

Members noted the updated action log. Verbal updates included:

#70: High Street regeneration funding. The **Town Clerk** had contacted the provider of Wiltshire Council's City Dressing initiative to arrange a meeting to find out whether there were options which might be suitable for Marlborough. He would also be attending a Town and Parish Council conference in May with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to understand Wiltshire Council's initiative to work with towns and parishes.

#71: s106 money associated with redevelopment of the former police station: **Councillor Thomas** would revisit to check for any update.

504/21 GROUND'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report. As he was unable to attend the meeting, questions and comments to convey to him included:

- Marlborough Cemetery: the **Town Mayor** commended the team on the improved surface to the path: he noted it was not complete, perhaps waiting for more gravel supplies, and asked when it would be completed up to the hedge.
- War memorials: **Councillor Ross** asked when previously agreed winter work would be completed to include the laying of a hard surface to replace the gravel in front of the war memorial, and weeding and renewing the gravel at the 7th Wiltshire Regiment memorial.
- **Councillor Luson** believed there was outstanding work at the allotment sites which was not mentioned in the report. He would elaborate under agenda item 9 (Allotments).
- **Councillor Barrett-Morton** reported damage was being done to the roses in Priory Gardens caused by careless football players. He asked whether Wiltshire Police could be asked to add the area back to their regular patrols.
- **Councillor Waltham** asked for future reports to include the play area at Wye House.

The **Chairman** confirmed all would be passed back to the Grounds Manager. He also added updates:

- The Common: the surface beneath the swings had been repaired and the swings would be reinstated in the next day or two
- Coopers Meadow: components to replace the basket swing had been ordered in February but were still not available from the supplier: the Grounds Manager was following up weekly. Similarly work to replace the stock fencing was still outstanding and due for erecting soon.

505/21 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Members noted the budget report to month 12.

506/21 CEMETERY REPORT

Members noted Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial that had been issued and Memorials and Inscriptions approved for the period 7 February to 11 April 2022.

The **Town Clerk** answered questions about the process and likely timescales for the Cemetery extension and acknowledged that this priority project should get under way soon.

ACTION POINT: the **Town Clerk** to include a report to the next meeting about extending Marlborough Cemetery

507/21 ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Luson gave an update following his attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Association on 28 March:

- All three sites were doing well
- Extra plots had been created at Stonebridge Lane with only one of the four yet to be allocated
- Members of the Association had asked whether the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan would make provision for additional allotment sites in the plan area
- Some winter work for the Grounds Team was outstanding: a new gate for Stonebridge had now arrived but was yet to be fitted
- Changes to the wait list process had been agreed with the Office Manager

508/21 THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Committee had previously agreed to the planting of 70 trees to mark 70 years of The Queen's reign. Some were still to be agreed: there were upcoming meetings with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and with Aster Group to agree plans for planting trees on land not owned by the Town Council. The **Town Clerk** agreed to pass on the map of Wiltshire Council land provided by **Councillor Thomas**.

Councillors Heath and **Waltham** shared maps highlighting areas for tree planting that had been identified so far. A detailed list of those already planned was available on request, and highlights included:

- A copse of 40 small trees at TinPit, supplied by the Woodland Trust
- To replace a line of trees at Elcot Lane between the allotments and the village green
- 15 trees identified by ARK and suitable for wetlands e.g. willow, for Stonebridge Reserve
- A ceremonial oak tree to be planted at Priory Gardens on the Jubilee weekend

Discussion points included:

- Most of the trees planted at Elcot Lane in 2016 had died: there were questions about whether they had been suitable types or had been properly maintained. As they were adjacent to the Elcot Lane allotments the involvement of the Allotment Association to keep them watered was suggested
- That the Jubilee working party would focus on the ceremonial tree planting at Priory Gardens
- A member of the community had in the past offered a tree, currently in a pot, to the Town Council: whether this should be followed up as a suitable mature tree for replanting elsewhere

- Sizes and prices of trees, and availability of supply, especially for oak trees
- Whether there was a risk to the tree for Priory Gardens being damaged; protective fencing would be installed while the tree was young
- A confirmed plan with costs would be required to be sure that costs could be covered (tree budget and/or Platinum Jubilee Ear Marked Reserve)

RESOLVED: to delegate a final decision on the overall plan (70 trees) to **Councillors Heath and Waltham**

ACTION POINT: **Town Clerk** to forward Wiltshire Council green space map to **Councillors Waltham and Heath**

ACTION POINT: **Councillor Sheppard** to share details of a nursery that could supply larger trees

509/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential or commercial nature of the business to be transacted

Mr Goodwin left the meeting

510/21 DIAMOND JUBILEE ORCHARD SIGNS

RESOLVED: to purchase two replacement stainless steel signs at a cost of £2,106

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: