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## Open Spaces Working Group Report April 2024

- 1. Jubilee Border progress / quotes /references /start date publication Greenways Cllr Steel**  
Greenways pulled out at the last minute due to unavoidable family health problems. Two quotes obtained by Cllr Steel:  
AR Landscapes, Wincanton, quote Q092 for £3,110 - an increase of £153.66 on Greenways;  
Somerset Landscapes Ltd, Yeovil , quote 0859 for £ 3,918.00 + VAT ( which is reclaimable) - an increase of £961.66 on Greenways.  
To be decided at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April but the initial feelings are to use AR Landscapes to minimise cost and complete the task such that future maintenance is minimal and these borders do not require significant ongoing funding every year.  
Anticipated start date likely to be in May, additional funding to be agreed.  
Cllr Steel and Clerk will arrange posters denoting anticipated start dates once Contractor is confirmed and start dates agreed.  
**Action: OSWG to decide on contractor at meeting on 30/04/2024**
- 2. Drinking Fountain installation**  
Water fountain located, need to establish if it meets regulations (Wessex Water) and Mr Nichols will be advised of installation in November  
**Action Cllr J Graham to instruct installation: Ongoing**
- 3. Oak Vale wood progress and quotes for work Cllr Thompson**  
Cllr Thompson to submit a scheme of works and pursue meaningful quotes.  
Cllr Courtenay was going to approach the farmer of neighbouring land.  
**ACTION Cllr Thompson. Ongoing.**
- 4. Memorial cleaning programme Cllr J Graham**  
Cllr Cowles to lead on the ongoing management of maintaining and cleaning the War Memorial.  
**ACTION Closed .**
- 5. Play Park report and associated action to repair Cllr Finch and J Graham**  
Provision in next year's budget for a new bench to replace the broken wooden near the basketball court costing c£800 plus concrete base requested for budget inclusion totalling an estimated £1000.  
**ACTION: Cllrs Finch, J Graham and Howlett. Ongoing**

6. **Ranger costs for budget planning Cllr Scard**

Discussions on whether to reduce Ranger duties to those of specialised or specific safety restrictions, dispersing the rest with current or new handymen Ranger could then be employed to fortnightly instead of weekly sharing his employment with Milborne Port PC for the unused week. Alternatively, replace Ranger with new sub-contractor – Somerset Landscapes have proposed doing so to SDC – could be more expensive.

Paul Porter, of South Petherton, who has done the hedge trimming in the Rec and around the village, has also said he would be happy to quote for further trimming around the village that the Ranger previously undertook.

Action Cllr Scard

**ACTION Cllr Scard - determine whether taking on some of the Ranger duties would increase hours of existing handyman/men and how many. Ongoing**

7. **Verges and hedge cutting – Blackmore Lane ABRI.**

The complaint was discussed by the PC and Cllr Smith wrote to ABRI on behalf of resident and other areas.

**CLOSED**

8. **Allotment allocations, maintenance and annual meeting with allotment tenants Cllr Howlett.**

Email received from Mrs Helen Howlett to OS Chair regarding setting up an Allotment owners group and arranging for a skip (one-off) to remove excessive build up of waste at the allotments.

**ACTION OSWG to discuss at OSWG meeting 30/04/2024.**

Cllr Howlett proposed that there should be an annual allotment meeting and at this meeting he proposes to recommend that allotment tenants form a Henstridge Allotment Association.

**ACTION Cllr Howlett to arrange an allotment meeting for tenants**

9. **Outcome of Litter pick including Yenston**

Cllr Finch will advertise in Wots On and Next door to encourage more resident participation.

**ONGOING**

10. **Unitary Authority decision to suspend new bins Clerk**

Three new rubbish bins were purchased and have been installed in the recreation ground.

Note: Les Peters has informed Cllr Scard that the SDC collector had told him officially he could not collect waste from the new bins as they are not provided by the SDC and additional to those established in the rec (unofficially he still will). We need to communicate to SDC (informally via Les at first) that these bins replace existing inadequate or deteriorated bins in the rec and the SDC would not provide them. Additionally, we need to remove the old bin outside the children's play area and the square iron bin beside the skate park shelter, so that the new bins are not considered as 'additional'.

**ACTION Cllrs Scard & Graham**

11. **Grit bin winter provision Cllr Scard**

Cllr Graham confirmed the Ranger fills the grit bins and the PC Clerk is invoiced for payment via normal SDC process.

**CLOSED**

12. **Post box Village Hall Cllr Courtenay.**

The new post box for the PC is installed at the village hall.

**CLOSED**

**13. New/Additional Items to be discussed at OSWG quarterly meeting 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

- a. Footpaths;
- b. Groundsman duties in Recreation Ground;
- c. Football pitch hire/use for season 2024/25;
- d. Increase of dog mess on the Recreation Ground;
- e. Fallen wall in Church Street;
- f. Fencing ingress on recreation ground border.

Andy Scard     29/04/2024  
OSWG Chair

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