

Report Open Spaces and RG
Parish Council Meeting 8 March 2023

Open Spaces

1. Footpath repairs at Pilgrim Close – part completed. Consideration of additional areas to be repaired. Discussed with contractor when RG ditches were cleared in November 2022 - waiting for quote.
2. Review of condition of trees under responsibility of PC – Open Spaces and RG. Xref item 2 RG.
3. Yellow Lines on High Street – painted in/blacked out as recommended and agreed with NEPP following consultation and discussion with residents. Post 6 months trial period – following consultation with NEPP and residents agreed that lines as painted to be confirmed with NEPP.
4. Drains in village. Discussions with Paul Gadd ECC Cllr. Reported all drains jetted in village. Some gullies in Pilgrim Close still require work. Drain at junction of School St and South St slow to drain.
5. Street Lighting repairs – the contractor completed on-going repairs to a number of lights out in the village as required. Replaced lights are with low wattage LED bulbs. Street lights on High Street require repair and the responsibility of ECC. Given delays in repair, consideration of PC repairing with the agreement of reimbursement from ECC. ECC and Paul Gadd ECC Cllr contacted. Grant applied for to replace all remaining bulbs with low wattage LED bulbs; outcome due in March.
6. Bike racks – discussion with residents regarding positioning of bike racks in village. Site identified next to the Village noticeboard; suitable rack to be agreed and quote for work to be sought.
7. Purchase of land on Hyll Close by residents of Jacksons Lane – discussion with residents and UDC regarding purchase of land on Hyll Close and erecting fencing.
8. Play area at Pilgrim Close – see RG.
Grant obtained for the redevelopment of the smaller play area (Hammond Garden) at Pilgrim Close; working group set up.
9. Potholes – discussions with Paul Gadd, residents of Ickleton and highways officer from CCC ref potholes and overgrown vegetation at and around rail bridge to Ickleton. Vegetation at and around rail bridge to Ickleton cut back. Potholes still an issue as require road closure. One big pothole in particular to be added to priority target list. Potholes on bend on London Road opposite junction to Ickleton repaired. Discussion with ECC regarding potholes at and between three roundabouts between Gt Ch and Welcome Genome Campus. Some potholes at these roundabouts filled in.

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.

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. Trees at Recreation Ground – Branch lost from tree at RG. Tree felled and cleared within 7 days by contractor with notice to UDC under emergency measures. Tree will require replacement. Also the memorial tree damaged by the felling.

Consideration of replacement trees and discussions with UDC regarding supply of trees. Ten whips supplied.

Resident has raised issue of some trees requiring cutting back at HRG. Contractor has quoted and work to be done, UDC approval granted (conservation area). Awaiting date.

Contractors asked to quote for full health check of all trees under responsibility of PC at RG or elsewhere in village. Quote received.

3. Footpath repairs on path from Meadow Road to play area at Recreation Ground. Path at recreation ground – review of tree roots affecting path before the play area – safety/trip issue. Discussed with contractor when RG ditches cleared.
4. Ditches at Recreation Ground / Flood Defences – annual work completed in November. Land owners with ditches up/downstream contacted also ECC re culverts.
5. Electrical supply – discussion with comm centre regarding electrical supply to comm centre and from comm centre to bowls club, multisports, and scout hut. Consideration of EV charging points. Survey of electrical supply to community centre, bowls club, multisports and scout hut completed. Lights at multisports to be changed for LEDs. Recommended that electrical terminal box at multisports be replaced (corroded) quotes received and discussions with contractors. Xref item 9 CCTV.
6. Gym equipment –Annual servicing completed week beginning 5 December. A number of bushes replaced. No further recommendations made by contractor.
7. Drains at Rec car park – clearance of drains completed week beginning 5 December. One drain remains blocked and not draining. Quote obtained by comm centre for digging up and relaying of blocked drain. Work to be done in conjunction with comm centre and commenced.
8. Scout hut - Licence given to scout group to use the existing building and interim improvements. Long term lease being discussed and drafted. Updated plans and planning permission application approved for extension in conjunction with adjacent storage unit. On-going discussion between PC/RGT, Comm Centre and scouts regarding electricity supply to scout hut (item 5) and solar panels on scout hut.

9. CCTV – plans revived for replacement cameras and recording system. Quote received. Plan for work on mast with CCTV cameras to be done in conjunction with electrical work including replacement of floodlights at multisports as both require cherry picker. Discussions on-going with contractors.

10. Grass on Recreation Ground – football pitch and cricket outfield – Inspection by contractor with PC and cricket club representatives. Agreed schedule with contractor regarding work on football pitch and cricket outfield. Vertidrainage (as condition of grass allowed) of football pitch and cricket outfield, sand top dressing and seeding to outfield completed week 23 January. Remaining work on outfield as weather allows and work on football pitch to be completed at end of football season after Easter.

The football team that uses the football pitch – PSG FC – to fund the application of sand top dressing on football pitch to assist with drainage and general condition of the pitch.

11. Rospa report – report for 2022 in relation to play areas, equipment, skate park and gym obtained and under review for work required.

12. Skate park – contractor attended in December for painting and repairs. Further work scheduled for spring. Graffiti on panel of skate park on orchard side painted over within 48 hrs.

13. Fixed bowling nets – new carpet laid by cricket club. Funded largely by grant. Signage being discussed.

14. Possibility of windbreaks for tennis court being considered. New winders being sought together with refurbished or new nets.