

Report on Open Spaces and Recreation Ground

Parish Council Meeting, 10 January 2024

Open Spaces

1. Footpath repairs at Pilgrim Close – Ongoing review of additional areas to be repaired.
2. Review of condition of trees under responsibility of PC – Open Spaces and RG. Xref item 2 RG. Trimming of trees in week 27 Nov 2023.
3. Street lighting repairs – ongoing repair and replacement of street lights with low wattage LED bulbs. Review of available grants to complete all lights under PC to LEDs.
4. Bike racks – installation next to village noticeboard – completed.
5. Play areas at Pilgrim Close – two unused play areas revived as play/social areas – named Hammond and Ratcliffe Gardens.
6. Potholes – on-going discussions with Cllr Paul Gadd. Potholes added to hit/priority list.

RG

1. Play areas at Recreation Ground and Pilgrim Close – Dogs being in the play area at Recreation Ground and poo an issue despite clear signage that prohibits dogs. Routine inspection of play areas at rec and Pilgrim Close.

Long term consideration of funding for new/replacement play equipment at Rec and Pilgrim Close play areas. Questionnaire calling for comments from residents circulated. Views welcomed.

2. Rospa inspection recommendations completed. Vandalised mechanism of self-closing gates at Rec play area repaired with stoppers added.

3. Trees at Recreation Ground –

Consideration of replacement trees and discussions with UDC regarding supply of trees. Whips and three larger trees supplied.

Health check carried out of all trees under responsibility of PC at RG and elsewhere in village. Recommendations received and tree felled at Rec. Replacement trees required.

4. Footpath repairs on path from Meadow Road to play area at Recreation Ground. Path at recreation ground – kept under review.

5. Ditches at Recreation Ground / Flood Defences – annual work completed in October. Land owners with ditches up/downstream contacted also ECC re culverts. The landowner downstream confirms annual work completed with photos. Landowner up stream of view

that their ditches do not require attention having been cleared in last 18 months. Flow of draining water monitored in recent rainfall.

PC discussing review of flood defences in light of the possible impact from climate change. Contractor quoted.

6. Electrical supply and lights at Rec/multisports fitted week 10 July – Lights at multisports changed for LEDs, replacement electrical distribution box at multisports. Work done in conjunction with work on CCTV (Xref item 9). New distribution box vandalised within days of installation. Consider protective cage. Consider lighting on path from Meadow Road around Multisports.
7. Gym equipment –Annual servicing completed December 2023. Comments from Rospa inspector referred to the supplier of gym equipment and taken into account during servicing. Routine inspection of gym equipment.
8. Drains at Rec car park –PC and Comm Centre hire mini digger to clear out drains.
9. Scout hut - Licence given to scout group to use the existing building and interim improvements. Long term lease agreed. Updated plans and planning permission application approved for extension in conjunction with adjacent storage unit.
10. CCTV – New cameras and recording system fitted week 10 July. Discussions on-going with contractors regarding additional camera to view entrance to the Rec/comm centre car park and lighting on path from Meadow Road around Multisports. Quote received from contractor. Updated CCTV protocol being drafted.
11. Grass on Recreation Ground – football pitch and cricket outfield – Inspection by contractor with PC and cricket club representative undertaken in week 9 October to discuss work for 2024.

Schedule and quotes received from contractor to be considered by PC.

Grant submitted to UDC for football pitch and outfield maintenance.

12. Skatepark – on-going review of condition of skatepark with routine maintenance, painting and repairs as required.
13. Fixed bowling nets – repair and re-seeding of run-up undertaken.
14. Cricket Club have obtained a grant for artificial cricket strip adjacent to square and scheduling installation with the contractor.