

## 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.