

Report Open Spaces and RG
Parish Council Meeting 11 October 2023

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.

Quote for Tree work received;

1	To fell dead elms overhanging ditch (not PC trees – owner contacted)	£850
2	To reduce ashes on Jackson's Lane/overhanging Wakefield Close	£870
3	To take out dead branches on limes on HR Green	£250

If 2 & 3 done together saving available £990

(Investigating if saving possible for 1, 2 & 3 done at once (with reimbursement/payment from/by tree owner)

Tree budgets; **£1,150** overspent in Rec tree budget, £1,178 remaining in Open Spaces tree budget.

3. Street lighting repairs – ongoing repair and replacement of street lights with low wattage LED bulbs. Street lights on High Street repaired by ECC with LED. Review of available grants to complete all lights under PC to LEDs.
4. Bike racks – rack to be installed next to village noticeboard – (re) scheduled 29/30 September 2023.
5. Play areas at Pilgrim Close – two unused play areas to be revived as play/social areas – named Hammond and Ratcliffe Gardens. Volunteer days - Sunday 3 Sept and Sunday 1 Oct. X-ref report.
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.

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 of all play areas and equipment by contractor in week of 10 July 2023 including repair of the mechanism of self closing gates at Rec play area. Report issued and recommendations and action considered by PC. Some work done by PC and quotes received for remainder of work (including self closing gates).

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 commenced week 2 October 2023 to be completed week 9 October. Land owners with ditches up/downstream contacted also ECC re culverts; downstream section cleared. Flow of draining water monitored in recent rainfall.
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. Work done in conjunction with work on CCTV (Xref item 9).
7. Gym equipment –Annual servicing to be scheduled end 2023. Comments from Rospa inspector to be referred to supplier of gym equipment during servicing.
8. Drains at Rec car park – clearance of drains completed week beginning 5 December. Drains slow to drain. PC and Comm Centre discussing hiring of 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. Revision of CCTV policy underway.
11. Grass on Recreation Ground – football pitch and cricket outfield – Inspection by contractor with PC and cricket club representatives to be scheduled October/November to discuss schedule of work for 2024.

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

Seeding of worn areas at goalmouth and other bare areas on football pitch.

Full size goals repaired for new football season.
12. Skatepark – Contractor attended week 10 and 17 July to complete repairs. X-ref Rospa recommendations.
13. Fixed bowling nets – new carpet laid by cricket club. Funded largely by grant. Signage in place. Repair to run-up required.
14. The Cricket Club has submitted a grant application for an artificial strip with the intention to be laid between the cricket square and football pitch. The cricket club is working with SWCC and ECC in relation to youth cricket development at Great Chesterford.