

Clerk's Report for Town Committee 12 November 2024

Jubilee Park/pavilion/MUGA

Perimeter Walls

A condition survey was scheduled to take place on 9th October. The report is awaited.

Car park patch repair

The patching of the pavilion car park took place on 24th October. SLR reported that this has temporarily fixed the problem, but there is inadequate surface base in the car park and it will likely need complete resurface should any further potholes develop in future.

Tree works – Ash tree removal

The works have been booked in to remove the three ash trees at Jubilee Park. This work requires planning permission and the application has been made by the contractor.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

SID brackets have been ordered and received, along with a new battery to replace the faulty one.

Allotments

Two plots at Cuckoo Hill had letters to cease the tenancy with effect from 12th October. The clerk and assistant clerk have arranged to commence clearance of plot 6 on 26th November, weather permitting. It is hoped that once the plot is cleared of 'stuff' the vegetation can be levelled and the plot covered for the next few months.

There is one additional plot at Cuckoo Hill that needs to be inspected, and one at Durslade, as a follow up to the 'non-cultivation' letters sent in September.

A formal inspection needs to be scheduled in for both allotment sites.

Condition surveys and maintenance

Engine Shed

The roof is in a worse condition than first thought, and initial advice is to consider replacing the entire roof. Erecting scaffolding is problematic, due to the proximity to the river and adjacent properties. This is being investigated and further advice being sought.

The electrical survey has been addressed – there is only overhead lighting, and no sockets. The lighting is linked to the Community Hall fuse box, and will be addressed as part of the regular electrical inspection conducted by them. A copy of the certificate has been requested.

Churchyard

The clerk and assistant clerk are viewing the churchyard and assessing which areas of the gravestones and memorials are to be addressed first, with a view to obtaining quotes and factoring the works into the 25/26 budget. The clerk has arranged to meet with the vicar to discuss the walls and memorial stones.

Cemetery

There is a diseased ash tree that needs to be removed. A quote has been obtained for the removal of the tree, which is to be discussed at the Town Committee meeting.

Abbey Ponds

The clerk met with Hauser and Wirth in September, along with the chair and vice chair of the Abbey Ponds working group, to discuss various areas of management of the site. The clerk shared councillors suggestions about appropriate signage at the railway bridge to highlight use the footpath to pedestrians, rather than walking on the road.

The clerk has written to Hauser and Wirth to request extension of the agreement from them to manage and maintain the walls for a further five year period.

There is no update regarding the dog waste bin request.

Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme

The clerk and assistant clerk have arranged to meet the community engagement officer from the contract provider, on 12th November to discuss gulleys within the parish boundary. Councillors have been contacted to provide information of the flooding 'hot spots', which will be discussed during this meeting.

Somerset Council

There is still no response from Somerset Council regarding the proposals for charging for some bin emptying from 1st April 2025.

Packhorse Bridge

The memorial plaque for Carol Cahill has arrived, and is to be installed at the planting area by the stepping stones.

END OF REPORT