

Report Open Spaces and RGT

Parish Council Meeting 11 January 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 RGT. 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; all on trial basis for six months (expires January 2023) then to be reviewed by NEPP with PC.
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 – contact or completed on-going repairs to a number of lights out in village. Replaced lights are with low wattage LED bulbs. Street lights on High Street require repair and responsibility of ECC. ECC contacted.
6. Bike racks – discussion with residents regarding positioning of bike racks in village.
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.
9. Potholes – discussions with Cllr Paul Gadd, residents of Ickleton and highways officer from ECC ref potholes and overgrown vegetation at and around rail bridge to Ickleton. These 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.

Recreation Ground

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 – three lost following storm Eunice. Trees cleared within 10 days by either contractor or Aubrey. Consideration of replacement trees and discussions with UDC as to supply of trees.

Resident has raised some trees requiring cutting back at HRG. Consideration within budget review.

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) – waiting for quotes.

6. Gym equipment – Annual servicing completed week beginning 5 December. A number of bushes relaced. 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. Quotes being obtained for further investigation.

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. 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 – discussions revived with community centre and contractor. Quote pending for replacement cameras.

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. Verti-draining (as condition of grass allowed) of football pitch and cricket outfield, sand top dressing and seeding to outfield completed week 2 January. Work on football pitch to be completed at end of football season.

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

12. Skatepark – contractor attended in December for painting and repairs. Further work scheduled for spring.

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