

ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL WARDENS UPDATE: DECEMBER 2023

AREA	ALLOTMENTS & MILLENNIUM ORCHARD
TO CHECK	Fencing & gates, benches, trees, hedges & shrubs, grass height, signs, footpaths, housekeeping, ground conditions
INSPECTION DATES	30/11,08/12,15/12, 22/12
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fences, gates, and benches were found with no defects, other than a weathered appearance. 2. Assisted by the abnormally recent warm winter weather, turf has continued to grow but remains at a suitable height for the winter months. 3. Footpath surfaces were wet and slippery in places, but with a little care, can be easily walked. 4. An apple tree was leaning over and needs re-staking, ideally at the earliest opportunity (Photo 1) 5. A boundary hedge (running parallel with Trooper Road) has been cut, resulting in a tidy look (Photo 2).

AREA	PLAYGROUNDS
TO CHECK	Equipment, Safety Information, Fencing & Gates, Benches, Trees, Grass height, General ground conditions, Empty litter bin.
INSPECTION DATES	30/11,08/12,15/12, 22/12, 29/12 Tring Station 17/12
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The Aldbury Playground has reopened following the recent installation of a Timber Snake Swing (Photo 3). It is understood, the new swing lets children choose how to operate the swing i.e. standing up, sitting down, or swinging side by side. The swing should prove a very popular addition to the playground. Looking ahead, APC may wish to obtain a maintenance schedule from the manufacturer plus relevant health and safety information to guide future decision making. 7. All user signage was in place and legible at both playgrounds. 8. Grass height was meeting the mowing specification. It should be noted that some superficial turf damage, as might be expected, occurred during the recent upgrade works; however, affected turf should recover before the Spring. 9. Litter bin at Aldbury Playground was emptied on the 15^h of December. APC may wish to record that the bin contents included a high number of empty alcohol cans and bottles. 10. Fences and gates were found in fair condition. No obvious signs of decay were visible. Surrounding vegetation has been trimmed. <p>Outstanding items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hedge(s) at Tring Station playground are overgrown.

AREA	RECREATION GROUND
TO CHECK	Tennis court, Basketball area, Pavilion, Fencing, Benches/seats, Bollards, Trees & vegetation, Grass height, car park, Litter & dog waste bins, Footpaths.
INSPECTION DATES	30/11,08/12,15/12, 22/12
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Grass height was meeting the mowing specification. 12. Weekly litter picks were carried out. 13. The basketball hard surface area is very uneven and peppered with weeds. APC may wish to risk assess the facility, and if considered unsuitable for safe play, cordon off the facility.

	<p>14. The Tennis Court surface was seen in sound condition, albeit with some minor algae/moss build-up visible around the court perimeter.</p> <p>15. Car parking bay lines are faded or missing. Lack of well-defined markings is proving problematic. Inconsiderate motorists are parking across two or three bays causing annoyance to others.</p> <p>Outstanding items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essential tree works as advised in the recent tree survey report.
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AREA	VILLAGE GREEN(S) & POND
TO CHECK	Benches, Trees, Pond, Grass height, Stocks, Litter Bins, Notice board.
DATES	30/11,08/12,15/12, 22/12
ISSUES TO REPORT	<p>16. Grass height continues to meet the APC mowing specification.</p> <p>17. Weekly litter picks were carried out.</p> <p>18. Benches were in fair condition, with some weathering visible on the older benches.</p> <p>19. No obvious faults were noted on the trees. As mentioned in the previous report, the two mature trees continue to shed dead wood as part of the normal life cycle.</p> <p>20. Christmas tree has proved popular with many residents and visitors.</p> <p>21. A new wooden notice board has been installed (Photo 4). Positive feedback received from residents. Parish Clerk is obtaining keys from installer. In future, APC may wish to exercise some control over the display of notices and leaflets i.e. Content, length of time displayed, business use.</p> <p>Outstanding items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pruning of trees as per tree survey recommendations.

AREA	HIGHWAY'S, PUBLIC FOOTPATHS & DITCHES
TO CHECK	Surfaces, Pedestrian routes, Signage, Drainage, Grit bins, Litter, Street lamps, Bollards, kissing gates, Notice board (Tring Station)
DATES	30/11,08/12,15/12, 22/12
ISSUES TO REPORT	<p>22. All streetlamps were seen in working order during the evening of the 14th of December.</p> <p>23. Litter picking was conducted in Stocks Road (to the walled garden), New Ground Road (to the canal bridge), Station Road (to Church Farm) and Tring Station (GUC Bridge to station drop-off entrance).</p> <p>24. A fallen road sign in Trooper Road has been reinstated by HCC. Ref No: 401003789546.</p> <p>25. HCC have cut back overgrown vegetation from the pavement, close to Beechwood Drive (Toms Hill Road). Ref No: 401003789594.</p> <p>26. Graffiti has now been removed by HCC from a road sign by the Beggars Lane / Station Road Junction. Ref No: 401003475040 (Photo 5).</p> <p>27. Two deep potholes in New Ground Road, situated between the canal bridge and former isolation hospital, were reported to HCC (Photo 6). Ref No: 401003834919. Local motorists have commented that these potholes cannot be seen when full of rainwater.</p>

28. The road surface on Toms Hill Road between Beechwood Drive and Grymes Dell is badly worn and rutted (Photos 7 to 11). APC wish to establish, via Cllr Symington, if HCC intend to re-surface the road in 2024.

Outstanding items

29. The following HCC Highway work remains outstanding.

- Faded markings by the Stonycroft junction (Ref No: 401002519044).
- Two faded SLOW road markings on Toms Hill. HCC Ref No's 401003740702 and 401003740705.
- Uneven road surface by the pond. Ref No:401003511836
- Additional work to the final drain outlet in Tring Station is unresolved. Water was seen pooling across the road on New Years Eve, causing major issues to road users and pedestrians (Photo 12). APC may wish to contact Cllr Symington to see if HCC have now fixed a start date. HCC Ref No: 401003164554

PHOTOGRAPHS



