

FC 68.17 Amenities Reports to Full Council – 11 September 2017

Report 1 Football Pitches and Goal Post Maintenance

During August the steel goal posts were taken down, painted and re-set in new concrete footings. The posts for pitch 2 were subsequently taken down to allow the pitch to be rested and the worn goal mouth has subsequently been built up and turfed. The project was largely successful and carried out within the required timescale. One of the goal hangers (pitch 3) requires a new fixing which is in hand. Unfortunately, since the work was completed another goal hanger (pitch 4) has been damaged, (probably by youths climbing on the goals) and will need replacement shortly.

The steel container that houses the nets is in a very untidy state. Wheelie bins have been provided to keep the nets tidy but the teams have not been willing to use them to date. Bayston Hill Juniors usually bring their own nets but are interested in building some storage racks at the back of this container to keep their equipment safe. They may be willing to assist in sorting out the Council nets to improve access to the rear of the container. The existing steel shelving is in a very poor (possibly dangerous) condition and it is recommended that this be removed and scrapped, together with any unwanted equipment to enable the nets and other Council property to be stored properly.

The Council is requested to approve disposal of redundant equipment from the container.

The Council is requested to approve the installation of lockable storage by Bayston Hill Juniors for storage of football equipment.

Bayston Hill Juniors are considering applying for a defibrillator through a Football Association scheme. They could purchase it for £350 providing they apply before the supply runs out and would be willing to install it at the pavilion for public use if the Council was willing to refund the costs. (The club is intending to apply in any event but if no financial assistance is available it would keep the defibrillator for the use of the club). **If the Council is minded to support this initiative it could do so through the award of a grant under S137 of the LGA 1972.**

Report 2 – Parrs Pool

A contract to maintain the pool and surrounding area was agreed in the summer and the contractor attended during August to skim the duckweed and clear the weeds from the surrounding woodland. Unfortunately the contractor's pump broke down and time was lost, which meant that only half the expected amount of weed was removed. There was also a problem with extremely low water levels which was exacerbated by the skimming process and this exposed the newly planted lilies to damage by ducks. The contractor has acknowledged that the protective nets were not deep enough to cope with the unexpectedly low water levels and has agreed to rescue the remaining lilies as soon as possible. I have asked the contractor to schedule a second visit to complete the removal of duckweed. If water levels remain low the weed can be effectively sprayed, however if water levels recover they will be able to use new skimming equipment, which will recycle the water. The contractor has offered to replace any lilies that have been destroyed but has suggested the Council considers how to bring water levels back up as quickly as possible.

Report 3 – Changing Rooms Refurbishment

Invitations to tender for this work were sent out to eight local contractors with a return of 4 September. Three quotations were received (see Confidential Quotations at agenda item FC80.17 for details)

The Council is invited to confirm whether it wishes to prepare an application to the Football Federation for matched funding for these works using the quotations received.

Report 4 – Tree work at Lythwood Pavilion

The Clerk has received two complaints of overgrown trees and shrubs within the Pavilion compound blocking light from the gardens of Lythwood Road. The Clerk recommends a risk assessment be undertaken to determine whether the work can safely be undertaken in house. If not, the Clerk will obtain quotations from outside contractors for the consideration of the Council.

Report 5 – Street lighting electricity supplies

UtilityWise has been attempting to obtain quotations for the supply of unmetered electricity using consumption data supplied by Shropshire Council. Although this is based on an up to date inventory, suppliers will not provide a quote without an Unmetered Supplies Certificate. Western Power Distribution will issue a certificate only if the Council undertakes to leave the Joint Energy Supply arrangement with Shropshire Council and enter into a new connection agreement. This is a Catch 22 situation as we are unable to work out if we would save money by leaving unless we decide to do so. If we find we cannot get cheaper electricity outside the joint arrangement we have no guarantee of re-admittance to the scheme. At the moment we cannot tell if we are getting a competitive rate. Shropshire Council should be able to negotiate a better rate due to their greater purchasing power but we have no guarantee that these savings are being passed on to ourselves.

The annual cost of unmetered electricity for the current financial year was notified to us on 10 August as £10,374.60 & VAT against a budget of £9,800.00 (see letter attached). As we are almost half way through the financial year we have already incurred additional costs although no invoices have yet been received.

The Council is requested to decide whether it wishes to withdraw from the Street Lighting Joint Energy Agreement with effect from the end of September and request a new Unmetered Supplies Certificate be issued to enable it to seek alternative supply arrangements or to continue with the unmetered arrangement indefinitely.

Report 6 - Library Friends Request for surplus Parade plants

The Library Friends are planning to hold a plant sale on 4 November and have requested that any perennial plants left over at the end of the season be donated to them to sell to local residents. The Friends propose to request donations of pots and compost from Dobbies Garden Centre and to collect the plants in the week before the planters are removed by Shrewsbury Town Council. Last year the planters were removed without prior warning and all the plants were taken with them.

The Council is requested to grant permission for the plants to be donated to the Library Friends for fundraising purposes.