

BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT – Appendix I GENERAL UPDATES @ 21.04.22

PARISH MAINTENANCE:

- **Benches** – All benches in the parish which need some TLC will be attended to over the next month or so, using the precept budget which was set for use in this financial year. Wally is completing those in the cemetery, he and John P are attending to various others around the parish. This work will need assessing before payment is released. WIP. In addition, John P is helping me load them onto the Parish Online mapping tool to form the asset register.
- **Cemetery** – A letter of appointment has been issued to our preferred grave digger and copied to all Funeral Directors who use Bishopsteignton Cemetery.
- **Trees – Ash Dieback:** An Ash tree in the parish cemetery has fallen in the recent storm, on assessment it is suspected this is due to Ash Dieback. The tree surgeon who dealt with the remedial work to make this safe is recommending the remaining small cluster of Ash trees should be felled to mitigate further risk. As there is a group TPO on these trees I applied to TDC for permission to fell. I have received notification that this request has been refused. Leaving concern that during similarly strong winds and stormy weather trees may fall naturally. I shall have them inspected again in 6 months' time, before Autumn weather kicks in.

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN: A trial has been conducted. Having discussed several matters with PC. Orchard it is clear there is no liability for the Parish Council, the unit is insured by the police as well as all operative, if necessary, BPC insurance does cover volunteers too. We may need to purchase more high Vis vests but otherwise there is no associated cost to this activity. As discussed by full council, volunteers are needed to operate the unit, in teams. A poster and FB post should be produced.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:

Surface of FP13 (adjacent to School): The highways neighbourhood officer confirmed this work is not in any future programme as it is not considered a safety defect. She would be happy for the Parish Council to arrange resurfacing. Community Enhancement Fund could be used, she would sign off, depending on if funds are still available. This will give 50% match funding up to £1000. CIL could be used to meet the balance. Quotes and further investigation into funding will be needed before further consideration. No action taken.

REPORTS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS FOR MEMBERS ATTENTION: Should any members wish to attend any of the available courses please contact the clerk.

- Cllr. Benham is enrolled to attend NALC webinar on fighting climate change, taking place on 25 May 2022. To learn more about the actions that councils can take locally to fight climate change and discover how councils are already doing this successfully.
- Clerk Training booked:
 1. SLCC Southwest Training Seminar 25 May
 2. SLCC Management in Action Training seminar 9 June

BAKERS YARD – In relation to planning application 19/00800/MAJ a site meeting was to be held before the application goes to TDC Planning Committee. The original date was cancelled, and alternative arrangements promised and BPC members Cllr. Gateshill and Merritt were due to attend. However, I've been informed the application is going to TDC Planning committee on 27.04.22. It is unknown how the plans have been updated, there has been no communication from TDC planning on this major application.

BPC CAR PARKS – The three car parks owned and managed by BPC, being both sides at the top of Bishops Avenue and the one at the Lawns, require some suitable signage and a policy for use to be adopted. This is a task delegated to the Asset Management Committee for further consideration/preparation.

BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
CLERKS REPORT Cont'd - GENERAL UPDATE 21.04.22

POLICY WORK: I am currently working through a review of all BPC policies, existing and additional which may be required, to ensure we are compliant with statutory regulations before we consider an application for a quality council award (foundation level).

Currently working on the following policies, new & revisions: Training policy, Complaints Policy, the BPC Standing Orders, the BPC Financial Regulations, and BPC Risk Management Scheme.

GREEN ROOF BUS SHELTERS: Awaiting addition of the green roof plants, delays from sedum supplier and wrong time of year to plant. Once complete press release to be created.

INTERPRETATION BOARDS – Bishopsteignton Heritage are leading on the production of several boards around the parish. So far, they have completed these at the four-parish boundary stone, St Johns Church front, and the Admirals graves in the Churchyard. Further boards are anticipated at Bishops Palace Walls (replacement board depending on continued agreement of the landowners) and The Lawns recreation ground to share the wonder of the flora and fauna, Community Centre (as the old school). When draft copy is available to review, I will let you know. I would suggest financial support for the project, perhaps installation, can be provided using S106 funds available for Open Spaces enhancements.

ADMIRALS BOARD – An event shall be organised to unveil the new interpretation board at the Churchyard. This was installed by BH, with support from BPC and the Church so all parties should be involved. Awaiting details.

SCRIBE ACCOUNTS & CEMETERY PACKAGE:

- ACCOUNTS: Some training session completed, further session required and tweaks to the BPC set-up and improve day-to-day use.
- CEMETERY: System set up complete, but some inaccuracies detected. Needs revisiting and full attention. I intend to complete this during the Councils summer recess.

BOOKINGS @ THE MUGA: Several of regular booking being made mean the court is closed to the public at the same time, this is difficult to guarantee due to the fact it is never locked. Booking as follows:

- Every Tuesday 7.00 to 8.30 Chudleigh Canons Netball.
- Every Wednesday 7.00 to 8.30 Chudleigh Canon Netball (from 01/06)
- 9-10am Sundays 15/05, 22/05 & 29/05 for Sarah Fields Powerhoop
- Varied use by 1st Bishopsteignton Scout troops different units. (Weather permitting & FOC)

MUGA FLOODLIGHTS: The directional issue has been resolved and signed off by DC Environmental Health Officer. However, we now have another issue, vandalism. The lights are regularly being tampered with, the switch box is being broken into and light left on overnight. Reported to police, required better tamperproof switch box.

DEFIBRILLATORS - POTENTIAL NEW UNITS:

- A unit has been purchase and delivered for installation in the Teign View Road/top of Murley Crescent area. A location was not obvious however following recent discussions with WPD I have organised for it to be attached directly on the telegraph pole. WPD will provide the power directly, free of charge in perpetuity.
- Agreement in principle to install a unit at Cockhaven Arms, to liaise with management company and arrange funding/donation for the unit purchase.
- Cllr. Gill has kindly offer to donate funds raised from his birthday in 2022 to a new unit, his preferred location in the Lawns, which is ideal.
- Additional potential locations to be shown on a map, to ensure even coverage, and agreed.

BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
CLERKS REPORT Cont'd - GENERAL UPDATE 21.04.22

FURTHER MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION/TO BE ARRANGED:

- Police & Community Together (PACT) – Tuesday 26 April 11-12 @ The Ring of Bells
- Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday 9 May, 7.30pm @ BCC
- Next Full Council: Monday 9 May approximately 8pm (following Annual Meeting) @ BCC.
- BPC Planning Committee: Monday 23 May 7.30pm @ BCC.
- Asset Management Committee: TBC
- Highways Liaison, April/May, TBC

OTHER PACT arrangements, all 11am to 12pm:

APR 26 (Tues) Ring of Bells

MAY 19th (Thurs) Ring of Bells

JUN 15th (Wed) Old Commercial TBC

JUL 13th (Wed) Community Centre TBC

VANDALISM AT THE LAWNS:

In recent months there have been several incidents of mindless vandalism at the Lawns, focused around the toilet block, where the culprits are hanging around due to the private sheltered area. There is excessive littering, some of which has been drug and sex related paraphernalia, and evidence that these offenders are fuelled by energy drinks and MacDonaldis (suggesting they have cars). There is offensive graffiti, attempts at arson and flooding, basically leaving the gents toilets in a state. In addition, they are tampering with the floodlights, causing an enforcement breach. Council should consider several options:

1. Consider CCTV Installation- to cover the MUGA area. Provided we are able to identify and follow up on any indiscretions found on the recordings. It will require someone to go through the recordings and identify any transgressions which can be very time consuming. Not worth installing if you are not prepared to follow up with monitoring and investigation.
2. Locking every evening and unlocking in the morning is probably the most effective approach but again with cost implications. Waly would not wish to take on this extra task. Assuming a minimum of £5 per day over the year is £1,825.00 If you can find someone to commit to 365 days at £5per day.
3. Leave permanently locked, seems to defeat the area of having public conveniences in the area. How often are they used?
4. Close up the larger side (gents) continue to use the ladies only. Reducing the amount of damage which can be caused.
5. Install a hand-drier so that paper towel is no longer required.
6. Continue to put up with the nuisance and repairing the damage on an ongoing basis.

BPC GRANTS:

Better promotion of this is needed and probably an improvement on the application process. Work in progress.

INSURANCE:

The council are currently insured by Zurich but are approaching the end of a 3-year long term agreement. Zurich have submitted a quote for future cover and I am in the process of obtain two others, will be on the May agenda. Policy terminates on 01.06.22.

FOR INFO:

For direct contact either phone: 07483 149812, 11am to 3pm, Monday, to Thursday. or email: clerk@bishopsteignton-pc.gov.uk

Majority of my weekly hours will be worked from home, but I do intend to work from the office/visit the parish at least once per week. I will always ensure Cllr. Head knows when I am there, and when I leave, in accordance with the BPC Lone Working Policy.