

# Notes of the Informal Management Committee Meeting

27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

A formal meeting of the Management Committee had been called for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 @7:00pm; the meeting received apologies from Councillors MacArthur, Fletcher, and Stewart.

Members attending the meeting were Councillors Lock, Lockey and Barsby – one short of a quorum – so the meeting could not go ahead as a decision-making meeting.

The Clerk suggested that the three members guide him on some matters where he was able to make progress under his delegated authority.

## Town Hall:

**Office Rental** - The Clerk reported that he had reached a verbal agreement with a local business for the renting of the upstairs office in the Town Hall. It was being suggested that the rent would be £60 per month; this could include the use of the broadband if they can get a signal upstairs but would exclude the use of electric heaters. Members supported the Clerk in working to finalise the agreement.

## Cemetery:

- **Yew Trees** – The Clerk suggested that the Yew trees are crowned in the same way the ones in the Church year have been. Members supported this and the Clerk will get some quotations for the committee.
- **Gravestone Testing** – This is a service offered by SSDC; the Clerk enquired whether Members felt that it was important that the Parish Council tested the gravestones. Members requested that the Clerk research what other cemetery keepers do and to ask the insurance company.
- **Footpath Realignment** – the Clerk reported that at some point in the last 10 years, a grave has been dug halfway into the footpath and that the appearance of this is unacceptable. Cllr Lockey reported always having had the same concern and has seen a vehicle drive over the grave before. The Clerk reported that cost of realigning the path would be £840 for 3 days works. Members supported the commissioning of this work.
- **Chapel Door** – The Clerk reported that the Chapel door required some repair and then repainting. The best quote received was £190. Members supported the Clerk in commissioning this works.
- **Chapel Insulation** – The Clerk reported that the History and Heritage group were going to see if they could find some grant funding to have the Chapel insulated.
- **Leased Land Recall** – The Clerk reported that the Parish Council own a small further bit of the field next to the Cemetery that is currently been leased by a local farmer for agricultural purposes. The Clerk is aware that a notice of a number of years must be given by the council for the time when the land will be needed for a cemetery. The Clerk suggested that the time to give notice could be fast approaching as even if the notice were served tomorrow, realistically it would be about four years until the land had been integrated into the rest of the Cemetery; by this time the rest of the Cemetery could be close to being full.

### Springfield Playpark:

**Wooden Shelter** – Members debated the future of this shelter. The Clerk reported that he had received complaints about it from parents: that it often smells of urine, is in a bad state of repair and is inappropriate for its setting in a playground for younger children. The committee should consider its removal and, as part of the S106 project, a different location should be found for such a facility for youths. Cllr Lockey agreed.

### Trees:

**Tree Survey** - Accepted good practice is for the Parish Council to have a professional arboriculturist's tree survey done every two/three years and then for someone within that time to carry out a visual inspection. The Clerk had sent the Members the information from the Council's insurance company outlining this. Members supported the Clerk proceeding with getting quotations for the survey for the committee to consider.

### Allotments:

**Tree Works** - The Clerk suggested that the hedge line from the back of the old Police House, down to the first south-western corner of the allotments needs a one in every ten years clean-up/out. There are dead and overgrown trees and the general appearance is messy. The Members supported the Clerk in obtaining two quotations for the work.

### Churchyard:

**Ball Court** – The Clerk had received a request that the centre grassed area be sown with wildflowers. Cllr Lock reported that he had been involved in further conversation with the volunteer gardeners about this but that there had been a change of mind as, on balance, they felt the area should be kept a little more formal.

### Allotment Land:

**Land Requirement** - The Clerk reported that the allotments were now fully occupied and there was a waiting list. This list would continue to grow when more homes were built in the Village. The Council should start to ask around the local landowners to see if any land can be found for allotments and possible recreational use. Members agreed.