



# BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronation Halls  
Coronation Road  
Bleadon. North Somerset. BS29 0PG  
[www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)  
[parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

26<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**MEETING:** Open Spaces Working Group.

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at 10.00am.

**LOCATION:** Church Rooms, Coronation Road, Bleadon BS24 0QE.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Parish Councillors ID Clarke, Ann Davies, Mary Sheppard, Andy Scarisbrick and Steve Sugg.

## AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive members' declarations of interest on any agenda item.
3. Notes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (for information – pages 2-3).
4. To specifically discuss the following item(s) and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Parish Council.
  - Play area development (verbal report of the Parish Clerk)
5. To discuss and update the project/maintenance schedule – this is a standing item and acts as an ongoing record of the business of the Working Group. Discussion of the schedule may also involve recommendations to the Parish Council (page 4).
6. Date of next meeting and note any suggested agenda items – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 6.00pm.

*C P Bolt*

Clerk to the Council

## Open Spaces Working Group Notes

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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

**Report Author:** Parish Clerk  
**Present:** Councillors ID Clarke, Mary Sheppard and Steve Sugg  
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 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The majority of issues arising had been included as agenda items. The Clerk confirmed that a replacement hardwood bench for Celtic Way had been ordered.

### **Allotments Watering**

Action proposed by the Clerk under delegated authority to improve the watering system at the allotments was noted. Councillors considered a proposal to waive the charges to allotment tenants in respect of water for the current allotment year. ***Recommended to the next meeting of Council that the proposed fees should be waived as a goodwill gesture.***

### **Allotments – Request to Keep Livestock**

Councillors considered a request to keep a small number of hens. It was noted that the agreed policy allowed for the keeping of chickens (not cockerels). ***Councillors requested further details regarding the design of the proposed coop and how it would ensure that vermin could not gain access.***

### **Churchyard Memorial Tests**

Councillors noted the provisional outcomes from testing and agreed that a working party was an appropriate next step in validating (or otherwise) the provisional findings. ***The Clerk was requested to convene a working party comprising of Cllrs Sheppard and Sugg (respective leads in relation to the churchyard and memorials) and the Church Warden.***

### **Works to Wall Adjacent to Toilet Block**

Councillors considered a proposed scheme of works to remove planters and part of the section of wall to enable a full width pass through into the car park areas. Working Group members were not in favour of bath stone quoins as these were considered not to be in-keeping with the surrounding stone – colour matched brick quoins would be a more appropriate solution. It was noted that the neighbouring landowner's consent would be required. ***Subject to those caveats Council was recommended to award the additional works to A Moffatt in the sum of £2,500 with a view to the works being undertaken in tandem with those to the Jubilee Garden wall.***

### **Parish Clock Regilding**

Councillors noted that the PCC had appointed architects and recognised that there would be costs which would fall to the project budget to reflect the architects fees. Timsbury clocks had provisionally identified that the works could take place in late July/August.

### **Dog Bins**

Councillors considered that the dog bin at Bleadon Road could be removed and dog owners encouraged to place waste in the adjacent litter bin. The bin at the toilet block could also be replaced with a larger/dual bin for dog waste (authority had already been granted for replacement of this bin.) Councillors noted that a member of the public had requested a bin in Celtic Way. However, councillors felt that the one at the top of allotment lane already served the West Mendip Way in the general area and that a bin might be better located at the layby in Roman Road – this could be the relocated bin from adjacent to the toilet block. ***The Clerk was requested to formulate proposals for a subsequent meeting.***

### **Colour Schemes**

Councillors considered a range of dark brown, grey and black colour samples. None were felt to be appropriate. ***The Clerk was requested to obtain further samples in the chestnut/red-brown range.***

### **Noticeboards**

Councillors considered proposals from three contractors. Prices ranged from approximately £4,500 to £7,000 for four replacement oak double bay noticeboards. The cheapest provider was also able to provide a version of a double bay noticeboard with space for a central information panel at a cost of approximately £5,000. Discussions had taken place with North Somerset Council Highways with a view to a number of locations, the most suitable of which was deemed to be adjacent to the layby in Bleadon Mill. It was ***recommended to Council that further discussion take place with the lowest contractor with a view to purchasing four replacement noticeboards.***

### **Project and Maintenance Schedule**

Updates to the Project and Maintenance schedule were noted.

Item	Priority	Issue Requiring Resolution	Position as at 26/7/24	Further Action Agreed
Jubilee Gardens	1	Works to wall	Contract awarded - in hand	September start date to be confirmed
	1	Planting scheme	Discussed at May OSWG	None
		Removal of part of wall adjacent to toilet	Council approved contract variation (June meeting). Discussed with wall owners.	Adjustment to specification required so that wall end is finished in natural stone
Seating	2	Replacement of Celtic Way bench	New (non-native) hardwood bench purchased	Bench installed
Allotments		Replacement of gate	Both sets of gates replaced. 50% of net costs received from Church Commissioner agents	None - complete
		Polytunnel	3 allotment tenants interested in using facility. Staging to be constructed/developed as a community resource	Physical works to staging to be completed. Need to consider connection to automatic watering system if to be used for growing plants from seed
		Watering	Current hose on a reel problematic for many allotment holders. Additional temporary measures to be introduced.	Above ground system extended - now 3 connection points for tenants (top, middle and bottom)
		Compost area	Insufficient support from allotment tenants to progress a community based compost scheme.	None
Toilets	3	Can accessible toilets be achieved within existing footprint	Budget of £40,000 approved. Indicative prices for conventional rebuild and prefab unit obtained. Confirmation that there is sufficient space within the existing footprint to accommodate two fully accessible toilets. Youth Hall/Coronation Hall's contacted to establish whether existing toilets might be utilised - Youth Hall supportive but recognise limitations of existing access	CB to meet with companies interested in undertaking refurbishment
Drains		Blocked drains - Outside Queens Arms	Reported to NSC - Contractor instructed to clean out gullies	None
		Blocked drains - Bridge Road	Reported to NSC - Contractor instructed to clean out gullies. Raised with Drainage Board who have confirmed rhyme capacity is adequate. Response from Wessex Water awaited	None
		Blocked drain - Bleadon Road/A370	Noted that significant amounts of tarmac in this drain. Issue reported	None
Roman Road Layby		Large potholes/rutting	Mendip AONB have earmarked funding towards labour costs. Edenstone to provide chippings free of charge. Work tendered and contract awarded by Council. Project underway - has experienced delays	Works expected to be undertaken before the end of July
		Overnight parking	No overnight parking signs to be erected.	
Noticeboards		Replacement	Noticeboards at The Veale and Bleadon Road removed due to safety considerations. Council resolved to replace all noticeboards (oak) with the exception of the one at Bleadon Road and to provide an additional noticeboard in the vicinity of Bleadon Mill. Budget of £5,000 agreed. Preferred contractor approved by Council (June). Highways Authority approval obtained.	Final specification to be approved. Further consideration of information panels needed. Installation will need to be undertaken by a NSC approved contractor.
Road signs		Missing horse warning sign - Roman Road Bramble bank and Shiplate bend	Reported to NSC - NSC investigating	None
The Veale		Bus stop	Both signs subject to excessive vegetation growth	None
			No further action to be taken re possible removal.	
		Verges	Heavily overgrown - NSC responsibility	None
Coronation Hall		Tarmac cracking	Checked and considered not to be an issue.	None
		Poor condition of dividing wall	Dividing wall to the West in poor condition. Believed to be the responsibility of the neighbouring property	None
		Fire escape	Further discussion needed regarding stability of chippings	CB to take forward as part of next stage of works below
		Excessive growth of vegetation (raised section)	Contract awarded - in hand. Some initial cutting back has taken place. More substantive works dependent upon removal of blue container	None
Potholes		Excessive potholes - Roman Road	Many verges have collapsed - NSC responsibility	Consideration to be given to undertaking/commissioning local surveys to establish need/investment requirements.
20mph zone		EIDs	Forms part of wider discussion around 20mph zones	None
Trees		Play area Sycamore	Question as to whether tree should be cut back further	To form part of 2 year survey of playground trees to take place Winter 2024.
		Churchyard	More substantial trimming of trees in churchyard	To be addressed in any future works
Churchyard walls		Crack in back wall	Being monitored	
PROWs		Need to clarify responsibilities	Definitive maps online	None
Car park		Barrier in poor state of repair	Pressure washing agreed by Council	Clr Sugg to check and confirm paint/protective coating required
		Disabled parking	Blue Badge only notices erected	None - complete
Parish clock		Re-gilding	Dial removed and taken away for restoration. Timescale for works estimated at 8 weeks	CB to check with AD accuracy of current donations board
Croquet Club Gate		Not known	Not known	None
Parish Pump/Well		Poor condition	Scheme of work provisionally agreed with NSC Conservation Officer - but still subject to final approval. Specialist tools will be needed.	To be considered late Summer/early Autumn
Japanese knotweed		Previously reported adjacent to churchyard	New Grounds Maintenance contractor informed	None
Grit Bins		Need refilling	Refilling will take place during the Autumn	None
Play Area		Bark chip levels	Further bags of bark distributed	None
		Low wooden fence	Removed due to proximity to trim trail	None - complete
		Signage	New signage authorised by Council	CB to arrange.
		Ground anchor	Fitted by clerk.	None
		Finger guard on gates	Fitted by JAR	None
Memorials		Headstones	Report considered by Council (June) and remedial work authorised in relation to 14 headstones. Notices erected and first gabion installed	Clerk to action further work following feedback from lead councillors/church warden
		War memorials	Legal position investigated and funding opportunities shared with church.	None
Market Cross		Aged/weathered	Survey to be conducted within next 3 years to establish any restoration requirements	None
Planters		Planting scheme over the Summer	Redundant planters removed. Plants collected and distributed (together with compost) - all planters now planted up. Watering schedule in place. Many volunteers still involved.	Planning for next year needs to commence in Autumn of 2024. If seedlings are to be brought on in polytunnel, then an automatic watering system/shading will be needed.
Streetlighting		Safety/appearance	School Lane completed. Works to light opposite The Veale still not complete. Has been raised with contractor multiple times.	None
Churchyard		Wilding area	Size, location and lack of public information require consideration	To be raised with PCC
Benches		General	Most require pressure washing and staining/painting	Colour options to be discussed
Bus shelters		General	Generally in sound condition - wooden structures need staining/treating to preserve wood	Colour options to be discussed
Defibrillator		Coronation Hall	Pads in Coronation Hall Defib replaced	None - complete
		General	No new areas identified following consultation. Funding opportunity now fully committed - although further funding round expected	Sites to be identified.
Dog Bins		Location and frequency of collection	Views sought via Parish News. Purchase of new bins to be considered	Further consideration needed