.

## Trees

## Storm damage

Due to the recent storm damage some of our scheduled works have been delayed, including the removal of self-seeded trees on the School Path (Woodways) and the dead Lime on the Allotment boundary.

2 trees were lost at Banks Park and 2 at Longwall. Suggest these are replaced with additional planting at Longwall following the removal of self-seeded and dead trees. The Scouts have requested planting a tree at Banks Park for the Platinum Jubilee which could also be considered.

Aspire have carried out an inspection of all sites and gathered fallen branches that will need to be chipped.

#### **Tree Survey**

The Parish Council take a proactive as well as reactive approach to our tree maintenance. This spring we are increasing our tree stock and it's important to have an up to date survey to allow the Council to budget effectively for tree maintenance. The Survey will allow us to plan ahead with maintenance broken down into immediate, 6 months, 12months categories. The tree survey will be scheduled for early summer once the tree stock comes into leaf.

#### **Play Areas**

## **Quarterly Inspection quotes**

The current contract for quarterly inspections and minor maintenance has expired. As all playgrounds have recently been refurbished, it is recommended that we switch to a contract for inspections only as less minor maintenance is required. Quotes have been requested for the quarterly inspections. Of the quotes received, ARD (our current contractor) is the cheapest at £250 per quarter.

## Inspections and maintenance

No high-risk faults were identified in the most recent quarterly inspection. The recommendation to carry out a dismantling inspection for the zip-wire has been actioned. The report identified that the edges of the new wet pour surfacing at Woodways were lifting. We have since spoken to Wicksteed and repairs have been made.

## **Street Lights**

UKPN have finally scheduled the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> March to joint preinstalled columns at Churchway and Townside.

The Parish Council has been using UK Power Networks for its jointing services to connect new street light columns. The service which has been provided is very poor and involves a lot of unnecessary administrative time - chasing quotes and huge time delays (six months+) to get the work scheduled and completed. Through the street light maintenance tender process, we identified two other providers (who had the right accreditation) and could provide a jointing service – Sparkx and EON.

To change Jointing companies to undertake the work doesn't require a contract with the Parish Council as the work is ad-hoc. Prices have been obtained from both the organisations and compared to UKPN charges, the Facilities Manager and Deputy Clerk recommend that the Council considers moving to EON.

## CCTV

Over the last few months there have been several incidents of fairly minor vandalism at Banks Park, however in the last couple of weeks there have been two more serious incidents where wheelie bins used by the Scout & guide Centre have been set fire to and destroyed, leaving smoke damage to the outside of the building. This has been reported to the police and the PCSOs have visited, it is their recommendation that new CCTV system is considered.

Previously CCTV has been installed around the Village Hall to provide constant coverage of the whole site, however this has limitations and images have not been clear at night time and number plates are unreadable. An alternative option would be to employ the services of a security company such as <u>Crime Wave Ltd</u>. They provide a full service that includes setting up high quality cameras at a specific area, monitoring and producing images to use in a police report, for GPDR purposes they would be the data handler. The cameras would be appropriate for the area to be monitored and could be relocated anywhere in the village there is a problem.

The quotes obtained in 2017 for fixed cameras at the village hall were in the region of £4,500 and £3,500 for an ANPR camera at Woodways. Updated quotes would be needed for this option.

The Crimewave cost is £9,000 + VAT for one camera. For two cameras the unit price drops to  $\pm$ 7,800 + VAT for each camera. So, a two camera service is  $\pm$ 15,600 + VAT and additional cameras from there is  $\pm$ 7,800 + VAT each.

Either way this is an expensive undertaking, so I suggest working with others at Banks Park and considering whether any other areas of the village might benefit from CCTV monitoring before making a decision.

## **Sports Facilities**

#### Legionnaires Water Monitoring – Woodways Pavilion

The Parish Council undertook a risk assessment for legionnaires and water sampling at Woodways Pavilion. From the risk assessment there are a number of remedial works which need to be done alongside better administration and testing. The attached quotes cover the work outstanding and to provide ongoing checks on an annual basis. This covers all required administration and a water sampling regime.

## Kitchen refurbishment at Woodways Pavilion

This has been a very frustrating exercise! Despite lots of effort contacting both local and further afield kitchen fitters, quotes have been very hard to come by. All of the contractors seem very busy and getting a cost for a straightforward refurbishment has been difficult. There are two quotations which provide a simple refurbishment of new units, worktops and sinks. The layout of the kitchen will remain the same.

## **Community Orchard**

The Community Orchard Committee have consulted landscapers and based on their recommendations have prepared a specification for the inclusive access project at the Orchard.

They have requested quotes from suppliers and once these have been received will then approach the Facilities Committee for approval to apply for Community Board funding for the project.

## Allotments

The allotment committee is due to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

#### Snakemoor

Thanks is extended to the volunteers that kindly dealt with storm damage to various trees with the support of Mark Nicholson.