

Open Spaces Working Group Notes

1st August 2024

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

Report Author: Parish Clerk

Present: Councillors ID Clarke, Mary Sheppard and Ann Davies (part – including Play Area discussion)

No members of the public were present.

Apologies for absence

Councillors Ann Davies and Andy Scarisbrick.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Notes of Meeting Held on 27th June 2024

The Clerk confirmed that proposals in relation to noticeboards were expected to be ready for the next meeting of Council.

Councillors confirmed that the use of gabions in the churchyard was acceptable.

The Clerk confirmed that discussions had taken place with the wall owner in relation to proposals to alter the wall configuration adjacent to the toilet block. The reconstituted stone products proposed to be used were unlikely to meet councillors expectations. As a consequence, ***the Clerk had discussed using natural stone throughout and would be proposing a contract variation to the next meeting of Council.***

The Clerk was asked to clarify with Cllr Sugg what progress has been made in relation to works to the car parking barrier adjacent to the play area.

Play Area

Councillors noted that Edenstone had proposed a figure in relation to play provision associated with the agreed planning permission being met off site at the Bleadon play area. This proposal was now with North Somerset Council for consideration and for clarification of the process to be followed.

The Clerk advised that there had been some feedback following the Parish News article and he had taken the opportunity to raise the issue of how the play area might be improved with users over the course of the last few weeks. Councillors concluded that it would be helpful to discuss a number of principles to help guide future developments. Following discussion, ***the following principles were recommended for adoption by Council:***

- ***That future developments should focus upon early years and over 12s – the primary age range group largely being well served by the existing play area.***

- *That the existing rural nature of the play area should be preserved, with wood apparatus and muted colour schemes.*
- *That the Council should take the opportunity to introduce equipment capable of use by children with special/additional needs.*
- *That sound/music based equipment would be inappropriate given the proximity of the site to residential properties.*
- *That the potential to introduce 'gym' type equipment for older age ranges in the vicinity of Pea Green should be explored.*

Project and Maintenance Schedule

Updates to the Project and Maintenance schedule were noted.