

Open Spaces Committee meeting

8th August 2024

Supporting Documents

Agenda Item 5.1

The interim tree inspection took place on Friday 12th July 2024, where the consultant revisited trees that had been flagged on the previous report. Notes as follows:

Further to my inspection I can report the following;

- 7; Oak to the rear of the scout hut - this is a large tree with a high amenity value which is protected by a TPO. I consider that the tree displays normal vigour for its age (around 866 years) and I saw no features that are indicative of an unreasonable hazard. Low branches overhang the neighbouring garden and are close to but not touching the garage roof. It would be reasonable for the homeowner to seek permission from the planning authority to carry out crown lifting to provide about 9m clearance of the garage roof. But cutting back over the garage is not the council's responsibility.
- 8; Ash at Badgers Close. I saw no evidence of cavities or decay at the base of the tree. The crown is sparse, probably due to Ash Dieback Disease, but the scale of dieback is not such that felling of the tree is required. Continue to monitor its condition every 7-8 months.
- 9; Cherry tree to the rear of 8 Bishops View. There was no cherry and I assume that it had been removed by the homeowner. **Clerk to investigate**

The Council have been asked to consider the works to the Oak Tree at the border of the Scout hut as there is an impact on the resident. They have been made aware of the Tree Management Policy which is in place, but have asked if the Council are willing to take any action with regard to managing the tree.

Agenda Item 5.2 – Football Goals and direction of play

Background: The football goals were relocated to the 'cricket' pitch in order for the ground to recover. This was the main consideration at the time with a plan for the goals to move between both areas using the existing sockets as required. There had been resident complaints prior to them being moved and various measures were taken into consideration including the purchase of nets to stop the balls from going into resident gardens.

Observations – could be difficult when men's team play football, not recommended to have two pitches with same direction of play.

Resident email received 26/7/2024:

Regarding the football nets being moved back? my neighbours and myself spend ages trying to get them moved? so why are they back again? Where they are are unacceptable and dangerous? we have had 3 footballs in our garden? with one nearly hitting my husband in the head when he was sitting in the garden; We have to put up with that and loud music and disgusting language from the teenagers? they also damage the hedges getting the balls; We can't sit in our gardens in peace? they are also going into peoples gardens without permission when they are out; People are also complaining when walking down the road about near misses from footballs;

.No one is asking them not to play football? but the nets need to be turned around so they play north to south? then everyone is happy;

There has also been one further email and an in person complaint at the Parish Office.

Agenda item 5.3

An approach has been made by Alton FC to use the 'cricket pitch' for football matches on a Saturday morning beginning in September 2024. They have been asked why this area is their preference and have explained that they feel that the lines will not need to be repainted as many times on this side. They also advised that the Pavilion patio works well for parents to stand under.

The area is the Councils 'dogs off leads' area but the club have said that the team playing would only play 30 minutes each way. Manor Colts U11's have use of the practise pitch area on Saturday mornings from 8.30-10.30am as per agreement with the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Agenda item 6.1

RoSPA tasks

JOB	Contractor 1	Contractor 2	Contractor 3
Removal of skate park MUGA	£771.43	£1,030	No quote received following site visit.
Repair of skate park MUGA	£632.08	£555	
Skate park tarmac at the base of the ramps	£2,284.93 The wrong tarmac has been used and all require repair	£2,050 2 areas using resin bound stone in silken black	
Multiplay replacement rope	£2,187.93	£240 – just to replace one section £2,876 – to replace entire rope	
Table tennis table repair (based on FMPC purchasing	£800	£770	

the repair kit from HeBlad at £260)			
Replace decaying beam on the climbing wall (beam is free of charge as under warranty)		£350 – labour and carriage.	

Agenda item 6.2

The maintenance works were booked in with a contractor (removing shackles, checking swing gradients etc) and whilst on site, they noticed some further works.

Cableway

- New brake block - £45
- New cable guides - £20
- Caps - £20
- 4 new rubber treads for the ramp - £257.64

Basket Swing

- New.Seat. / ~~420~~ (colour.TBC)
- New.safety.chains.and.shackles. / 96
- Topsoil.and.seed.to.fill.trip.points. / 74

Labour to fit all of the above - £600

Total - £1,855.64 + vat

Agenda item 6.3

Tennis Court gate grant

The Council has been working with the LTA who have been part of an initiative to encourage the use of courts in local communities.

The funding they have offered to provide is for the technology (£5,550.00), but the Council would have to sign an agreement for 5 years for the maintenance of it.

This would include maintenance of the SIM card technology which the gate company would have remote access to, so could fix any problems they can see on their systems. The technology controls the floodlights as well, so that when a court is booked after 6pm, for example, the lights will come on automatically for the allotted time period with lea way either side. An electrician would have to be instructed to install an electrical connection from the gates to the lights, and this would be at The Council's cost. There

would be an additional cost of **£130** for the gate company to supply a cabinet to contain electrical components.

The maintenance costs are £281.40 for the first year, then £601.40 for the following 4 years. This encompasses approximately 40% cost to run and 60% maintenance.

As part of the initiative, The LTA would like the Council to provide some free tennis, which could involve:

- Asking a local organisation if they'd like to have a few hours on a specific day to use the courts. The Council have offered the use of the courts to the local primary school and to the Cubs; Neither organisation wanted to proceed with this;
- A Coach putting on open days or free taster sessions.
- Free park tennis – the LTA can provide us with some free equipment to use if we do something similar to the park run. This would just require a volunteer (could be a coach) to be on court, but essentially this is not a coaching session (for insurance purposes).

They'd like the Council to promote tennis leagues as well, which would be no additional cost to the Council but would mean putting up posters.

The deadline for the grant funding is the end of August, and they have specified that works should be completed by this time.

Since reopening, the tennis courts have accumulated 77 members. This includes 39 household memberships and 38 memberships from the previous tennis club. The actual income is currently £630 so far this year. There is the potential to increase fees next year. Alton tennis club charge £220 for a Family membership for 4 people, they do have more courts (6) and a club house, however. The previous tennis club members would be paying a fee if they renew next year, and there is a tennis coach who is interested in utilising the courts for coaching which would also be another income stream, with The Council charging an annual fee. There are two weeks of tennis camps already scheduled over the summer with the same coach to determine the needs of the community.

In the last 30 days, there have been 38 court bookings. Court utilisation over the last 7 days has been 7.14% based on the availability of 2 courts. This is made up of 15 court bookings from members and 5 unique player bookings.

Electrician Quotes:

Contractor 1	Contractor 2	Contractor 3
£1519.38 + VAT	Awaiting	Awaiting

Agenda item 6.4

Playground signate quotations for review:

Updated signs have been created following advice from Cllr Smith following the completion of RoSPA training. The new signs are minimal but have the correct messaging for each area along with a WhatThreeWords location in case of emergency.

Based on four A4 and four A3 signs being ordered.

Aluminium

	CONTRACTOR 1	CONTRACTOR 2	CONTRACTOR 3
A4	17.50	34.20	45
A3	17.80	36.90	45
Delivery	20	15.00	12.50
TOTAL	£175.60	£299.40	£372.50

Polycarbonate/Acrylic

	CONTRACTOR 1	CONTRACTOR 2	CONTRACTOR 3
A4	36.85	39.25	
A3	41.95	78.50	
Delivery	20		
TOTAL	£335.20	£389.88	

Fluted boards

	CONTRACTOR 1	CONTRACTOR 2	CONTRACTOR 3
A4	6	17.19	5
A3	9.50	20.73	5
Delivery		£4.99	11
TOTAL	£62	£42.91	£51

Agenda item 6.5

Badger Close update and approval of works.

A site meeting took place on the 31st July 2024. The following was agreed subject to agreement from the Committee:

- To cut the badger run overgrowth at 31/33 and 20/22 – works overdue as part of maintenance (quote will be circulated if received prior to meeting)
- To cut large Hawthorn at rear of 31 as part of phased coppicing.
- To address problems with trees on border of 6 Blackberry Lane.
- To seek quotation to deal with brambles at Orchard.
- To contact mens shed Alresford regarding fence.

- To put in place a tree management programme for the badger runs – tree surgeon to inspect.

Agenda item 7.1 – Area update.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further.
	Badger Orchard	Completed	Planting completed – water bags fitted to trees.
	Pine Road Area		Cllr Gebbett
	Badger Run upkeep	In progress	Verbal update to be given at meeting.
Cemetery	Replacement gate stops.	Completed.	Completed 29/7/2024 – Assistant Clerk to deal with outstanding issues.
	Cemetery inspection		
Lymington Bottom Green	New bench – FM care	In progress	To be installed in Autumn
	Lose slabs at Village sign base	In progress	Contractor booked.
Oak parade Green	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	New contractor.
	Book share.	Completed	Awaiting signage.
	Repainting of car parking spaces.	To do.	To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.
Recreation Ground	Crickets equipment	Pending	Clerk to organise clearance.
	Containers	Pending	Grass mats to be installed – 20/08/2024
	Skate Park	In progress	Area to be repainted. – awaiting quotes.
	Tennis courts	Agenda item	Resurfacing completed – researching funding to update coin machine..
	Playground maintenance	Agenda item	
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Youth teams.	Agenda item	
Footway along football pitch	In progress	Awaiting quotations.	
	Water refill point	In progress	Awaiting further information about agreement and potential discount.
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit

		Nature boxes	Pending	Placed – awaiting EHDC promotional video.
		Parish Trees	In progress	Interim tree inspection completed 12 th July 2024. Awaiting date for Ash on Uplands Lane.
		Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Panels for Gospell Hall booked.
Swelling Pond	Hill	Silt removal project	In progress	Further works now completed.
		South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
		Tree works – overhanging pond.	To do.	
Kingswood Copse		Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided – resident executing.