

Clerk's Report & Correspondence – APC Meeting on 2nd December 2024

Matters and actions from previous meeting(s):

- **Aldbury Playground** – baby swings with set of chains. The Clerk contacted Wicksteed, Kompan Ltd and Playdale for quotes:
 - Wicksteed - £664.02 plus VAT
 - Kompan Ltd £761.60 plus VAT (No warranty)
 - Playdale – their chains are not long enough

Current balance for Playground Project EMR - £2,394.89

- **Ashridge Estate** - response received from Paul Miller on 26th November to the concerns that members of the public raised at the October meeting:

“The NT applied to have the designation of Monument Drive reviewed as it was adopted by Herts Highways in the early 1980’s as a Byway open to all traffic, designated as ‘Tree line to tree line’. This is a conundrum as the grass verges either side of the Drive are designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and as such the NT and other statutory bodies have a legal obligation to protect, preserve & improve this designated land. The NT are seeking the review as we believe the ‘Tree line to tree line’ designation was and remains inappropriate, instead we see the BOAT as being ‘the width of the surfaced Drive’ which in turn would enable the NT to begin much needed restoration work on the grass verges. It is the relocation of the car parking that we seek, with the grass verge areas remaining available for visitors to enjoy – just not in their cars. In tandem, we will be seeking permission to construct an interim/temporary car park on Meadley Meadow to provide for this relocated visitor parking. We expect to require this temporary parking the two new visitor Gateways (hubs) can be progressed. Assuming permissions for the new Gateways is achieved, the temporary car park would be removed and the Meadow restored, aligned with the operational opening of these new locations which would provide for the relocation of visitors; alleviating the pressure from some of the more delicate and highly designated parts of the estate. We hope to be able to progress the interim car park late summer 2025, subject to permissions and to commission a Design Team early 2025 to support the detailed design elements of the new visitor gateways, with planning applications proposed to be submitted towards the end of 2025. Further information can be accessed via the link below:

[Ashridge Estate - Protecting Our Roots](#)

[Note: We still await the outcome of the review of the BOAT width.] “

- **Allotments**
 - rent has been received from 29 tenants total of £707. The Clerk collected 3 cheques from the post that will be banked w/c 2nd December. 10 rent fees are still outstanding and are being chased. 2 x half plot and 2 x full plot are currently available.
 - Ball valve at one of the water troughs was repaired at the cost of £10, this was added to the invoice for repairs of Recreation Ground sign and timber edge at playground swings.
- **Village shop ACV** – The petition was signed by 375 residents. The Clerk will submit the nomination form and supporting documents to Adele Stapleton, lawyer at DBC once she obtains her email address.

- **Unity Trust bank mandate** – The form to add Cllr Brooks as bank signatory was submitted to Unity Trust.

Matters related to December agenda:

Item 24/151 3 Report from PCSO

PCSO Bardhyl Agallili was invited to attend the December meeting. No response received yet.

Correspondence received:

- Complained about shed base built at one of the allotment plot. Cllr de la Bedoyere was asked to investigate.
- Correspondence received regarding Marshcroft development.
- Email received about using Recreation Ground for group training. Liaison with ASC.