## A7.18 Notes from Parish Walk-around – 13 January 2018

The walk was attended by five members of the Council, (Cllrs Keel; Lewis; Hudson; Engler and Whittall) and the Clerk. Cllrs Clarke; Ryan; Parkhurst and Breeze sent their apologies before the walk and Cllr Robinson apologised later due to a family emergency. Those present visited the Youth and Community Building; the pavilion and the Lythwood sports complex. Cllrs Whittall and Engler gave their apologies part way through the walk and had to leave early.

### Youth and Community Building

It was noted that the carpet had recently been cleaned and that some repairs were ongoing in the gent’s toilet to deal with persistent mould. The partition wall will require some insulation and plasterboard which can be purchased inexpensively once the area has properly dried out. It was suggested that the lighting in all of the toilets could be improved.

It was suggested by Cllr Keel that new locks be fitted to the metal cupboards in the store room to enable non-sensitive documents to be stored there. The cupboards could alternatively be used to store fitness equipment.

### Lythwood Pavilion

The use of soap bars was generally agreed to be unappealing for users and it was suggested that liquid or foam soap dispensers be installed as part of the proposed changing room refurbishments. The hole in the clubroom ceiling was identified as being in need of repair and the request by the bowlers to reverse the sink drainer in the kitchen area was noted. The damp carpet in the glazed conservatory was due to a leaking window seal which will be addressed by the parish team when the weather improves however the carpet smells unpleasantly and may require replacement. (N.B. this carpet had also been recently cleaned but the smell was still strong).

It was noted that several of the lighting bollards around the pavilion were damaged, the newest one having been knocked by a car in the last day or two. It was suggested that these bollards be replaced with bulkhead lights around the perimeter of the building with motion sensors. These would be less vulnerable to damage and would only come on when needed.

The recent refurbishment work undertaken by the bowlers to the bowling green ditch was noted with appreciation.

Although the car park was full at the time of the walk around, it was agreed that use of the facilities would be increased if residents had better information about how to hire and access the facilities. A noticeboard to advertise the facilities outside the pavilion gate or in the Youth and Community Building car park would be particularly useful.

### Tennis Court

Despite several applications of moss killer the surface of the tennis court is still slippery and the moss has not died back appreciably. This has been the subject of complaints by regular users. It was suggested that the use of an industrial cleaner be investigated. It was also suggested the court be top dressed and repainted to improve its appearance and safety. The need for a larger gate to permit access via the Astro turf for floodlight maintenance was noted.

### Astro turf

The benefits of occasional deep cleaning and patch repairs of the playing surface were noted. It was confirmed that the astro turf is ‘groomed’ once each month by the Parish team.

### Grass Triangle

Possible uses for the piece of grass between the bowling green; the tennis court and the football field were suggested. It was noted that the pitch and putt course at Meole has recently been sold and this could give rise to increased demand for informal golf opportunities. Suggestions included mini-golf; disc golf and a driving range.

### Multi-use Games Area (MUGA)

The group suggested the area be remarked to encourage greater use of the facility. It is not used for any formal sports or groups. It is set out as a basketball court but there are no basketball teams in the village and the hoops are too high for netball. The MUGA occasionally gets use for informal games of football but there are no football goals.

### Skate Park

It was suggested that older teens would value some more challenging play equipment on the grassed area between the skate park and BMX track. This could be a larger climbing frame or net suitable for teens aged 14+and the Clerk was asked to research some options. The use of the youth complex could be enhanced by a teen day; youth club or community games event.

The grass strip between the skate park and the lane was suggested as a suitable location for an outdoor gym, having the benefit of lighting and 24 hour accessibility. It was considered that 5 or 6 pieces of gym equipment could be installed and if carefully positioned, some could be accessible to wheel chair users.

### BMX Track

It was noted that some of the vegetation at the back of the BMX track needed strimming and that the fence between the football field and the BMX track required repair. This will be carried out by the Parish team.

### Community Woodland

The group explored the area of woodland adjacent to Lythwood Hall that the Council is considering taking over responsibility for from Shropshire Council. It was noted that attempts have been made to create an unofficial BMX track in the past and that some damage has been caused to the unofficial footpath and some trees have been uprooted. One of the stiles giving access through the boundary fence has rotted away and this has been reported to Shropshire Council. If the woodland is transferred to the Parish Council there would be no reason to maintain the fence and it is recommended that it be removed to improve access or the stiles replaced with kissing gates.

The new kissing gate installed by Shropshire Council about 2 years ago into the woodland to the west of the playing field, (also to be transferred to the Parish Council) was useable but extremely muddy. The group agreed that there was no reason to maintain this gate once the land transferred to the parish council. These woodlands showed further evidence of antisocial behaviour. The group found a rusted wheelbarrow and farm gate dumped in the woods and other litter suggesting the area is used by youths as a meeting place. Further excavations and fires in the woodland have resulted in deliberate damage to young trees, several of which had been uprooted. There was also some evidence of honey fungus on the root of one tree, which should be investigated as it could spread to other trees resulting in die back.

### Parr’s Pool and Woodland

The water levels in the pool were found to have recovered. One of the outfall pipes appeared blocked and this has since been cleared by the Parish team. The duck weed had spread over approximately half the pool surface at the time of the walk around but clearing the outfall resulted in the majority of the pond surface clearing again. The duck weed continues to be a problem around the larger island as there is no water flow to dislodge it. It was suggested that introducing a fourth inlet from the Brookfield end could generate sufficient water flow to move the duck weed towards the outfall. This could be considered if the Brookfield is transferred to the Parish Council to manage and could improve the drainage of the field, which is currently very wet.

The remains of a mature willow tree which fell into a neighbour’s garden under the weight of the recent snow were examined and the trunk was found to be rotten and heavily infested with ivy. It is recommended that this tree be removed and the other mature trees around the pool examined by a suitably qualified tree surveyor to identify any that may be dangerous.

The group considered the suitability of the boardwalk for a small land train to take visitors around the pool at the annual Jingleation event. It was considered that the boardwalk was sufficiently strong but that the path would require a little reinforcement to ensure the land train could get on and off safely. Cllr Lewis suggested that the trees around the pool could be illuminated at their bases, creating an extension to the Jingleation lighting. It was suggested that the Jingleation group investigate the options and bring a proposal to the Council for consideration.

The group considered the idea of installing picnic benches at the recently cleared eastern end of the pool. It was noted that weeds now grow more quickly in this area due to the increased light so any picnic area would benefit from the installation of a weed suppressing membrane.

The group considered a suggestion that a dedicated Den Building area be identified and marked out to encourage younger children to visit the woodlands. An area near to the path was suggested as there is an existing bench from which parents and carers can supervise the den building. This area is between the playing field and the Brookfield.

### Brookfield

The path across the Brookfield was extremely wet on the day of the walk, particularly at the junction of the two branches and next to the litter bin. At the moment the path is inaccessible to wheel chair users due to the amount of mud but if the drainage could be improved the path could be kept in better condition. The Brookfield has been identified as part of the land for transfer to the Parish Council.

As it was now 12pm the group decided to reconvene at a later date to inspect the Longmeadow Play Area, the Glebefield and The Common.