

Clerk's report January 2024

Cotswold Stone Wall at Sycamore Grove Greensquare visited the site on 9th January. They met with the resident responsible for building the wall partially along the front boundary of the development. Greensquare issued a second letter to the resident stating that the wall must be dismantled, and the Parish Council's stone be returned by 7th February when a further site visit will take place. If after this date the wall still remains in place, Greensquare will take enforcement action by injunction if necessary to ensure that the wall is dismantled. Cllr Samaroo will provide a full update. I attach a copy of this letter for your information.

Bus shelter mural – We agreed that we would progress this project in the Spring. I have contacted the Head of Art at Thomas Keble to get an idea of the timescales the students will be working towards and I will let you know when you can expect to see some designs.

Frith Wood Tree Work – The work to 12 trees within our side of the wood started as planned on the 11th January and finished within the agreed timescale of 5 days. Our tree surgeon employed additional workers to ensure the work did not overrun and the work went smoothly.

Frith Wood; Robert Hitchens Owned area – Two trees came down in the high winds last week. We advised our contact at Robert Hitchens who attended the site within the hour. He advised that an Oak tree split in half and fell, and another is precariously positioned both requiring prompt action; a tree surgeon is due to attend however the trees are covered by a TPO so planning permission must be sought prior to any work being carried out.

Tree Management Policy – As agreed at our November meeting, our Tree Management policy has been updated, a copy of this and the updated list of ash trees on parish land has been shared with our tree surgeon Sam Kelly. Sam is due to attempt to carry out the work to the two Ash trees in Coppice Hill car park on 11th January. Historically this can be an impossible task despite our best efforts to advise of this work. Notices have been placed on vehicle windscreens; by the time we meet I will be able to update you with an update.

Garden Trail Oak Tree Planting – The Oak tree was planted in FLPG and the new plaque is in place.

Land at Stonecote Ridge – BwL PC considered this at their meeting in December. They want to explore the costings in more detail before they reconsider whether they want to transfer this land into our ownership.

ChalCAN Planting at Brantwood Green - Chris Attwood carried out the scanning and digging as agreed with the relevant parties on Friday 8th December. A CAT scanner was used to ensure that there were no underground cables. ChalCAN carried out the planting on 9th December. ChalCAN would like to pass on their thanks to the Works Committee's for their support.

Memorial Plaque The Ridge – A replacement plaque was ordered from Master Cobbler at a cost of £50.00. The plaque is due to be collected from the office by the resident who originally purchased the plaque; he will ensure that it is replaced close to the tree to prevent damage being caused in the future.

Graffiti at BPG – Unfortunately there have been further incidents of graffiti to the teen shelter. Each incident has been reported to the Police and our PCSO has been made aware. Chris Attwood has cleaned this off; we have ordered a supply of graffiti-off.

Soakaway at Freame Close – I have been in close communication with the resident responsible for the soakaway. On further analysis of her deeds, it transpired that all 'phase four' properties shared responsibility for this area of land/soakaway. It has taken a lot of investigation on the resident's part, but she has obtained a quote for the necessary repairs to be carried out by a specialist company and she is in the process of liaising with the other residents to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. It looks likely that the cost of the repairs will be divided between the 'phase four' properties, we should therefore soon see repairs are complete.

Foliage at The Neighbourhood Centre - Unfortunately the foliage at this area has not been cut back by the Management Company SEP Properties. County Cllr Turner and Highways are also working to help support a satisfactory resolution.

Agenda item 7 – Works budget – The RFO has prepared the Works budget for you which I attach for your consideration. If you have any questions, please ensure that you ask prior to the meeting so that I can ensure I have the answer for you.

Agenda item 8 – Bussage Pleasure Ground - Several years ago some residents suggested that the PC consider installing fencing around the play equipment at Bussage Pleasure Ground to protect children from dogs while they are playing. Investigations were started but the project did not continue at this time due to lack of funding. Recently concern has been raised again about dogs in the play area and we now have a budget to proceed with this project.

Agenda item 9 – ChalCAN Request to name the area of land behind Tesco Express - ChalCAN manage this area of land and they feel it is a good idea to call it something other than 'the area behind Tesco Express'. Please see the attached document from the Biodiversity Group.