Maintenance Report – (via Clerk, resident requests)

Insert the date of meeting here: 27/07/23

Agenda Item: Insert wording to appear on the agenda. The recommendation the motion/resolution that you are seeking i.e., "to resolve to…" "To note that …"	To consider a resident request to cut down nettles and trim hedge on the playing field to allow resident to access playing field from their gate. To consider a resident request to control bindweed that is creeping from the playing field into their private residential garden. To consider request for a dog waste bin to be put on the land behind the new school where you can walk through the fields.
Background Information: Insert as much information as possible so that councillors have the detail, they need to make an informed decision e.g., cost, time, long term/short term project, where, how, when why??	A resident has contacted the council re issues at the back of their property regarding nettles not cut down and hedge not trimmed on the playing field preventing the resident from accessing the field from their gate. There are no known easements or private access rights to the playing field and so the resident should not have an access gate from their property directly onto the playing field. The Council are under no obligation to trim or remove any vegetation at the edge of the playing field along the boundary line. The Council may wish to consider requesting the removal of the gate or writing to the resident to advise that no private access rights to the playing field have been granted. A resident has contacted the council regarding bindweed creeping from the playing field into their private residential garden. There is no legal duty or obligation to control vegetation to prevent it spreading to neighbouring properties. Bind weed is a common occurrence in fields and hedges however is known to be unpopular with gardeners due to its difficulty to remove. The Parish Council have a legal duty to conserve biodiversity and give this due consideration in their decision making.

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	The Council will need to decide whether they wish to carry out this additional maintenance work and if so where the priority of this task falls within the existing workload and what other tasks can be postponed. Bindweed / RHS Gardening Field bindweed | The Wildlife Trusts How to get rid of bindweed - Country Life We would not be able to ask Danny or Kray to use weedkiller as they would need a licence, it may be possible to ask NWBC whether they would be able to quote for this, however I suspect it would be difficult for them to do this without risking harm to the hedge itself, but it may be worth asking. The land behind the new school is likely to belong to WCC or is a Public Right of Way. The Parish Council can consider supplying a bin in this area however permission from the landowner would be required.
Background Documents: Insert names of documents to be sent out with the meeting papers.	

Implications to be completed by the Clerk:		
Staffing Implications	Due to reduced staffing resources in July it has not been appropriate to request the caretakers carry out any additional tasks. Current priorities are grass cutting / strimming, maintaining WOPC planters, regular bin emptying, cleaning and painting of playground equipment and street furniture as and when weather allows. Written Risk Assessments. Pavilion opening / closing etc. Additional work due to be scheduled for caretaking staff includes: Play Area Inspections / Minor Repairs Bollard Replacement	

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	As Bindweed is difficult to dig out, due to having a root system up to 20ft deep, weed killer is recommended. Our village caretakers do not have the appropriate training / licence to use weedkiller in a public area.	
Council objectives:	To improve governance. To complete asset registry. To improve reserve levels for asset repair / replacement. To minimise increases to the precept.	
Equalities & Human Rights	There are minimal implications with regards to equalities and human rights.	
Crime and Disorder	There are minimal implications with regards to crime and disorder.	
Biodiversity	An amendment to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, came into force on 1 January 2023 and places a duty on all local authorities, including parish councils, to from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective. The general biodiversity objective is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England so all parish councils must take biodiversity into account in all their decisions and actions. The government has issued guidance on complying with the duty here:	
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure Provision of additional bin - The Council may wish to consider reviewing their existing assets and financial commitments before committing to any additional spending	
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	
Legal	Power under which the spend can be actioned – N/A GPC	
	GDPR - Data Privacy Impact Assessment - N/A	
	Other considerations: Council should ensure their actions do not constitute the approval of any easements or private access rights across playing field	
Risk Management	None at this stage	

PLEASE NOTE

Agenda item requests: these must be received by the Parish Clerk at least 6 working days before the meeting at which you would like your item to be considered.

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