



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 2.00pm, in the Sports Field Pavilion, Millham Lane, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery. Cllrs: Mr Gerry Lewis; Mr Alan Ottey and Mrs Louise Parrish

Deferment of Business for comment by the public. None

Apologies: Cllr. Mr John Preston who is working.

Election of Chairman: Mrs Dubery was proposed as Chairman by Mr Lewis and seconded by Mrs Parrish. There were no other nominations. Mrs Dubery was elected unanimously.

Declarations of Interests:

Cllr. Mrs Dubery regarding the Sports Field.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Matters Arising:

All Saints Church Wall – retaining wall adjacent to the school:

Members were informed that having inspected the wall from both sides Mr Jones stated that he has a responsibility to ensure that the wall is rebuilt so that it is structurally safe. He will write and submit a report to include the anticipated costs of both rebuilding the wall to the same specifications as it was before the collapse, and the alternative, to reinforce it.

Members were informed that Mr Harrison is very much of the opinion that the fallen part of the wall should be reconstructed as the original. Any alteration/betterment, if required by the Diocese (owners of the wall), would need to be managed and funded by the Diocese. This opinion very much concurs with that of the Town Council.

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Having considered the tenders received, members:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote received from cwhtrees for £490 to undertake a walkover survey of the trees growing on six sites, assess the risk the trees may pose in relation to their surroundings and make appropriate recommendations in a report. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Abbots Way Pond:

The Clerk reported that work has not begun due to the sighting of snakes possibly adders.

An application for funding has been made to S.C.C.' Welcome Back'. If successful it is proposed that a channel is created, from the inlet to the outlet, the island removed and the surrounding area replanted with suitable plants and shrubs. In the meantime the Grounds Man is to be requested to remove brambles and trim the area in order that the bench can be used.

Play Equipment Monthly Inspections:

Weekly inspections are being undertaken. However, monthly inspections by members have not taken place.

Cllr. Mr Ottey agreed to carry out monthly play equipment inspections in both recreations grounds for the immediate future.

Exmoor Lawns Bench

Members were informed that an offer of a bench has been made. Members consider the most appropriate place to site it would be next to the new one, situated at the end of the lawns, close to Exmoor House. It will need to be of the same make and specification as the existing bench. Cllr. Mrs Dubery to pursue.

Reports with regards all areas and responsibilities as follows:

Cemetery: Cllr. Mr Gerry Lewis:

It was reported that the cemetery looks tidy but is in need of a cut. Concerns regarding a recent burial and the subsequent sinking of the plot has been investigated and is being monitored by the Funeral Directors responsible. No levelling of graves has been carried out due to grass cutting commitments.

Church Yard: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish / Parish Lengthsman: Mr John Preston:

Mr Bryant has been requested to undertake the removal of ivy and the cutting back of the yew and shrubbery at the rear of the Church Yard within the next couple of weeks. He will require an extra days work to achieve this due to the demands regarding the cutting of the grass.

Concern was raised concerning the overgrown vegetation between Church Lane and the Church.

Sports Field: Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery:

The field looks tidy and well maintained. Some strimming is due to be undertaken around the tennis courts.

Barnsclose: Cllr. Mr Alan Ottey:

Concern has been raised by a Magna resident regarding an oak tree situated on the boundary between the recreation ground and Barnsclose Mead. It has been inspected by Cllr. Ottey and the Grounds Man who do not consider that there exist any imminent risk from falling branches. Graeme McVittie, Senior Conservation Officer, Exmoor National Park Authority has agreed to take a look and advise further. The trees will be included in the quantified tree risk assessment, approval for which was given earlier in this meeting.

Kings Corner: Cllr. Mr John Preston:

To be closed to the public tomorrow for the setting of mole traps
In the event that the application for S.C.C.' Welcome Back' is successful, if available, funding will be used to purchase the proposed awning.
It was reported that the new play equipment is proving popular with children.

Exmoor Lawns: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish:

Power has been successfully installed. 16amp power cables need to be purchased. Cllr. Mr Lewis agreed to investigate options.
Signage is to be posted to direct the public to an alternative litter bins when the litter bin situated at the steps to Exmoor Lawns is full.

Lorna Doone Roundabout & Grass Cutting: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish:

The roundabout continues to look tidy and well maintained.

Abbots Way: Cllr. Alan Ottey:

It was reported that a considerable amount of debris has been left on site, at the top end of the Abbots Way, opposite the school entrance, following work carried out by Magna Housing when erecting new fencing.
The Clerk was requested to write to Magna and request that the debris is cleared and disposed of appropriately.

Pound Walk: Cllr. Mr John Preston:

Cllr. Mrs Rawle stated her intent to report the existence of overgrown vegetation and weeds.

Urgent maintenance issues with regards all other grounds with permission of the Chairman:

Pest Control Service Agreement:

RESOLVED: To adopt the amendment to the existing Service Agreement to include the eradication of moles. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Chairman.....