CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk's Report
February 2024

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 14th February at 7.30pm in the Church. Public and press attendance is welcomed.

Steps to Cemetery – I met with A&W Grounds on 15th January to discuss suggestions for improving the access. Wayne advised that with the limited space and ensuring that steps/ramp comply with regulations, it was a tricky project. A&W would come back with a quote.

ROSPA/PLAYGROUND– Response from Sutcliffe below. I have emailed to suggest for me to meet with him.

"We have asked the manufacturer on a previous installation about the movement in the swing bolts (page 18 of report), we have been advised that the movement is by design, no remedial action is required.

I did not notice the missing cap (page 14) but did notice another missing cover, I will ensure these are fitted in the next few weeks and this should be before the end of January.

The cable on the cableway is fully visible, although a ladder would be required, there is nothing that requires dismantling to note any fraying which would be obvious – we have installed numerous cableways that have been installed for at least ten years with no wear to cables, they do require tensioning or on occasion springs require replacement. I have attached the installation and maintenance document for the cableway which may be of use to your ground maintenance contractor.

From our perspective, there is nothing further from the new installation that requires attention, the bench, goals, springer and ball chute item were all existing – we do not currently have a repair team other than those who carry out snagging tasks post installation, therefore we cannot assist with general repairs.

Regarding the uneven ground, I have attached some photos from previous site surveys, the ground has always been a little uneven and we did not make any allowance to carry out any levelling as this would have pushed the budget – if you can send me further photos and details of the areas of concern I will review, this was not mentioned in the inspection carried out by RoSPA Play Safety."

Transfer of The Green – Paul Gillitt from Wellers has now been appointed and I have forwarded the draft TP1 and correspondence received by email from John Taylor. Wellers are very experienced in matters relating to Parish Councils and have already provided some useful feedback of the areas within the Transfer which will need to be negotiated.

Budget setting - Precept was requested by the deadline of 22nd January 2024.

Unity Trust Bank – change in signatories. This has been an ongoing issue and they have now requested me to forward the required ID documents for CP, despite having been forwarded previously. They have also queried the signature of SCR which apparently has happened on a previous occasion. Still need ID documents from CP and will investigate further regarding the problem with SCR signature. This is an urgent issue as Sam is our only signatory who can authorise payments and this is not compliant.

Budget Variance Report – no surprises since last month. Areas above budget are as expected which include salaries, subscriptions and training, insurance and audit fees. The budget for 24/25 has been adjusted to reflect these increased costs.

Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2024 – I had a useful meeting with A&W and they have provided updated costings to encompass the work which is required which I have forwarded to NG. NG will be meeting with A&W prior to the spring season.

Morrells land and branches/tree debris post storm – reported to Andrew Downton in absence of John Taylor.

Diocese of Oxford - received an apologetic email with increased rental for recreation ground from Andrew Robson, I'm awaiting the invoice. A response to follow up on lease extension for the recreation ground (Glebe). To increase the lease, CPC would be asked to pay Oxford Diocese solicitors' costs of circa £500.00 plus VAT and also CPC own costs. I need to go back to Andrew Robson to go ahead if agreed by CPC.

Denise Corney

9th February 2024