



**Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting** held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 commencing at 10.30am, in the Town Council Office, Lady Street, Dulverton.

**Present:** Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery. Cllrs: Mr Alan Ottey: Mr Bill Gash; Mr John Preston; Mrs Allison Crisp, who arrived at 11.30am; Mrs Louise Parrish, Mrs Margaret Rawle and Mr Nick Thwaites.

**Deferment of Business for comment by the public.** None

**Apologies:** None

**Declarations of Interests:** None that are not already declared.

**Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:** None

**Matters Arising:**

**All Saints Church School House Boundary Wall:**

Members were informed that further advice is being sourced from a specialist concerning what proposals can be considered with regards the rebuilding of the collapsed wall.

**Barnsclose – SWW Works:**

The Clerk continues to pursue South West Water, through German Fisher with regards the following:

- 1) The extended lease as from 29th July 2023 until 30th November as South West Water has proposed.
- 2) The payment of the £200 per week (*payable in advance*) due for the period 29th July 2023 until 30th November 2023
- 3) Details of the proposed refurbishment of the play ground

**Grounds Work – Hourly Rate 2024/25.**

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED: To increase the hourly rate paid with regards grounds work from £13.25 to £13.75 as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme 2024/25:**

RESOLVED: To approve the proposal from the Clerk to commit to 34 days per year into the scheme, at the hourly rate of £13.75. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

**Budget Requirements 2024/25:**

Members considered the anticipated costs regarding all grounds for 2023/24, and the proposed budget figures for 2024/25 as presented by the Clerk. After lengthy discussion it was:

RESOLVED: To submit Appendix A to the Legal & Finance Committee with regards inclusion when considering the council budget for 2024/25. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

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

Exmoor Lawns: A large area has become extremely boggy. The Grounds Man is to be asked to erect fencing around the area concerned to protect it.

**Chairman.....**