

A43.17 Clerk's Report to Amenities Meeting - 12 June 2017

Anti-social behaviour and damage to Council property

The Council has encountered an increase in anti-social behaviour recently resulting in theft and minor damage to equipment:

Late March - Unofficial BMX track constructed in woodland between football fields and woodland owned by Mr Pearce, (reported to Police). Mr Pearce is anxious that the humps be removed.

Late April & early May – Orange mast gates forced and damaged – intruders spotted inside tennis courts and fence damaged; Reported to police and Orange with request to repair gates asap (still not repaired): Evidence of drug use in skate park area; Offensive graffiti (removed). Witness descriptions of intruders passed to police but no action taken; Further damage to Astro turf fencing found – need to arrange repairs to both tennis court and astro turf fences.

Theft of rustic bench from Parrs Pool area – reported to police in May

Motorbike using Parrs Pool area – reported to Police in May

Drug paraphernalia (May) and damage to toddler fencing at Longmeadow play area (June); Reported drug issues to police and arranging repair to fencing in house

Abandoned car – The Common – A Polish registered vehicle has been abandoned on the parking area on the Common. The police have been informed but as the car is on unadopted land Shropshire Council will not remove it. The Police say they cannot arrange removal for 6 months from the date they were informed of it (November). It is not actually causing an obstruction but is blocking one of the limited parking bays and two residents have complained about it. I don't yet know if we have any right to remove it but if we do we would incur the costs of doing so. The Council is asked to give its instructions on what action it wishes to take.

Resident using van as a paint store for his business; the van has been left on the parking area of the Common for many months which is further restricting parking facilities and makes turning difficult. The Council is asked to consider whether the resident should be asked to remove the vehicle

Damage to wall post box – The Common – The ROMEK engineer (part of the Post Office) reported that some damage has been done to the stonework of the wall, which was built by a local resident on behalf of the Parish Council many years ago. The stones had been pushed into the post box causing it to get blocked. If anybody can confirm the stone came from the local quarry I could probably get this repaired fairly easily but it may be later in the year when the busy summer growth period is abating.

Hanley Lane Footpath

The owner of the land has scraped the soil from the surface of the path to remove dog foul and cleared some hedging to discourage fly tipping. Shropshire Council displayed a sign requesting dog owners 'bag and bin' their dog waste and subsequently a collection of dog waste bags began to

accumulate at the end of the footpath. The dog warden has attended and has identified the chief culprit and explained that leaving dog waste bags constitutes a litter offense. The perpetrator has since started walking her dogs elsewhere. In the meantime arrangements have been put in place to remove the litter bin from the kissing gate at Brookfield and relocate it to Hanley Lane. A redundant concrete bin is being installed by the Parish in the Brookfield (away from houses) and will be emptied by Parish staff on a regular basis. This will increase the time required for the collection of dog waste & litter but it is hoped it will be manageable within the regular timetable. It is hoped this will also resolve the issue of the Brookfield bin.

Residents have also expressed concern that the farmer has installed barbed wire fencing along the woodland side of the footpath and carried out drainage works in the field. The Rights of Way officers have been kept informed of the changes but as the footpath remains open there have been no breaches of regulations.

Floral Planters

Shrewsbury TC has installed the planters on the Parade and site staff will water them twice weekly. Where this work can be carried out within the working week it will be but if necessary the Clerk will authorise additional hours from the seasonal workers budget to ensure they are kept in good condition. As no warning was given before the planters were installed and they were delivered dry it was necessary to authorise 2 hours overtime to ensure they were watered properly.

Farmer Davies has been reminded that we would like the redundant horse trough returned. It was arranged that it be delivered to the Parish Office this week but it did not arrive. I will continue to chase up the farmer and when it arrives will arrange to fill it with compost and flowers. It is unlikely to be as successful as the self-watering containers on the Parade as it will not have as good a drainage system.

Request for tree removal – The Common

A resident of Burgs Lane has a garden backing onto the Common. He is concerned that a birch tree growing on the outer perimeter verge is too close to his property and will cause damage in time. The tree is approximately 6m from the wall and garage. It is a relatively young, healthy tree with a shrubby appearance with plenty of shoots growing from the base. The leaves are just touching the roof of the garage but not causing any damage at present. I recommend that the Council adopts a policy on trees to assist it to respond consistently to such requests. (See agenda item A49.17).

Football Pitch Maintenance

Our staff have started to take down football goals for painting and have re-seeded the goal mouths. I would welcome some guidance on the extent of end of season renovations that the Council wishes to authorise and confirmation that this shall be put out to a contract. (Although we have collected the slitting equipment for use with the Kubota tractor our staff have no experience or training in its use. Any work undertaken in-house would need to be carried out in additional hours as there is no capacity for such a large job in the available hours). There is a sizeable budget for this work and it was not carried out last year due to continual use by visiting teams for 'friendly' matches outside the football season.

Goal Post Testing

Once the goals are painted and re-erected it is recommended that they be tested for stability. This has not routinely been included in the annual play inspection programme but recent incidents of goals collapsing have raised awareness of the risks to users. The manufacturer recommends testing to BS EN 748 (copy attached) however there does not seem to be any contractors offering this testing service. ROSPA has been approached and state they test goals by leaning and pulling on them, which does not comply with the standard. Shropshire Council state they do not have staff trained to test to these standards. The Council is asked to confirm whether they wish to appoint ROSPA to carry out goal post testing or consider some alternative action.

Lyth Hill Country Park

A meeting has been arranged with Mark Blount of Shropshire Council and Longden Parish Council to discuss financial and operational management of the country park. The meeting will take place in the Parish Office at 10am on Monday 12 June. If Councillors wish to attend would they kindly advise me in advance so that I can ensure we have enough space? I will report the outcomes at the meeting in the evening.

Request for a Rounders Pitch

There are currently two Rounders teams in Bayston Hill which travel out of the village to practice. It has been requested that a pitch be marked out at either Stanley Parker Playing Fields or the Glebefields to enable them to practice locally. This would be a good opportunity to increase the range of sports offered in the village and make use of the facilities during the summer months.