

**Open Spaces Working Group Notes**  
**24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.00pm**

Action points are in ***bold italics***

**Report Author:** Parish Clerk  
**Present:** Councillors ID Clarke and Mary Sheppard (Co-chairs), Andy Scarisbrick and Steve Sugg.

**Apologies for absence**

Robin Flavell.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Notes of Meeting Held on 26th September 2024**

It was noted that issues arising from the notes of the previous meeting would be addressed as part of substantive agenda items.

**Purchase of Plugs for 2025 Planting Scheme**

The Clerk advised that staging had been erected in the polytunnel. Installation of shading and a watering system would be the next stages in making the polytunnel suitable for supporting the bringing on of plants from seed/plugs for next year. An offer had been received from a local company to enable the Council to 'piggy back' on a volume purchase of plug plants. This was likely to be the most cost effective means of purchasing plants but an early decision would be required. Councillors noted that approximately 600 plants had been used for the 2024 summer planting scheme and that any acquisition for 2025 would need to allow for losses during the growing period. Councillors favoured a multi-colour planting scheme which included begonias and drought tolerant plants – recognising the challenges associated with watering. It was noted that there would need to be further consideration of the location and type of pots but at this stage it was appropriate ***for the Clerk to seek to secure a variety of up to 750 plug plants by the most economically advantageous means.***

**Jubilee Gardens Planting Scheme**

It was noted that the Bleadon Horticultural Society had indicated a potential willingness to financially and practically support a planting scheme in Jubilee Gardens. The nature of this offer had not been progressed. Cllr Clarke clarified that the Working Group had already agreed to a course of action in relation to the design of a planting scheme and expressed disquiet at a change at this stage. In response to questions, Cllr Scarisbrick confirmed that the suggestion from the Horticultural Society was understood to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. As a consequence, it was considered that the suggestion should be explored. ***The Clerk was asked to contact the Bleadon Horticultural Society to find out further details and report back.***

## **Parish Clock Update**

Councillors noted that the dial had been reinstalled and a number of positive comments had been received. The Clerk advised that – further to the decision of Council – he had managed to secure a small sample of the plaque writing and that this should be available for inspection over the coming week.

## **Provision of Play Equipment**

The Clerk advised that he had discussed with Cllr Gower-Crane the possibility of including a ‘tick box’ type survey of play equipment in the next edition of Parish News. The intention was to include some photos/images of different types of play equipment which could be ‘voted’ upon in a centre page pull out which could be dropped back to the Parish Council. The types of equipment would include – as a minimum - the following:

- ‘Witches hat’
- See saw
- Basket swing
- Play panels
- Spinners

The Clerk advised that he had also approached play providers regarding the possibility of siting gym type equipment on Pea Green. The gym equipment would be aimed more at adults and older children. One play provider had helpfully produced a 3D image and councillors felt it would be useful if this could also be shared and views sought. ***The Clerk was requested to liaise with Cllr Gower-Crane regarding inclusion of play/gym equipment options within Parish News.***

## **Project and Maintenance Schedule**

Councillors discussed the Project and Maintenance Schedule with the following issues arising:

Car Parking barrier. It was confirmed that the paint colour should match that of the play area fence panel – ***the Clerk to order the paint for the car parking barrier*** on this basis.

Emptying of dog bins – it was confirmed that the current contract provided for the emptying of (3 specific) bins twice a week until the end of October. ***Councillors requested a report be submitted to the next meeting of Council with a view to re-organising/increasing the capacity of bins and the potential continuation of emptying bins two times per week.***

Noticeboards – the Clerk confirmed that the noticeboards had been dispatched and Councillors confirmed their preference for siting of the noticeboards in respect of locations relating to Bleadon Mill and The Veale.