



Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2023 commencing at 3.00pm, in the Town Council Office, Lady Street, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery. Cllrs: Mr Alan Ottey: Mr Nick Thwaites and Mrs Louise Parrish.

Deferment of Business for comment by the public. None

Apologies: Cllr. Mr John Preston

Declarations of Interests: None that are not already declared.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Matters Arising:

All Saints Church School House Boundary Wall:

Cllr. Mrs Dubery met with Dean Kinsella (ENPA Planning Officer) and Thomas Thurlow (ENPA Historic Officer) on site and the current issues were discussed. It was made clear that a solution has to be found that is affordable (DTC neither have the infinite funds or the resources) or the scaffolding will have to remain indefinitely.

The following suggestions and comments were made as follows:

- a) Earth Clamps/land anchors – Cllr. Mr Thwaites stated that he attempted to get quotes extensively in the past concerning the rebuild of the north wall, but was unsuccessful.
- b) Buttresses – It was noted that the use of buttresses will require a faculty and will have to be built in stone which will prove costly not least in solicitor's fees. Concern was expressed that it will not necessarily support the whole of the wall.
- c) Metal shuttering – To be investigated.
- d) The proposed use of gabions were not supported by ENPA Planning Officer and Historic Officer on the basis is that the Churchyard is Grade 11 listed.

Mr & Mrs Daughy are being updated as to the situation.

Barnsclose – SWW Works:

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a response from Charlotte Scott, Graduate surveyor on behalf Fisher German LLP with regards a further payment for a further nine weeks (29th July – 30th September) as well as proposals regarding future access. She will chase the issue.

Reports from Members as follows:

Cemetery: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish

RESOLVED: To meet the cost of the damage done to the memorial on submission of a quote from the owners of the grave plot lease.
Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Parrish & carried.

Church Yard: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish / Parish Lengthsman: Mr John Preston
Left hand side looking a little neglected. Path down to Lady Street needs sweeping.
Concern expressed concerning the weeds on the top terrace. Clerk requested to get a quote from Complete Weed Control.

Sports Field: Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery
Mrs Dubery reported that Tennis Club had made a request to the Sports Field Charity (SFC) that they be allowed to remove the the Tulip Tree (as it was causing damage to the Tennis Pavillion) & the tree in the corner (as it is causing problems regarding the courts). Both trees were planted by the Tennis Club and they will be paying for the removal. The SFC do not have any issues with this proposal and neither do members of the Grounds Committee presents.

SFC will be holding a meeting next week to discuss the future maintenance requirements of the Leyladi Hedge

The SFC has just paid to have a roof slate repaired on the main building and the shed. They have been advised that the slats on the rear are degrading quicker than expected and should therefore be prepared for undertake future repairs.

Barnsclose: Cllr. Mr Alan Ottey
Members considered the latest play equipment inspection and requested that quotes be obtained with regards the necessary repairs.

Kings Corner: Cllr. Mr John Preston
Nothing to report.

Exmoor Lawns: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish
It was reported that the moles are back with vengeance. Members request that Green Valley Pest Control are contacted to deal with the issue.
There exist saplings on the slope of the flood defence next to the bridge, which require removal before damage is sustained to the bridge or defences.

The fencing of the grass area near the slope will be carried out next week by Mr Takel. Mr Rawle has kindly offered to assist.

Abbots Way/ Abbots Way Pond: Cllr. Allan Ottey
The hedge situated at the school end on the side of Fishers Mead has been cut back.

Pound Walk: Cllr. Mr John Preston
It was reported that the Highways Steward has been doing a good job in keeping on top of the maintenance requirements.

Lorna Doone Roundabout & Grass Cutting: Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish
The Highways Steward has recently pruned the shrubbery.

Somerset Association of Playing Fields Awards 2023:

Three awards were received this year. Members were anxious to express their sincere thanks to Mr Takel , for all his hard work over the last 12 months and discussed how their appreciation can be best expressed. It was agreed that a formal letter of thanks, from the Mayor, on behalf of members to be sent by the Clerk and to present him with a Gold Star award at the next meeting.

Urgent maintenance issues with regards all other grounds with permission of the Chairman: None

Chairman.....