

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 15 December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

440/20

GROUND'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report.

It was noted that play equipment at Wye House Gardens was deteriorating and the Grounds Manager recommended replacing it. It was agreed that this requirement should be added to a future agenda

Members considered a recommendation to consider the sharing of equipment with the Golf Club with the expected move to a new workshop on land adjacent to its Greens Shed. Details included:

- The Golf Club could make use of the Town Council's tractor
- The Town Council could make use of equipment for improving and maintaining sports pitches
- In both cases, this would help keep equipment costs down and free up storage space
- Appropriate insurance would need to be arranged and records of use might help to ensure that the arrangement was mutually beneficial to both organisations

RESOLVED: (ii) with the right monitoring and insurance in place, to support the sharing of grounds maintenance equipment between the Town Council and Marlborough Golf Club

441/20

CHURCHILL COURT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report setting out the historical background to the issues with trees and ownership at the site.

During a suspension of Standing Orders, the recently appointed Development Manager for Churchill Court introduced himself. He would be very amenable to hold further discussions, but could not make decisions on behalf of the landowners. He confirmed that should the land be transferred, the financial cost of maintaining trees and the riverbank would most likely be passed on to residents via an increased service charge which may place a considerable financial burden on them.

A resident also spoke stating that he did not believe that a fence was required and suggested that pollarding the trees would be a better option. This would allow more daylight and warmth from the sun into residents' apartments. He also stated that the condition of the retaining wall was poor.

The Grounds Manager confirmed that it would be possible to pollard Lime and Willow trees, but not the Alder. This would benefit residents on the riverside of the building, but would add to the Council's ongoing costs for tree works as pollarding would need to be carried out every five to seven years.

Discussion points included:

- Whether to reapply for planning permission to erect a fence delineating the Town Council land (as had been agreed via a S106 agreement in place at the time that Churchill Court was built and originally to create a riverside walk)
- Whether there would be any opportunity to work together and share costs with the owners of Churchill Court
- Estimates for a post and rail fence had been obtained relatively recently following a visit from the Town Council's Health & Safety Advisor who had highlighted safety issues. A cost of between £3,500-£4,000 had been estimated
- Disappointment at the lack of engagement from the landowners and the apparent disregard to contribute towards improving conditions for residents
- Whether to obtain estimates for the cost of pollarding the trees
- A desire to help residents
- That without a fence, the liability issues remained

RESOLVED: to seek estimates for the cost of pollarding trees for consideration at the next meeting

442/20

STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

Members noted the minutes of the most recent Stonebridge Management Committee and that the annual review of the Stonebridge Management Plan was being held via videoconference at 6pm on Tuesday, 23 February. Registration and links could be requested via the Town Council offices.

443/20

PLUME OF FEATHERS GARDEN

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered a request by the Richmond Fellowship and local residents about future community use of the garden, as well as emergency cabling works at Plume of Feathers Lane. Discussion points included:

- Plume of Feathers was currently under lease to the Richmond Fellowship (a leading national mental health charity)
- The lease expires on 22 October 2021
- A letter had been received from residents and the Richmond Fellowship requesting a new lease as well as agreement to the creation of a Friends group to expand the use of the space for wider community enjoyment
- That legal advice should be sought about incorporating a clause in the lease to enable this new more inclusive arrangement whilst continuing to promote good mental health
- That the work of the volunteers in creating such a tranquil space was commended
- Whether the garden was a suitable location for a Friendly Bench (a national, community-led social enterprise to combat loneliness and social isolation)
- The draft Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan had designated Plume of Feathers as a valued open space

In addition, BT Open Reach required the Town Council's permission to carry out urgent works to repair damaged cabling. This would entail dig sites, but surfaces would be made good and nearby residents would be informed

RESOLVED: (i) to seek the advice of the Town Council's solicitor on a new lease for the Richmond Fellowship and to add a clause to enable wider use as a

community garden and to include working with a soon to be established Friends group

RESOLVED: (ii) that access and permission is granted to Open Reach to carry out urgent works to damaged cabling

444/20

CEMETERIES

RESOLVED: (i) that recent Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial were noted

RESOLVED: (ii) that recent approved memorials and inscriptions were noted

RESOLVED: (iii) that cemetery charges with effect from 1 April 2021 were agreed at a 2% increase

445/20

OPEN SPACES CHARGES 2021/22

RESOLVED: that open spaces charges for 2021/22 were agreed at a 2% increase

446/20

SKATEPARK

Members noted the Assistant Town Clerk's report and considered a way forward in terms of a revised lighting scheme at the skatepark.

During a suspension of Standing Orders two young skaters spoke about the proposed lighting:

- To express their thanks to the Town Council for considering the addition of lighting
- Lighting would help the youth of Marlborough for a long time to come
- Skating was a very positive and affirmative activity providing outdoor opportunities away from screens and to provide a sense of escape from difficult times
- Skating provided a sense of community spirit to an enthusiastic group of people
- The freeing and uplifting feeling from skating was a great benefit to mental health and wellbeing
- Lighting was an issue in the winter months: currently skaters were restricted to finding illuminated spaces such as car parks, but were often asked to move on by residents to prevent noise nuisance
- It was not safe to use the skatepark when it was dark although some skaters may take risks outside of daylight hours
- Lighting would keep skaters in the skate park and away from other public spaces or unsafe locations
- Both skaters offered to discuss any concerns as they were aware that some members of the public objected to the proposal. Skating had been a positive influence on their lives and would be for generations to come

Councillor Farrell was very proud of the two young people for speaking up, and **the Chairman** thanked them for attending a long meeting so that they could share their comments.

Councillor Castle left the meeting

RESOLVED: to accept the revised quotation and proceed with the lighting project on this basis, subject to Wiltshire Council approval

Several members of the public left the meeting

447/20

MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM

As **Councillor Hillier** was unable to attend the meeting no verbal update was available.

The meeting closed at 9.33 pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman