FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT

Play Areas

Park Hill Rec – the memorial bench has now been refurbished and reinstalled in agreed location. The wild area paths have been woodchipped (near to the unicorn). Minor repairs to the playpark equipment need works, to be arranged. Repairs to the bench located inside the playpark have been undertaken with a new concrete plinth put in place.

Orchard Rec – HAGS have now completed the gate spring replacement works.

Ron Groves – nothing to report

Exeter Park – the sandpit has now been topped up with new sand, although more to follow. There is still the issue of flooding at the bottom of the mound slide, these works to be planned. Some minor adjustment to the playpark floor entrance at the gate has been completed.

Briar Close & Croxford Parks – boundary bushes and trees have been cut back

Open Spaces

St Mary's Burial Ground: the main paths have now been refurbished by the team. There are issues with two tombs located in the inner churchyard which require attention. Church aware. FM presently liaising with them on this. An additional pathway to be installed for the bell ringers (located at the rear of the churchyard). Presently no headway with the gate located by the war memorial. Presently been removed with no issue reported.

St Mary's Fields: Pathways within St Mary's field being considered. Julia Trowels to update on the potential of grant funding to be applied for by SMF.

We have had a number of trees donated which have now been planted. As you are aware the area is still flooded due to the substantial heavy rain which has hindered the cutting of the wild flower area and fritillary meadow which is normally undertaken January-March.

SMF have woodchipped a number of the paths in early February, however, these may have suffered due to the flooding.

New interpretation board is nearly finished (see agenda item 5)

Bicester Road Cemetery:

Following recent burials along the back pathway/hedgeline, it was noted there is an additional gravel line along the edge of the pathway which is causing issues with burying along that line. We therefore will not be able to bury along this line which will have an impact on the remaining full burial spaces. FM to update at the meeting more fully. In brief it was suggested by ODS to use this area for ashes graves. Total of full graves lost for full burial26 in consecrated area and 12 in unconsecrted. ODS report to follow.

FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT –7 MARCH 2024

Trees: Tree cutting programmed for Blenheim Road and Hazel Walk allotments and Bicester Road Cemetery (dead overhanging branches)

Kings Coronation Garden/Home Close: Area was weeded by volunteers on Saturday 10 February and the area has been rebarked timely and made good. Verbal update on the A4 signage board for this area.

Allotments: After the tour in November and rent collection in January there have been a total of 7 relets with a further 4 to be relet in the next few weeks. As requested, when possible, the plots have been divided further to aid reducing the waiting list. The pilot scheme for the water troughs to be rolled out at Blenheim Road site. Agenda item 8 (for recommendation and approval).

The roadway at SF site has now been made good after reparation works were undertaken at the compost areas.

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Dog Bins & Litter Bins: FM to create an up to date list of bins and detailed on a map. Two of the main litter bins at Bicester Road Cemetery have been replaced.

Recycling Bins: this area has been tidied up and two bins removed, however we are still experiencing fly tipping, particularly over weekends.

Exeter Hall:

The consideration to replace the bar patio doors are presently on hold waiting on a decision on its future use.
The quotations for a new hand rail (attached) for consideration following a risk assessment following a recent incident. **Recommendation** is to use JC Buildings Solutions based in Appleton for these works.
The DEC certificate is now displayed (energy performance of the building). We have now moved to a “B” rating which is improvement on the previous “C” rating. This is mainly due to the LED light replacements and point of use water heaters over the last couple of years.
Both sets of taps in the kitchen have now been replaced.
PAT testing for the buildings has been undertaken this week with a few minor failings.
Reception Foyer lighting needs replacement. Quotation attached. This will improve the lighting and enable us to reposition the glass cabinets. **Recommendation** is to use Andy Darby as our preferred supplier.

Pavilion:

New emergency lights to be fitted to the main hall in the pavilion (twin spot) as the high-level ones have failed.

Events:

Christmas Lights: FM & CPO met with 3 contractors with a view to securing another 3 year contract. Quotes to be received for the April meeting for consideration by members.

Gala Day on Sat 20th July: activities presently being booked. An update to follow in the April meeting.

Graham Kearney
Facilities Manager
Kidlington Parish Council