

Clerks Report

JULY 2017

1. Commercial Waste Disposal

In order to carry grass cuttings, hedge trimmings etc. on the parish truck, the parish council has to be a registered waste carrier. With the exception of users of the garden and cardboard trade scheme, commercial/business waste is not accepted at the recycling centres. Scheme members are charged by a pre-purchased ticket system for disposal of commercial garden waste. There are two types of tickets, depending on if its bagged (grass cuttings) or loose (branches/bulk brambles).

The cost of the tickets are as follows:

Amount	Charge: Garden waste	Charge: Cardboard
Bagged waste only: Up to 5 bin bags/1 dumpy bag	Blue ticket: £6.10 + VAT total £7.32 (min purchases 5 tickets £30.50 + VAT total £36.60, waste must be bagged)	n/a
Loose vehicle loads: Up to 500kg	Green ticket (1): £38.60 + VAT total £46.32	£6.10 + VAT total £7.32
Loose vehicle loads: 500kg – 1t	Green ticket (2): £77.20 + VAT total £92.64	£12.20 + VAT total £14.64
Loose vehicle loads: 1t – 1.5t	Green ticket (3): £115.80 + VAT total £138.96	£18.30 + VAT total £21.96
Loose vehicle loads: 1.5t-2t	Green ticket (4): £154.40 + VAT total £185.28	£24.40 + VAT total £29.28

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council includes the cost of tickets for commercial waste disposal when considering budget allocation for grass cutting and footpath maintenance in 2018/19

2. Mapping

As we are working on our Neighbourhood Plan we have realised that we need to be able to show how our proposals interlink with neighbouring parishes around us.

At the time of our demo, we discussed the potential purchase of additional parish maps at the cost of £100 per map; the order for 4 additional maps was raised under Clerks delegation and is being added to Council's mapping database.

3. Pitch hire

Clarification has been given following an enquiry regarding junior football match times on a Saturday morning as follows:

- i. Hire of the facilities at the Pavilions (including the pitch) is done on a half-day basis. The morning session needs to be concluded in full (i.e. equipment packed away, changing rooms cleaned, building and premises vacated and secured) by 1pm each Saturday regardless of whether there is an afternoon sporting fixture or not, as the facility may have been booked for a private party.
- ii. In terms of usage, there have been times in the past where 2 matches have run back-to-back. This has been achieved by bringing the first match forward to an earlier start time (9/9.30 kick off) rather than running on into the afternoon. To protect the pitch, no more than 2 matches are permitted in any one hire session.

The Pavilions user handbook is being revised by the Administrator for the 2017/18 season and will be issued to all user groups in September.

4. Hillside Garden play area

Installation of the play area has been held up due to the ordering (and subsequent delivery of) the wrong item of play equipment. There is likely to be a delay of up to 6 weeks as the correct piece is manufactured. The art-work for the sign for the play area has been completed and an order for the sign raised.

5. Bowls Green report from contractor

We called today (24.07.2017) to cut the sward.

In order to provide sward conditions that favour Grass coverage and reduce the buildup of moss it may be necessary to increase aeration tasks using the large plunge action tiner during the summer, the present contract only permits aeration during the Winter period, normal greens care would require aeration say every fortnight in one form or another all year round, this is all dependent on the budget available, I suggest the minimum amount would be once per month during the Summer as well as the winter regime.

Why do we get Moss

- No full time qualified Greenkeeper in place.
- Little or no help from Bowling Club members.
- Limited budget in place to maintain to high standard.
- Chemical easy treatment for moss control banned 10 years ago.
- Moss is a problem for all fine turf. The removal of Diachlorophen pesticide to treat moss is causing problems on all Greens our peers recommend aeration to deter the establishment of this weed; manual tasks are expensive.

Aeration the best task for reducing build-up of Moss by providing a dry surface that is unsuitable for Moss to thrive. You have the Sisis aeration machine in the shed should you find the man-power to carry out the task. Unfortunately, aeration is an expensive option using large machines that need to be effective, and during the summer needs to have a turf retainer in fitted to stop the sward lifting. Also needs sets of consumable tines at £80 a set x 2 per summer, 1 x larger diameter set during the Winter.

Work detail:

- Prepare machine in workshop for use prior to use, fuel, oil, tines, operating depth.
- Load onto trailer and lash down.
- Transport to site unload.
- Carry out tining procedures.
- Remove from site and cart away.
- This machine is fitted with an all-important turf retainer that holds the turf in place then punches holes through the retaining fingers.

Costs:

Our competitors charge around £350 per Green per one visit, as we have worked together on a contract basis for some time we will offer the service at a charge of £100 per visit including the labour of around 2.5 hours to complete the task. The current contract allows 4 visits during the winter; this is the minimum amount I would recommend. More would be preferable but it is subject to your budget.

- £100 extra per visit x 6
- £160 for 24 x pencil tines = Two sets.
- £30 Petrol charge.

Recommendation: that the Council resolves a way forward to address the moss issue.

6. South West Tree Wardens Regional Forum 2017

The Tree Council is pleased to invite you and your Tree Wardens to the South West Tree Wardens Regional Forum 2017, taking place on **Saturday 28th October 2017** at **Dartington Hall** near **Totnes, Devon**.

This year's forum is called '**Tree Values**'. In this Forum the aim is simple – to explore all the elements that make up a tree's 'Value' and establish how understanding this could help in our work as Tree Wardens.

To avoid delay book your place and pay on The Tree Council website,
<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Shop-Donate/Other-Goodies>

Completed booking forms and the cost of admission must be returned to us with payment by **Friday, 13th October** 2017 at the latest. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

7. Annual Return

A copy of Minute relating to the recruitment and appointment of an additional officer for Neighbourhood Planning was requested by and forwarded to Grant Thornton. At the time of writing this report no other additional details have been requested.

8. Actions under delegation: Ragwort on council land

The contractor was instructed to remove ragwort growing in and around the dog walking/BMX area at a cost of £240 (exc. VAT)

The [Ragwort Control Act 2003](#) is an Act of Parliament that exists to create a code for managing ragwort. It amends the [Weeds Act 1959](#). There is a great deal of misinformation about this Act. The practical implications for an individual are of little consequence, unless they are prosecuted for failing conform to a Ministerial Order made under that Act. It does not place any legal

obligation on anyone to control ragwort. The expenditure was necessary to comply with terms of the Council's lease on the land rather than legislation.

9. Endsleigh Crescent chicanes

The chicanes removed in August 2016 have been replaced following a misunderstanding with Western Power. This has effectively caused a resident in Blackhorse Lane to not be able to use the footpath to access the number 4 bus route, a service on which he depends for shopping, medical appointments, etc. Following discussions regarding reinstatement of chicanes with the County Council, the matter has been referred to County's P3 department to arrange removal and to assess installation of DDA-compliance.

There is a big push to keep the older generation in their own homes, and the benefits of encouraging and enabling their independence is recognised and well-documented.

There's also an interesting article in the Spring edition of Devon's Senior Voice about promoting independence – it's on page 4 and can be downloaded from devonseniorvoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Issue-32-Spring-2017.pdf

As a community we can and should do little things which make such a great difference to someone's quality of life, and the matter of the chicanes is the perfect example. It's easy to get caught up in sweating the "big" stuff – especially with all the strategic development going on all around us, but it's the small stuff that really matters on an everyday level to everyday people.

There are plans for future works to Blackhorse lane to make it more favourable for use as a shared access road for residents and cycle route; this presents the ideal opportunity to negotiate delivery of any minor works, for example a reduction to the gradient of the slope at the northern end of footpath 30 where it joins Blackhorse Lane.

Recommendation: that the Council resolves to carry out a review of DDA-compliance in the Blackhorse lane / Endsleigh Crescent area

- 10.** There has been a complaint from a resident of Bluehayes regarding an increase in dog fouling and litter along the B3174 between Cranbrook and Clyst Honiton. After discussion with my colleagues at Cranbrook and Clyst Honiton Parish Council and County Ward Member Bloxham, this has been referred to SkyPark Liaison Group for consideration. In the meantime, street cleaning/litter-picking is for the District Council to address reactively until such time as a way forward is agreed.

Each Clerk must raise the request with Streetscene for each part of the route which is in their parish; the Clerks are liaising with EDDC to see if this can be circumvented so one request can be raised from any one of the 3 for the whole route.

The SkyPark Liaison Group next meets in October.

This concludes my report to Council.

Angie Hurren, MILCM.

31 July 2017