

ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL WARDENS UPDATE: MARCH 2023

AREA	ALLOTMENTS & MILLENNIUM ORCHARD
TO CHECK	Fencing & gates, benches, trees & shrubs, grass height, signs, footpaths, housekeeping, ground conditions
INSPECTION DATES	04/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fencing and gates were seen in fair condition. The paddock fencing has recently had six new posts installed, resulting in a sturdier and more upright fence (Photo 1). Even so, the fencing is inadequate, a collection of posts, props, and rails, varying in length, type, age, and condition. 2. Grass height is meeting the mowing specification. The prevailing soft ground conditions are clearly not ideal for mowing, and if commenced, might cause turf damage and soil compaction. 3. Footpaths remain wet but not impassable. No obstructions were noted. 4. Despite a grey weathered appearance, wooden benches within the orchard are in fair condition. 5. All signs were in place and legible, including public footpath waymarkers. 6. A skip will be delivered on the 31st of March. The skip is an ideal opportunity for tenants to raise housekeeping standards by disposing of redundant materials from plots and the allotment gardens. The Clerk has sent an email around to all plot holders letting them know about the skip and has also hand delivered letters to tenants who do not have email addresses. 7. A plot in the top left-hand corner of the allotments is still not being satisfactorily maintained. Moreover, a makeshift fence is tipping towards FP6 and in windy conditions might easily topple over (Photo 2). 8. The fruit trees are now receiving greater care and attention. Most trees are staked, and wood chip mulch is visible by each base, presumably to conserve moisture and thwart weed growth.

AREA	PLAYGROUNDS
TO CHECK	Equipment, Safety Information, Fencing & Gates, Benches, Trees, Grass height, General ground conditions, Empty litter bin.
INSPECTION DATES	04/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03 Tring Station 10/03
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Grass height continues to meet the mowing specification requirements, despite recent grass growth. 10. Fencing at the Aldbury Playground remains in a fair condition. Please see previous reports about stacked soil. 11. Playground signage is in place and legible. 12. Graffiti has been removed from the bench at Aldbury children's playground. 13. Positive feedback voiced from numerous parents about the suggested installation of a Wildwood Play Den considering it will suit the under-fives and meet imaginative play objectives.

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	04/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03
ISSUES TO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Grass height complies with the mowing specification requirements. 15. Please refer to previous report concerning end of season renovation of the football goalmouths. Renovations should be undertaken during the 10-12 weeks available before the start of next season.

	<p>16. An unauthorised vehicle was driven onto the field, via a gap left by a missing wooden car park post. Fortunately, no serious damage was sustained on this occasion. The wooden post is waiting to be reinstated.</p> <p>17. Litter picks were undertaken on a weekly basis; pleasingly, the level of litter remains low.</p> <p>18. No visible defects were detected on the mature trees around the Recreation Ground.</p>
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AREA	VILLAGE GREEN(S) & POND
TO CHECK	Benches, Trees, Pond, Grass height, Stocks, Litter Bins, Notice board.
DATES	04/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03
ISSUES TO REPORT	<p>19. Grass height complies with the mowing specification requirements.</p> <p>20. An ongoing weekly litter pick continues to be undertaken, and from positive feedback, is welcomed.</p> <p>21. Older benches were seen in reasonable condition, if somewhat weathered. The new bench is being appreciated by residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>22. No visible defects detected on the mature trees; however, as noted in the previous report, small branches continue to be shed.</p> <p>23. Unsightly, soft verge damage caused by motor vehicle tyres is visible on the village green.</p> <p>24. Thames Water have been trying to locate a collapsed/damaged pipeline, running beneath the road by the PO and village green. The pipeline route has been marked out using aerosol paint (Photo 3). It is understood from an TW engineer that excavation works, particularly on the village green, would only be carried out as a last resort.</p>

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	04/03, 10/03, 17/03, 24/03 (Streetlamps) 09/03
ISSUES TO REPORT	<p>25. The shoe bins outside the post office were booked to be emptied by the shoe charity on the 23rd of March.</p> <p>26. Litter picking was conducted along Stocks Road (to the walled garden), New Ground Road (to FP 62) and Station Road (to Church Farm). Much of the litter collected includes empty cigarette packets, take-away food packaging, and drinks cans/bottles.</p> <p>27. A pothole in Trooper Road (near Cherry Croft) has been repaired by HCC (Ref No: 401003269911).</p> <p>28. ALDBURY nameplate in New Ground Road is faded/damaged. Possibly been struck by a flail during hedge cutting. Reported to HCC. Ref No: 401003343596 (Photo 4).</p> <p>29. Vegetation is partially blocking the open ditch/drain south of Stonycroft. Continue to monitor (Photo 5).</p> <p>30. <u>The following DBC work remains outstanding.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace missing 'Stonycroft' street nameplate Ref No: 769147. <p>31. <u>The following HCC Highway work remains outstanding.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faded markings by the Stonycroft junction (Ref No: 401002519044). - Blocked drain opposite the church (Ref No: 401003062584). - Manhole lifting during heavy rainfall near the Toms Hill/Stocks Road junction (Ref No: 401003153069). As previously reported, HCC Drainage team are looking to fund corrective works in the 2023/24 financial year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood problem by the Tring Station railway bridge (Ref No: 401003099775). HCC Drainage Team are aiming for repair works in the 2023/24 financial year (Ref No: 401003156048). - Stocks Road (by Applegarth), Ref No: 401003245782. - Toms Hill/Station Road Junction. Ref No: 401003245784. - Blocked storm drains/gullies in Tring Station (Station Road). Ref No: 401003164554.
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PHOTOGRAPHS

