

**Open Spaces Working Group Notes**  
**29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 10.00am**

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

**Report Author:** Parish Clerk

**Present:** Councillors ID Clarke, Mary Sheppard and Ann Davies (part – including elements of project/maintenance schedule discussion)

One member of the public was present.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Andy Scarisbrick and Steve Sugg.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Notes of Meeting Held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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

**Parish Clock - Plaque**

Councillor Davies provided some history and context regarding the financial and other pledges which had been made in relation to the Parish Clock and how this might influence the size, design and location of any plaque. It was noted that the provision of any plaque within the churchyard (including the churchyard walls) would require Faculty Permission from the Diocese of Bath & Wells. Although the Diocese had not been officially approached in this respect it was considered likely that the commitment to name business donors would make it difficult for the Diocese to grant a Faculty Permission. Locating a plaque on Council owned land immediately adjacent to the entrance to the churchyard would not involve Faculty Permission and would also reflect the fact that whilst the clock is located in the Church it is 'owned' by parishioners.

Councillors discussed potential materials and requested that ***the Clerk research the types of materials available based upon the plaque being exposed to the elements and prepare a report for the next meeting of Council with options and a proposal to locate the plaque on Parish Council owned land.***

**Play Area Development**

The Clerk advised that North Somerset Council had agreed in principle to the transfer of funds to the Parish Council in lieu of providing play equipment as part of the quarry development. There would still be a legal process to be followed before any provisional agreement could be finalised but, if progressed, would see funds transferred to the Parish Council which it would unlikely to be able to otherwise secure and the retention of a relatively large area of land within

the quarry development as public open space – with North Somerset Council being responsible for the maintenance of this open space.

Councillors noted that there would be an update report to the next meeting of Council.

### **Planting Scheme for Jubilee Garden**

Given the good progress in relation to the Jubilee Garden wall it was considered important that there was an early resolution to the type of planting scheme to be provided. Councillors had previously discussed a range of planting options based upon year round colour, low height and low maintenance. ***The Clerk was asked to recirculate the list of plants provisionally identified. Councillor Clarke was asked to contact a local designer to provide some initial estimates which the Council could then consider in accordance with Standing Orders.***

### **Allotments – Invoicing and Payment**

Councillors noted that invoices had been issued using Scribe and that approximately a quarter of allotment holders had already paid for the next allotment year. There was a small waiting list for plots and it was anticipated that one current tenant was unlikely to renew for the next year.

Councillors discussed two plots which were heavily overgrown. It was noted that the tenant had been advised of the need to cut the plots to ground level. ***Councillors requested that the Clerk write to the tenant again and advise that unless progress was made the tenancy would not be extended into the next allotment year.***

Councillors noted that the water supply now reached the rear of the polytunnel and the provision of an irrigation system to bring on seedlings/plugs would be integral to any future Parish planting schemes. It was recognised that it would be beneficial to discuss future planting schemes in the Autumn and ***the Clerk was requested to liaise with Cllr Scarisbrick and schedule a discussion for a future meeting of the Open Spaces Working Group.***

### **Project and Maintenance Schedule**

Updates to the Project and Maintenance schedule (attached at Appendix 1) were noted, with the following additions/actions arising:

The Clerk would be meeting with the stonemason at the beginning of September to agree any final requirements in relation to the works to walls. It was noted that there had been a number of positive comments in relation to the accessway created as part of the works. A question had been raised about the possibility of screening the entrance to the Gents toilet. However, it was considered that these concerns would be addressed as part of the refurbishment proposals for the toilet block.

***Cllr Sheppard and the Parish Clerk to determine colour and type of finish in relation to woodwork (benches and bus stop) and trial on a bench at the earliest opportunity.***

