



Facilities Committee Clerk's Report **21st November 2022**

Agenda Items

Updates on non-agenda items

Street Lights

Work has been completed and all 13 new columns are up and running. Eldridge will be removing the old columns if not done already. As the nights draw in we are being alerted to various lights not working with 5 repairs being made already.

A new pillar has been installed by Eldridges to accommodate the Christmas Lights this year. A connection is required from Bucks Council's street light and they are coming out to confirm connection requirements.

FA23 41 DEVOLVED SERVICE AGREEMENT

The devolved services team at Buckinghamshire Council has written to all parishes regarding the devolved service agreements, as follows:

As we are sure you are aware Buckinghamshire Council has been undertaking a large procurement exercise for the new Highway contracts which will come into effect at midnight on the 31st March 2023. This will be an entirely new service delivery model with new service providers, a commitment to delivering value for money and to work more collaboratively with community groups, Town and Parish Councils. Given these changes we have decided to extend the current devolution agreements until the new model is operational so that Town and Parish Councils are fully aware of the new service provisions and to allow time for more detailed and informed discussion about future devolution arrangements.

We therefore propose that the current devolution agreement be extended for one more year from the 1st April 2023. We will commence a full consultation in May 2023 with Town & Parish Councils which will include surveys and workshops to listen to your views on Highways Devolution for the future.

The original agreement started in April 2015 and was intended to run for 4 years to March 2019. This will be the 4th 1-year extension to the agreement, with no increase in funding until April 2022 when there was a 3% increase. There has been no mention of a funding increase in April 2023 which would mean a real terms funding cut in the current economic climate. The issue has been raised via BMKALC who were under the impression that funding would be increased.

FA23 42 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

See monthly reports from Aspire and minutes from the quarterly meeting held on 20th October 2022.

CONFIDENTIAL: The working group to review the grounds maintenance contract in preparation for the end of the current contract in June 2023 has met and have prepared a preliminary report.

FA23 43 ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

After a slow start with problems to machinery the wall has now been built. The cappings have been placed on the top of the wall and it now needs rendering. It was deemed that it would be best to wait for the spring for this work to take place. There were some justifiable concerns from the resident of the farm adjoining the church land regards to mess and some slight damage to the car park area made by the builders. This has since been discussed, repairs carried out and all parties are pleased with the outcome.

There was some additional unanticipated work, that was authorised by the Clerk in discussion with the project manager and Church wardens.

FA23 44 PONDS

The annual maintenance for both Rudds and Banks Park Ponds has been carried out.

A large skip full of reeds and general rubbish was taken away.

We are also trialling a section of banks pond with a new product that is thought to eat away at the silt and reduce the levels of it. If it is a success then it should eliminate the need for future expensive dredging projects.

A resident has used their own tool to turn on the water at Rudds Pond and has left the tap full on for a long period of time and despite recent rainfall. This was discovered when meter readings were carried out and the tap was turned off. This individual has cost the Parish Council over £2,000 in water whilst a there continues to be a drought and hosepipe ban. As chlorinated water is not good for wildlife in any case the Parish Council should consider if it is responsible to retain mains water taps at the ponds.

Church End pond

Following the drought and work to clear the silt from the pond it is now starting to refill with water following recent rainfall. There is a lot of debate locally about the need for a pond liner, which it has been agreed should only be considered if vital to the survival of the pond, after monitoring for the next year. The Clerk is seeking advise on maintaining the pond with improved marginal planting in a more natural way that allows some drying out in summer as is common for natural ponds.

The Parish Council is being asked to consider a proposal from a resident to look into the possibility of installing a solar powered bore hole to provide ground water for the pond to be topped up for wildlife when the water level falls very low. There would be some significant planning difficulties to overcome for any structure on the registered village green, in the conservation area and on the boundary of a grade I listed building. Any work inside the

churchyard would require Faculty permission. It is recommended that the permissions needed should be investigated prior to any detailed engineering design.

FA23 45 TREES

Two different contractors have been asked to quote for work to the tree in the rear garden of a property on Churchway that is now blocking one side of the road in Stokes Lane, however the resident is elderly and unable to afford the work, we await their responses.

The removal of the next section of leylandii trees on the Sheerstock boundary with Rectory House has been booked in for the 28th and 29th November. Immediate residents have received letters advising them of this. The wood chippings from the work will be used at Snakemoor, the Orchard and the Allotments.

FA23 46 PLAYGROUNDS

Inspections and maintenance

The annual inspections of the playgrounds were delayed but have now been received. There are no high-risk faults identified and some minor repairs are needed. The fire damage to the netting on equipment at Woodways is recommended for replacement which would be a significant cost. Overall the play areas are of a high standard.

Woodways New Equipment

The repair work to Woodways Playground has been completed. We identified that there had been some screws left in the wooden equipment, this was where the signage had been removed by 'someone'. This is now been resolved.

The turf was laid and the safety fence left for 10 days to allow it to get a good start. Fence has now been removed and all is looking well.

On the positive side, it is well used and popular playground. I am confident we got the right design, just had too many problems with the manufacturer and their installation contractor.

Tibbs Road Playground

Repairs have been carried out following the vandalism and no more vandalism has occurred at this time.

FA23 47 BIKE STANDS

As agreed at the last meeting Cllrs Truesdale, Wheeler and Thawley spent a morning with the Facilities Manager visiting the sites proposed by the Safe Walking and Cycling Group for additional bike stands. The locations agreed as suitable are in the separate report.

FA23 48 DOG SOCIALISING AREAS

See separate proposal from Cllr O'Hanlon.

FA23 49 SPORTS FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Woodways Pavilion

More work has been undertaken on trying to solve the issues with the toilets. Further to the last Facilities Meeting a works specification was drawn up regarding the refurbishment of the toilets and improving the provision for disabled users. This has been sent to a number of suppliers to quote for the work. The response has been disappointing so far (deadline 14th November), so may need to advertise on Contract Finder to find a suitable contractor.

The 'press down' taps have all be installed and this will help with water efficiency and not leaving the taps on.

The exterior has been painted and has greatly improved the look of the outside of the Pavilion.

We have been receiving some enquiries from the community regarding the hire of Woodways. We are very conscious of the limitations of the layout at Woodways and would only consider the hire of the function room when the sports clubs are not in attendance. It will give us an opportunity to create more revenue into the building.

Tibbs Road Pavilion

The Pavilion is now at the fitting out and decorating stage, which is scheduled for completion by 18th November. There is a significant delay by Thames Water to provide the water connection which will incur additional costs to the project. We are preparing for the handover by looking at the way we operate the opening and closing of the facility, and are working on a licence for use with Haddenham Youth Football Club. Already we have had several enquiries to use the new function room which is encouraging.

The Audio-Visual equipment has been ordered and will be installed week commencing the 5th December. The office equipment, tables and chairs and other fixtures will be delivered on 23rd November.

FA23 50 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

The pargetting of the witchert wall hasn't been done and we have no date for it.

FA23 51 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

A meeting was held on 12th October, see draft minutes of the meeting.

Speeding is an issue on the access road so the Council has been asked to consider some signs similar to those previously purchased for use outside the school – a child with a slowdown sign. Estimated cost £50 each.

There is also a request for an access protection road marking across the access to encourage drivers not to park too close to the access.

FA23 52 SNAKEMOOR

Report from Volunteer Manager Julian Watson following the working group on 29th October.

The working party achieved a great deal:

- Planting 60 Woodland Trust hedgerow saplings
- Improvements to the driveway hedging
- Mowing the meadow (thanks to Michael Whitney)
- Chipping debris wood & wind damaged trees (thanks to Mark Nicholson)
- Further pruning of the orchard
- Relaying of worm paths
- Stream upkeep
- Restoration of a bench
- Rebuilding the log barrier

There remain several activities that can be progressed by individuals or small groups:

- Further work on the hedgerows
- Bird box protection
- Removal of dead elder by the stream
- Additional path reinforcement

We are planning a social gathering at Snakemoor before Christmas.

Correspondence

One email and one phone call expressing support for the proposal for the bore hole at Church End pond.