

Clerk's Report to the Council – Meeting 3rd July 2023

Matters and actions from previous meeting (s):

1. **Sign at the Green** – Council agreed on design, however new sign will require two posts which will be costly for the Council. Email sent with proposed dates for site meeting with HCC to discuss this further.
2. **Tree Survey** – This will take place in the first 3 weeks of July. Report to follow.
3. **Allotments** - All plots are currently rented out.
4. **Logs for the Recreation Ground-** Logs are now available and reserved for APC. They will be collected and transported at the first opportunity.

Matters related to the July's agenda:

Item 23/38 c Report from PCSO Martin Leadbitter – Incidents/crimes reported in the public interest during May and June are as follows:

17th May – Theft from a motor vehicle of its Catalytic Converter parked on Station Road Aldbury, remains undetected.

1st June – Burglary at the village shop, is still under investigation.

22nd June- a Land Rover Freelander parked close to the canal on New Ground Road was damaged and had items removed, this is still under investigation.

Item 23/40 Parking Restrictions and 20 mph Zone within Aldbury village –

2. To discuss adding advisory signage provided by 20's Plenty campaign.

Clerk is waiting for a quote from Utopia Signs for advisory sign to be put up on lampposts.

Alternatively, the Council could purchase stickers to give away to residents to put on their wheelie bins cost for 50 stickers is £60 please see link <https://www.20splenty.org/3155>

Item 23/41 Play Areas - RoSPA inspection reports for both play areas were circulated to members.

Aldbury Play area – Playground working group rep had adjusted the climbing net fixtures to make them more robust and also chamfered the 2 logs that were identified in the report. The other findings will be addressed by the Playgroup working group as part of the playground project revamp. Next meeting of the group will take place on the 6th July. A report, including recommendations and proposals will be ready for the August meeting.

Tring Station Play area – Cllr Warren had addressed the point highlighted in the report and removed the piece of paving slab and filled the hole.

Item 23/42 Village Pond – Appendix 3

Report and budget sent separately.

Item 23/43 Appointment of Representatives on the Council.

Agreed:

1. IT Support – Cllr de la Bedoyere, Cllr White
2. Filming liaison – Cllr Houghton
3. Tring Station play area – Cllr Warren
4. Footpaths and Highways – Cllr White
5. Aldbury Sports Club liaison – Cllr Webb

Available:

1. Allotments
2. Tennis Court

Item 23/44 Allotments – Conditions of Hire and Tenancy Agreement sent separately to members.

Item 23/45 Finance – Income received in:

b) Income received in June

- Allotment deposit - £50 (allotment that was rented out to a new tenant was left tidy and was cultivated hence deposit paid) plus £11 rent for full plot no 4
- Allotment rent - £5.50 half plot no 21
- Allotment rent - £11 full plot no 16

d) To consider approving the transfer of £20,000 from General Reserves into Pond Earmarked Reserves.

Finance working group consisted of Cllr Webb, Cllr Warren and the Clerk had a zoom meeting on the 16th June where we discussed points raised in the internal audit report and actions and talked about our internal control procedures and the level of general reserves.

Currently APC has £46,407.31 in general reserves.

The generally accepted recommendation regarding the appropriate minimum level of general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure. Our total expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2023 was circa £50,000 which indicates that our level of general reserves is very robust.

EMR must be held for genuine and identifiable purposes and projects, and their level should be subject to justification, and should be separately identified and enumerated. APC and the Pond working group had identified the need to restore the pond and the Finance working group recommends that the Council considers and approves moving £20,000 from general reserves into Pond Earmarked reserves to pay for the costs associated with the project.

The £550 for feasibility study was put through the cashbook and was paid from the Pond EMR - Pond Sinking Fund £3,000.00 - £550.00 Total of reserves £2,450.00 as approved at the Council meeting on the 3rd April Minute 22/219.

Matters raised via email to clerk/ correspondence received:

1. Request to add recycling bins in the village as per picture.

