



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

REC(20)51.01

Melton Playing Field

Remedial Work

CGM (Greenspace contractors) carried out the quadraplaying (slitting, brushing and rolling) in early November and the hedge cutting will take place around the 19/20th November. I have liaised with the site manager at Lynton Homes to ensure the road is kept clear of cars to enable access to the roadside hedge.

A resident has expressed concern about the fertiliser that was sprayed on the lower field and that it might have contaminated the water course. CGM have confirmed that the spraying was carried out by a qualified operative who would have completed all the necessary paperwork and are not aware that he sprayed anywhere near the ditches. Councillors may wish to consider a policy for the use of any chemicals going forward.

Melton Road Verge Cutting

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the verge clearance along Melton Road. A date for these works is still to be agreed.

Woodbridge Town Football Club

Matches have recommenced at the playing fields however all matches and training are currently on hold due to the lockdown. An updated risk assessment covering use of the playing field and Pavilion has been submitted and circulated to Councillors (REC(20)51.01a).

A mobile coffee van (insurance certificates have been received) has attended one match. Feedback has been very positive, and they hope to restart once matches recommence.

No further complaints have been received about parking issues along Melton Road when matches are taking place.

Play Park

The maintenance officer has carried out remedial work as identified in the annual playpark inspection. This includes replacing the bushes and shackles on the big swings, fixing loose fencing posts, replacing some areas of damaged wood, placing rubber matting around the basketball post, removing the damaged basketball net and removing graffiti. Paper REC(20)51.01b details all the action taken so far. A bench was identified as needing some metalwork repairs. On closer inspection, and after receiving a quote for welding, it was considered more cost effective and practical to purchase a new bench. A recycled plastic bench was purchased using CIL funds and was installed in October. The memorial plaque from the old bench has been placed on the new bench.

The playground will remain open during the November lockdown and any replacement signs relating to Covid-19 and social distancing will be installed.

Tennis Courts

Income from the tennis courts for this FY is £2,875 which is £1,275 above forecast. The tennis courts are closed during the November lockdown and signs have been placed on the courts stating this. The Spar is not taking any bookings for the lockdown period. Algae treatment will be carried out by the maintenance officer whilst they are closed.

Although there have been no recent reports of vandalism to the tennis court fencing indicative quotes for replacement fencing have been sought as requested at the previous Recreation meeting.

To replace with chain link fencing that is thicker, galvanised and high tensile (so much stronger than existing fencing) whilst retaining the existing posts and gates would cost £7,285.

To replace all gates, posts and fence with 3m high vandal proof panel fencing the estimated cost would be between £22-25k.

It may be possible to fund this through the play and sport pots (£45,257.16 and £542.86 respectively) or other grants. I am liaising with the Active Communities Officer at East Suffolk Council. Alternatively CIL could be used.

Beacon

The 75th anniversary VJ and VE Day plaques have been created by SBD Ltd and installed this month. Work will recommence on the shield, hopefully in the next month.



CCTV

The maintenance officer is carrying out weekly checks of the CCTV to ensure it is working correctly.

Forest School

Woodbridge Primary School has confirmed that they are not running any Forest School sessions this term. The Melton Day Nursery approached the Council looking for a venue for their forest school. I have put them in touch with an owner of woodland on Yarmouth Road but if this is not suitable they will get back in touch.

Councillors are asked to:

- 1) Note and comment on this report
- 2) Agree if a chemical policy needs to be drawn up
- 3) Agree if the football club risk assessment is acceptable
- 4) Agree if the tennis court fencing should be replaced and so make a recommendation to Full Council for the preferred option

Pip Alder
Asst Clerk and Management Officer
5 November 2020