

Warwick District Council path at Acre Close – need to check if this has been done or not.

H17/16 HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS PROJECT LIST

Awaiting a quotation for the Asbestos survey from RSK.
Hearing loop test left numerous messages, but no response as yet.
Fire extinguisher test due in October 2016.
Emergency lighting test will be done this month.
Guttering at hall needs cleaning out as soon as possible.

H18/16 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report as at 31st August 2016 was presented to Members. There is no budget for Land Registry requests so there is currently an overspend of £4.00.

H19/16 PRECEPT 'WISH LIST' FOR 2017 - 2018

The following needs to be included in the precept for 2017 – 2018:

- Community Hub funding for architects, drawing, legal advice etc.
- There will more than likely be an increase in the hall rates from April 2017 and provision should be made for this.
- Money for War Memorial for 2018 centenary commemoration.
- New timber flower beds at Millennium Garden
- Replace wooden planter at Plough Green with recycled plastic planters as the current ones are rotting.
- Bark replenishment for play area at Acre Close over a period of four years.

H20/16 CONCURRENT SERVICES REVIEW

Warwick District Council has advised us that Concurrent Services grants to parish and town councils will be reduced by 50% for 2017 / 2018 and the grants will stop from 2018 / 2019.

The reasons given for the reduction and cessation of the concurrent services grants are:

- a) The Council's expenditure on parks and open spaces is several hundred thousand pounds per annum, with most of this spent in the main parks of Jephson Gardens, Victoria Park, Saint Nicholas Park and Abbey Fields. These parks are "destination parks" that provide facilities that are used by residents from across the district and visitors and their usage and appeal is far broader than the towns of Leamington, Warwick or Kenilworth. The open spaces within the parish council and Whitnash Town Council areas have a more local client base and so differ to those directly funded by District Council and it may be argued are not subject to "Double Taxation".
- b) Many local authorities do not provide any concurrent services funding, with Warwick being the only one within Warwickshire which still does so. Stratford on Avon DC ceased funding their scheme in 2006/07.

b) In terms of the overall parish and town council budgets, the concurrent service funding is just over £50,000. Parish/town precepts for 2016/17 total £1.3m. Excluding the towns of Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth, the precepts of the parishes/town eligible for concurrent expenditure are around £410,000. The concurrent services budget is just over 13% of this total. At an individual level, the concurrent services grant varies from 7.6% (Whitnash) to 35% (Baginton).

This cut will have a major impact on the precept in general and will mean a large increase in rates for 2017 – 2018.

Whitnash Town Council has submitted a Freedom of Information request to Warwick District Council to find out how much money is spent on the parks in Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick.

H21/16 CHURCH CLOSE ROAD

The Clerk has contacted Land Registry about Church Close to ascertain who owns the half of the road adjoining St Margaret's House. This section of the road is in dire need of repair.

H22/16 FLOWER TUBS ADVERTISING

Members discussed advertising on the flower tubs, but proposed this be put on hold until further notice.

H23/16 WASHBOURNE PLAYING FIELDS SECURITY

Cllr McFadden has suggested that the security at Washbourne Playing Fields is upgraded due to the threat of travellers occupying the land. Cllr Mrs Falp will contact Gallagher to find out if the trees they are cutting down at the various housing development sites can be used on Washbourne Playing Fields for children to play on and deter any encampments. Cllr Mrs Falp will investigate further and it may be necessary to ask for money from reserves is used to improve security.

H24/16 WHITNASH COMMUNITY HALL

The Community Hall will be 'maintained' while negotiations continue regarding a new Community Hub in Whitnash.

H25/16 WHITNASH OPEN SPACES

- Boot camps – should we be charging for these events? Members proposed that any commercial groups pay for the use of the field.
- Trees on Plough Green need pruning especially lower branches. Lights in the tree will need to be relocated for the lower branches to be cut. Awaiting a quote from James Herbert.
- Bark – quotations. To replenish the bark in the play area will cost in the region of £2425.95 + VAT. Members proposed that this is included in the

precept each year to cover a refill every four years. Once the RoSPA report is received and an assessment has been made the money in code 3133 can be used to replenish the bark.

- Measured Mile vandalism and defects – vandals have tried to set fire to the measured mile track and an animal has been chewing at the tiger track. Urban Recreation who installed the track have still not been to repair the areas along the track that are ‘sinking’.
- Flower beds at Plough Green and Heathcote / Tachbrook traffic lights. Dave Stocks who for many years has tended these flower beds is no longer able to tend them. The wooden surrounds at the flower bed on the Plough Green are rotting and it was suggested that recycled flower tubs are used instead of wood. Dave Herbert will source quotations for 3 tubs to be placed near the flag poles. This will need to be included in the precept for 2017 – 2018.
- Quote for winter tubs has been received and an order will be issued.
- There is evidence that the weed killing on the bund is working and trees are due to be planted on the bund in October. Wild flowers and bench will also be placed near the bund and a small pond could be created.
- The notice board outside St Margaret’s House was granted planning permission eventually and an order has been placed.
- The red phone box will be collected in October 2017 for refurbishment.

H26/16 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Letter from Mr Bhogal re use of Community Hall and parking for his daughter’s wedding on 22nd October to 31st October 2016. Members agreed to this request.
- 2 Email from Mr Handy re water logging in garden. A reply letter suggesting Mr Handy gets expert advice and sends the report to us. The Millennium Garden has been there for 16 years and no earthworks were undertaken when the Millennium Garden was created.
- 3 Email from Mr Lawrence regarding the play equipment at Acre Close and requesting a swing for children with disabilities. Quotes will be sourced for this.
- 4 Cllr Mrs Falp received an email from WDC about the procedure to follow when nominating a tree for a Preservation Order. Members were asked to send their requests to either Cllr Mrs Falp or the Clerk.

H27/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 24th November 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed.

SIGNEDDATE