

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	19 SEPTEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM: 5
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

RECREATION GROUND

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Environment and Leisure Committee with updates on various items in relation to the Recreation Ground.

Detailed Information

Shelter

At the last meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee it was resolved that the Town Clerk would undertake the following actions in respect of the Shelter:-

- Liaise with BBLP in respect of the remnants of the rubbish bin previously sited adjacent to the old shelter;
- Contact local artists in respect of quotes for the decoration of the skate park and shelter with examples of their work.
- If Councillors know of any artists that may be interested in this work to ask them to contact the Clerk or alternatively provide the Clerk with their details

The following is an update on all of these points.

- An email has been sent to Neil James of BBLB asking for a meeting to discuss this, however due to annual leave no response has been received as yet.
- The Clerk has spoken with one local artist who advised that they would not be able to provide any costs until they knew what was required.

It had also previously been agreed that the Clerk would contact local schools asking for the students to provide designs for the shelter and it was agreed that both schools should be asked to provide three designs, 3-panels being designed by each school. Letters have been sent out to both John Maesfield High School and Ledbury Primary School asking that the make students are of this and that the designs be returned to the Clerk by Friday, 25 October 2019.

No confirmation has been received that the schools would like to take part in this, but the Clerk has sent a follow email to ask whether the schools are happy to support the council in this project.

Councillor Harvey has put a suggestion forward that may be worth looking into in respect of the designs for the shelter. She has suggested that the company that

installed the shelter be contacted to enquire whether they could provide sheets of the printed designs that would fit the inside of the shelter as they are likely to have the machines to do this due to the fact that they can provide printed panels. This may prove to be a cheaper option.

Since the erection of the shelter there has been a problem with graffiti on the inside and the groundsmen had to be asked to remove a particularly offensive word recently and after cleaning it off he advised that the marker pen that had been used had damaged the galvanised surface and that it had taken considerable effort with a scourer to remove the offending graffiti, which had resulted in further damage to the surface.

The Clerk has discussed this with the Chair of the Committee who has suggested that the surface be repaired with a zinc galvanising paint to prevent future corrosion. Further to this he has suggested we purchase some graffiti remover, but this could become expensive as it is likely that this sort of behaviour is likely to continue until the shelter is painted and possibly beyond. The suggestion following the painting of the shelter would be to apply an anti-graffiti coat to the finished design which will protect it and make it easier to clean in the future.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would obtain 3-quotes for a new concrete base for the ground around and beyond the new shelter. The Clerk has met two contractors on site and is still waiting to hear back from a third for a date to meet.

Lighting

Members will recall that at the last meeting of the committee they were advised of an issue with a light at the recreation ground (minute E7(2) refers).

The Clerk was instructed to establish whether the key for the light cage could be located at the community hall; Unfortunately, the key could not be located there. As many of you are aware the one light is causing considerable distress to a local resident and there has been considerable discussion about the fault lights on Facebook, as this has now been going for some considerable time. Therefore, it is necessary to resolve this problem. for BBLP to remove the padlock and replace it in order for them to replace two faulty floodlights and 1 streetlight in the rec. BBLP have provided a quote for the works in the sum of £2,081.32.

Litter and Dog Bins

At the last meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee the Clerk was asked to contact BBLP and ask for the cost of a new metal bin to be sited adjacent to the new shelter and whether it would be possible utilise the current base. As stated in the shelter report the Clerk has contacted BBLP and asked for a meeting to discuss this but has received no reply as yet.

Pathways and Walkways

On a site visit with the maintenance contractor who carries out the maintenance at the Recreation Ground, among other areas, it was established that whilst HCC own the area known as Queens Walk, he has for some time now, been cutting the grass and maintain the area.

There are several areas that he maintains around the town that he has taken on that are not the Town Council's responsibility, often because we have received complaints that the area has not been maintained. It would appear that once an area has been cut by someone other than BBLP they then do not continue to maintain these. The Clerk is hoping to arrange a meeting with Spencer Grogan of HCC to discuss this issue further and will report back once this meeting has taken place.

Playground Equipment

On a recent visit around the town's play areas, the Clerk and Chair of the Committee found the beam on the tyre swing and the leg swing at the recreation ground needed repairing. Officers are currently investigating the cost to repair these and once a quote has been received the Clerk will, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, arrange for their repair.

Benches

At the last meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee it was agreed to defer the decision on purchasing benches until such time a site visit to the various sites managed by the Council could be undertaken. A site visit to the cemetery and recreation ground has been arranged to take place prior to the meeting on 19 September with a site visit to the remaining sites to be arranged in the near future. Members may wish to discuss this further at the meeting as part of the post site visit.

Recommendation

1. That Members receive the update provided by the Clerk noting that she is waiting on a response from both John Maesfield High School and Ledbury Primary School and a from BBLP in respect of the bin adjacent to the shelter.
2. That the Clerk contact the company who installed the shelter to enquire whether they would be able to print the final designs onto bespoke sheets to be attached to the shelter panels and report back to the next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee.
3. That the galvanised surface that has been damaged due to vandalism be repaired with a zinc galvanising paint and that graffiti remover be purchased for the foreseeable future.
4. That consideration be given to painting the shelter with an anti-graffiti paint once the design has been completed.

5. That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee be given delegated powers, in conjunction with the Town Clerk, to agree which quote to accept in respect of the replacement surface for the shelter.
6. That Members consider approval the works to the faulty lights in the recreation ground, to be carried out by BBLP at a cost of £2,081.32, which includes the removal and replacement of the key to the light cage, replacement of two faulty floodlights and 1 faulty street light.
7. That should the quote be received from BBLB prior to the next meeting of Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee be given delegated powers, in conjunction with the Town Clerk, to agree to the installation of a bin, subject to them considering the costs to be reasonable.