

Marlborough Town Council

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Town Clerk:

Mr Richard Spencer-Williams, PSLCC

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20th April 2021

To: Cllrs. D. Heath (Chairman), L. Farrell (Vice Chair), B. Castle, A. Ross, N. Barrett-Morton, P. Cairns, M. Hall, V. Hillier, and the Town Mayor

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a meeting of the **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** to be held on **Monday, 26th April 2021, immediately following the Planning Committee meeting and not before 8pm**

Yours faithfully

Richard Spencer-Williams

Mr R Spencer-Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

On 4th April 2020, the government introduced The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 which allows local councils to meet remotely. These regulations apply to meetings held before 7th May 2021.

This meeting will be held online using Zoom videoconferencing software. The press and members of the public are welcome to join the meeting by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89171501439?pwd=MWQrYjJKenNUWldtMEJubitZMzZIUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7150 1439

Passcode: 631808

Public Question Time – in accordance with Standing Order 3 (f), members of the public may ask questions of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee Planning Committee. The time allocated for this should not exceed 10 minutes and be limited to 1 question per person unless directed otherwise by the Chairman. A full response may not be possible without further research and the Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st February 2020 as a correct record

- 5. Grounds Manager's Report**
To note the contents of a report by the Grounds Manager
- 6. Rugby Club verti-draining**
To consider the Rugby Club's request for assistance from the Council with 'verti-draining' maintenance works on their pitches
- 7. Benches**
To consider the request by a member of the public for more benches in open spaces.
- 8. Lions Club**
To consider the request by the Lions Club to use Priory Gardens for fundraising activity.
- 9. Priory Gardens**
To consider the management of Priory Gardens.
- 10. Skatepark**
To note an update report from the Assistant Town Clerk on the installation of lighting.
- 11. Marlborough in Bloom Update**
To note the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk
- 12. College Fields / Barton Park**
To review and consider the proposal submitted by Mr J Rogers regarding proposals for the management and maintenance of College Fields / Barton Park site
- 13. Improving Bio-Diversity on the Common**
To consider the request by Transition Marlborough for the creation of a wildlife meadow on the Common.
- 14. Cemeteries**
 - i) To note any Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial issued
 - ii) To note any memorials and inscriptions approved
- 15. Allotment Association**
To note the Allotment Association AGM minutes

ITEM 4 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st February 2020

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Amenities & Open Spaces Committee** held on
Monday, 1 February 2021 at 8.32 pm by videoconference

PRESENT: Councillor Donald Heath Chairman
Councillor Mark Cooper Town Mayor
Councillor Bryan Castle
Councillor Andrew Ross
Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton
Councillor Lisa Farrell
Councillor Mervyn Hall
Councillor Peter Cairns

ALSO PRESENT: Shelley Parker Town Clerk
Nigel Weatherly Grounds Manager
Dawn Whitehall Administrator
Councillor Guy Loosmore Observing
Councillor Jane Davies Wiltshire Councillor – West Selkley
Susan Round Marlborough.News
Plus 7 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Caroline Thomas – congratulated the volunteers who did such a great job looking after Plume of Feathers Garden and asked that her support for the request to extend the lease be noted.

Councillor Farrell – asked Members to make time to listen to the two young skaters who had joined the meeting at her invitation to share their experiences of using the Skate Park and to explain what the proposed lighting would mean for them and other young skaters.

436/20 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from **Councillor Hillier**.

437/20 DECLARATIONS
There were no declarations of interest.

438/20

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Chairman** was pleased to let everyone know that the Mill Wheel which had been looked after by Mike and Lesley Fernley at the Ropeworks over the last few years would be moved for safekeeping on behalf of the town to Martin Gibson's farm just outside Mildenhall. He extended the Town Council's thanks to the Fernleys, to Martin Gibson and Nigel, our Grounds Manager, for coordinating it.

439/20

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 15 December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

440/20

GROUND'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report.

It was noted that play equipment at Wye House Gardens was deteriorating and the Grounds Manager recommended replacing it. It was agreed that this requirement should be added to a future agenda

Members considered a recommendation to consider the sharing of equipment with the Golf Club with the expected move to a new workshop on land adjacent to its Greens Shed. Details included:

- The Golf Club could make use of the Town Council's tractor
- The Town Council could make use of equipment for improving and maintaining sports pitches
- In both cases, this would help keep equipment costs down and free up storage space
- Appropriate insurance would need to be arranged and records of use might help to ensure that the arrangement was mutually beneficial to both organisations

RESOLVED: (ii) with the right monitoring and insurance in place, to support the sharing of grounds maintenance equipment between the Town Council and Marlborough Golf Club

441/20

CHURCHILL COURT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report setting out the historical background to the issues with trees and ownership at the site.

During a suspension of Standing Orders, the recently appointed Development Manager for Churchill Court introduced himself. He would be very amenable to hold further discussions but could not make decisions on behalf of the landowners. He confirmed that should the land be transferred, the financial cost of maintaining trees and the riverbank would most likely be passed on to residents via an increased service charge which may place a considerable financial burden on them.

A resident also spoke stating that he did not believe that a fence was required and suggested that pollarding the trees would be a better option. This would allow more daylight and warmth from the sun into residents' apartments. He also stated that the condition of the retaining wall was poor.

The Grounds Manager confirmed that it would be possible to pollard Lime and Willow trees, but not the Alder. This would benefit residents on the riverside of the building but would add to the Council's ongoing costs for tree works as pollarding would need to be carried out every five to seven years.

Discussion points included:

- Whether to reapply for planning permission to erect a fence delineating the Town Council land (as had been agreed via a S106 agreement in place at the time that Churchill Court was built and originally to create a riverside walk)
- Whether there would be any opportunity to work together and share costs with the owners of Churchill Court
- Estimates for a post and rail fence had been obtained relatively recently following a visit from the Town Council's Health & Safety Advisor who had highlighted safety issues. A cost of between £3,500-£4,000 had been estimated
- Disappointment at the lack of engagement from the landowners and the apparent disregard to contribute towards improving conditions for residents
- Whether to obtain estimates for the cost of pollarding the trees
- A desire to help residents
- That without a fence, the liability issues remained

RESOLVED: to seek estimates for the cost of pollarding trees for consideration at the next meeting

442/20

STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

Members noted the minutes of the most recent Stonebridge Management Committee and that the annual review of the Stonebridge Management Plan was being held via videoconference at 6pm on Tuesday, 23 February. Registration and links could be requested via the Town Council offices.

443/20

PLUME OF FEATHERS GARDEN

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and considered a request by the Richmond Fellowship and local residents about future community use of the

garden, as well as emergency cabling works at Plume of Feathers Lane.
Discussion points included:

- Plume of Feathers was currently under lease to the Richmond Fellowship (a leading national mental health charity)
- The lease expires on 22 October 2021
- A letter had been received from residents and the Richmond Fellowship requesting a new lease as well as agreement to the creation of a Friends group to expand the use of the space for wider community enjoyment
- That legal advice should be sought about incorporating a clause in the lease to enable this new more inclusive arrangement whilst continuing to promote good mental health
- That the work of the volunteers in creating such a tranquil space was commended
- Whether the garden was a suitable location for a Friendly Bench (a national, community-led social enterprise to combat loneliness and social isolation)
- The draft Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan had designated Plume of Feathers as a valued open space

In addition, BT Open Reach required the Town Council's permission to carry out urgent works to repair damaged cabling. This would entail dig sites, but surfaces would be made good and nearby residents would be informed

RESOLVED: (i) to seek the advice of the Town Council's solicitor on a new lease for the Richmond Fellowship and to add a clause to enable wider use as a community garden and to include working with a soon to be established Friends group

RESOLVED: (ii) that access and permission is granted to Open Reach to carry out urgent works to damaged cabling

444/20

CEMETERIES

RESOLVED: (i) that recent Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial were noted

RESOLVED: (ii) that recent approved memorials and inscriptions were noted

RESOLVED: (iii) that cemetery charges with effect from 1 April 2021 were agreed at a 2% increase

445/20

OPEN SPACES CHARGES 2021/22

RESOLVED: that open spaces charges for 2021/22 were agreed at a 2% increase

446/20

SKATEPARK

Members noted the Assistant Town Clerk’s report and considered a way forward in terms of a revised lighting scheme at the skatepark.

During a suspension of Standing Orders two young skaters spoke about the proposed lighting:

- To express they’re thanks to the Town Council for considering the addition of lighting
- Lighting would help the youth of Marlborough for a long time to come
- Skating was a very positive and affirmative activity providing outdoor opportunities away from screens and to provide a sense of escape from difficult times
- Skating provided a sense of community spirit to an enthusiastic group of people
- The freeing and uplifting feeling from skating was a great benefit to mental health and wellbeing
- Lighting was an issue in the winter months: currently skaters were restricted to finding illuminated spaces such as car parks, but were often asked to move on by residents to prevent noise nuisance
- It was not safe to use the skatepark when it was dark although some skaters may take risks outside of daylight hours
- Lighting would keep skaters in the skate park and away from other public spaces or unsafe locations
- Both skaters offered to discuss any concerns as they were aware that some members of the public objected to the proposal. Skating had been a positive influence on their lives and would be for generations to come

Councillor Farrell was very proud of the two young people for speaking up, and **the Chairman** thanked them for attending a long meeting so that they could share their comments.

Councillor Castle left the meeting

RESOLVED: to accept the revised quotation and proceed with the lighting project on this basis, subject to Wiltshire Council approval

Several members of the public left the meeting

447/20

MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM

As **Councillor Hillier** was unable to attend the meeting no verbal update was available.

The meeting closed at 9.33 pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman

ITEM 5 Grounds Manager's Report

Grounds Managers Report April 2021

1. Workload

Spring has finally arrived. We are well into our spring maintenance routine throughout the town; mowing, strimming, weeding, edging, and generally improving Marlborough's open spaces. Most of our grass cutting is scheduled for fortnightly cuts weather permitting.

2. Bedding displays

The winter bedding has given a bright splash of colour to our planters in the high street. The winter bedding will be removed in mid-May in preparation for the summer bedding in early June.

3. Play

The grounds team continue to do daily visual inspections with any defects reported, and these are recorded according to the ROSPA Play equipment inspections schedule. The play equipment around the town is being very well used.

4. Machinery:

All our small machinery has been serviced ready for the season ahead. The new Husqvarna P524 is a great improvement on the old model and a lot more economical. Equipment sharing with the golf club has been a great help this has enabled us to Verti- drain out sports pitches to improve the drainage and aid root development for a better swath.

5. Site Specific

- Salisbury Road Recreation Ground

The Recreation ground is well used by the local community. The play equipment is very well used. The football pitches are being used again by the local youth groups. The football pitch has been Verti drained to relief compaction and aid drainage.

- St Mary's Church

This area is well used by the young people of the town. The fruit trees are now being maintained by transition Marlborough.

- The Green

We have commenced our seasonal maintenance programme. The crocus bulbs that were donated by the rotary club flowered very well. The aim is to plant some additional bulbs this autumn for next year's display.

- War Memorials

We have commenced our seasonal maintenance programme. The roses will be re pruned in the next month to improve their shape. The yew trees next to the memorial on the junction of Barn Street and New road need to be re-tied to keep a uniform shape. The edging board around the perimeter of the turf will need replacing at some point this year .

- The Cemetery

Routine maintenance is well under way in the cemetery. Grass cut and strimmed on a fortnightly cycle weather permitting.

- Old Cemetery

The friends of the Victorian cemetery have been busy and have made a great improvement to the cemetery removing brambles.

The we will be cutting a new path on the west side of the cemetery to create a circular path.

We will continue to remove the brambles throughout this season and control the invasive weeds such as nettles brambles and Dock leaves.

- **The Priory**
We have commenced our seasonal maintenance programme. The gardens are very well used and a popular area for the young people of Marlborough. There has been some damage to some of the plants caused by people playing football, especially the roses.
- **Coopers Meadow**
Our seasonal maintenance programme is well under way. The play area is very well used. We have built and installed a new planter for herbs outside the community fridge area. Regular litter picks are carried out. Control of Stinging Nettles in this area is continuing this year.
- **The Common**
This area is well used by the local community. The football pitch has been Verti drained to relief compaction and aid drainage. A survey of flora and fauna will be carried out in mid-summer. We have had a mole digging his way across the rugby pitch we have tried a mole deterrent to make the mole move on this had little effect we have now purchased two humane mole traps and have successfully caught 2 moles and relocated them to the forest.
- **Manton - Jubilee field**
Our seasonal maintenance programme is well under way. Some minor canopy lifting on a couple of the tree has been done over the winter months. The control of vegetation such as stinging nettles along the river edge will continue this year. The new play equipment is very popular with the young people.
- **Wye House Gardens**
We have commenced our seasonal maintenance programme. We continue to lift and divide, and replant some of the herbaceous plants in the garden to fill in any gaps and this has greatly improved the gardens
- **Elcot Rec**
The football pitch has been Verti drained to relief compaction and aid drainage. We will be removing a few dead trees in this area in the next couple of weeks.
- **Stonebridge Meadow**
We have installed a small section of Knee railing close to the dipping platform for health and safety reasons. Regular grass cuts on this area are dependent on how wet the ground is. Twice weekly checks on litter and bins in this area are carried out. A new bench will be installed in the next month.

ITEM 6 Rugby Club Verti-Draining

To consider the Rugby Cubs request for assistance from the Council with 'verti-draining' maintenance works on their pitches

The Rugby Club has asked if the Council would offer its services to 'Verti-drain' their pitches.

Verti-Draining involves a tractor towed spiked roller being pulled over turf, which helps alleviate waterlogging and aerates the ground to promote healthy growth. This decompacts soil on sports pitches by inserting equally spaced holes in the turf which allow water and air to filter through to the grass roots.

Our ground staff have recently started this practice since having access to this equipment via the agreement with the golf club.

In consultation with the Grounds Manager there is capacity too do this 1-2 times year, but any offer beyond this would create a pressure on their overall capacity , as the process itself is relatively time consuming.

The Committee are asked to consider this request and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

ITEM 7 Benches

To consider the request by a member of the public for more benches in open spaces.

Summary

1. A resident has contacted the Council enquiring if the more benches around the Town could be considered now that people are permitted to meet outdoors with family and friends, and in support of local businesses, also the request for a bench at Stonebridge Meadow.

Covid 19 Guidelines¹

2. Current Government guidelines permit people to meet up outdoors with friends and family they do not live with, either:
 - in a group of up to 6 from any number of households (children of all ages count towards the limit of 6)
 - in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include an existing support bubble, if eligible)
3. As of the 12th April non-essential retail is permitted to reopen. Outdoor areas at hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in members' clubs) can reopen. Hospitality venues will also be able to provide alcohol for takeaway, click-and-collect.
4. Consequently, the footfall in the Town Centre has significantly increased. The suggestion for more benches was essential in recognition of the increased activity in the High Street and adjacent areas.

Possible Locations

5. Currently the Council provides numerous benches in all the open spaces. Specifically, there are three picnic benches and two armed benches in the Priory Garden. There is one 'memorial' bench at Jubilee Garden / High St which the Council arranged to be installed on behalf of a resident request, which was permitted by Wiltshire Council. There is scope for an additional bench to be relocated there.
6. Additionally, and aside to this request the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee has asked if a bench can be provided by the Council at Stonebridge Meadow (amenity area).

WC and Proprietor responsibility

7. Other than the Town Councils open spaces any installing of a bench on a Highway would need the permission of Wiltshire Council, and the work would need to be carried out by a 'street works' qualified contractor; and this maybe dictated by Wiltshire Council's Highways.

Financial Implications

8. It is unlikely Wiltshire Council would fund any new benches and the cost of the benches and the installation works would fall to the Town Council.

The Committee are asked to consider this request and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

ITEM 8 Lions Club

To consider the request by the Lions Club to use Priory Gardens for fundraising activity.

1. The Lions Club to set up out a refreshment stall at a popular venue in the Priory Gardens as a fundraising initiative. This could be a one-off event or several over the summer months.
2. Previously one of their biggest fundraisers was organising the West Woods bluebells days, where people could drive through the woods and also buy refreshments from them in the car park. They are unable to do that this year and so are looking at an alternative venue.

The Committee are asked to consider this request and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly. The Committee are asked to note that this would be without charge and would need to be subject to the required site and activity specific risk assessment and insurances associated with selling food and using a Council site (to be managed by the Town Clerk).

ITEM 9 Priory Gardens

To consider the management of Priory Gardens.

Anti-social behaviour

1. There has been some incidents of anti – social behaviour reported to the Police in Priory Gardens. Also there has been some damage to some of the plants caused by people playing football. What the Police have indicated is if the gates were locked they could intervene more easily if they received reports from the public.
2. However, it is not clear to what extent this is an issue (frequency, times, people involved etc) . A site meeting between the Town Clerk and Police is planned for 19th April and a verbal update on the Police's perspective should be available at the time of the Committee meeting.
3. The gates are currently not locked as it is recognised this can be problematic to enforce if members of the public refuse to leave at the time of 'closing'. Also, the fencing can be climbed over which undermines the integrity of the boundary and presents in itself another risk factor.

Need

4. It is apparent there is on occasions a clash of needs between different parts of the community over how they use the venue or want to use the venue. There are also differing views about the site and its primary function, and some debate around how the integrity of the space can be upheld. The Gardens are used by all groups of the community at varying times; young people, adults and elderly people, and families with young children. The use of the gardens also impact on neighbouring residents. So, it is clear it is a valued space that meets the needs of all parts of the community. However, it is clear that these needs on occasions clash and give rise to a degree of conflict.

It should be noted the Council has a duty to promote Community safety and prevent Crime and Disorderⁱⁱ

Equality

5. The Council has a duty to consider and ensure all parts of the community have access to its open spaces, and is duty bound to not discriminate to any individual or group in this respect. This should also be at the forefront in its considerations.ⁱⁱⁱ

Engagement

6. This has been a longstanding matter which would benefit from resolution. An engagement approach that takes a lateral approach to the situation, and which accounts for and includes all aspects and needs may be a productive way to consider this matter to ensure a sustainable solution that ensures the integrity of the space for all sectors of the community. This approach should contribute to, and support any practical implementations required of the Council in managing the Gardens.

Recommendation

7. Therefore, the Committee may want to consider a **working party** to look at how the Priory Gardens sits within its estate, coupled with a supporting vision that sits alongside other sites, and a partnership strategy that supports this view; which may include, (but not definitively), working with partners such as the;
 - Police
 - Schools

- Establishing a Local Youth Network (which would also support and re-enforce other matters of interest to the Council)
- Local residents and young people
- Consultation with Ground staff

The Committee are asked to consider the recommendation and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

Item 10 Skatepark

To note an update report from the Assistant Town Clerk on the installation of lighting.

1. Since the last update to council, confirmation has been received from Wiltshire Council that the revised application is considered Permitted Development under the provisions of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. Therefore, planning permission is not required for us to proceed with the installation of the much lower 4m columns and associated LED lighting at the skatepark.
2. Consent has also been given by Wiltshire Council, as owners of the MC&YC, for an additional power supply from the building to feed the lights. Further to a site visit with the chosen lighting contractor, it was suggested that a small bund is created in one location identified, to raise the level of the bank, prior to the installation of one column, and this work will be carried out in house, by our grounds team. An official order has been placed with the contractors, and whilst a definitive start date has not yet been received, they are aiming to be on site, after the half term at the end of May/start of June.

Item 11 Marlborough in Bloom Update

To note the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk

1. The Assistant Town Clerk and Cllr Hillier recently attended a meeting, organised by the last remaining member of the Marlborough In Bloom Committee. This meeting was arranged in an attempt to recruit new members and re-form a committee of volunteers to steer this year's entry into South West in Bloom. Unfortunately, attendance was really low, with only two members of the public attending.
2. Subsequent to this meeting an email was received confirming the dissolution of the MIB Committee due to lack of interest and a formally constituted committee. A meeting of the Town Council's MIB working party was called at which it was agreed that there is still a willingness to enter into the 2021 South West in Bloom competition, with or without a MIB committee. Work is now underway to formulate a plan for this year's entry.
3. It is understood that judging will take place in July, however an exact date has yet to be confirmed. A further update will follow when more details are known.

Item 12 College Fields / Barton Park

To review and consider the proposal submitted by Mr J Rogers regarding proposals for the management and maintenance of College Fields / Barton Park site

Summary

1. A proposal has been received from Mr J Rogers on behalf of a group of residents regarding the management of the College Fields / Barton Park green space. Below is Mr Rogers proposal, followed by an account of the history and status of the site provided by Cllr Cairns.
2. Having consulted with the Grounds Manager on the practical and governance arrangements outlined in the proposal, the long-term consideration would be to sustain the maintenance of this site should the third-party involvement prove unsustainable.
3. Should it transpire that the responsibility falls to the Council in the absence of Wiltshire Council, further due consideration of the staffing capacity of the ground team would need to be considered (i.e. additional expenditure for additional staffing may be needed).

The Committee are asked to consider the proposal with a view to refer onto Full Council, with recommendations for final consideration and adoption (or otherwise as considered).

**College Fields/Barton Park green space
Proposal for 2021 (and up to 2023) – “something for everyone”, and more for wildlife**

Introduction

The L-shaped green space on College Fields/Barton Park to the north of Sorley Close, Sassoon Walk, Faulkner Close and Edwards Meadow (hereafter referred to as CFBP) has been identified in the Marlborough ANP as a Local Green Space – i.e., a local amenity of importance to the residents and to the town. It is the only large open space between the town centre and Manton which is open to all for general recreation. It is also integral to the Green Infrastructure, as an important element of a wildlife corridor running round the north-west of the town.

The CFBP space is highly valued by the many people who use it – often daily – and it has been the subject of major efforts by the Town Council to cement its status (e.g., as a Village Green) or transfer the asset to Marlborough Town Council.

Following discussions between the Wiltshire Council Streetscene management, Town Councillor Peter Cairns, local residents (including John and Sandra Rogers) and others with expertise in biodiversity and plants, we would like to bring some proposals about how the space is maintained/managed for the short-medium term (up to 3 years) and will shortly consult the residents of College Fields and Barton Park regarding their views on the proposals.

Proposal 1. Create a wildflower meadow on the south-facing slope

The broad strip running north-south from College Fields/Morris Road up to the north border with the farmland beyond is ideal for creating a wildflower meadow. The soil is poor, there are already some orchids, cowslips and clover in the grass, and the slope makes it less attractive for ball sports than the east-west strip above the cul-de-sacs. This area also incorporates the community orchard trees.

Creating a wildflower meadow involves changing the cutting regime (from 8 x a year to 2 x a year) with different equipment and takes about three years to become established. The whole space (about 1/3rd of the entire space) would of course be open to all, all year. The bank on the north side of the road (by the bus stop) would also be managed with a wildflower cut.

In addition, the maintenance team would cut (8x a year) three mown paths: near the west, north and east borders of the wildflower area, plus border strips by the garden fences to the west and east.

Wiltshire Council have advised us that this area is large enough to justify bringing their equipment, and they support this to increase biodiversity.

Proposal 2. Maintain all the east-west strip for play

The east-west strip running from the west end of the raised bank all the way to the shelter belt by Edwards Meadow (i.e., about 2/3rd of the total space) is relatively level and would be cut 8x a year as at present. This would preserve a great play, picnic, and dog-walking space and all the access from the cul-de-sacs.

The mown paths through the wildflower meadow would connect to this green space (and be maintained as part of the same cut). The top of the raised bank would also be mown 8 x a year.

Proposal 3. Strengthen the wildlife corridor along the north boundary with the farmland

The hedging to the north of CFBP space, the side of the raised bank along the northern edge of the east-west strip would be managed for wildlife, to strengthen the wildlife corridor running to the north west of the town. This would of course also be reinforced by having a wildflower meadow as proposed (Proposal 1).

Note: that there is a shelter belt by Edwards Meadow.

Note: that the ownership of the hedge on the farmland boundary needs to be confirmed. At present, Wiltshire Council do not regard it as theirs (email from Marty Cox).

4. Supplementary proposals

4.1 Increased tree-planting

There is scope, with appropriate permissions, to plant more trees: in the community orchard (permissions in place), on the raised bank, and in the northern boundary hedge. These would provide focal points, shade, and increase food for birds and insects.

4.2 Benches/seating

This space is blessed with wonderful views but nowhere to sit. This makes it less inviting for those who are frail or have hampered mobility, or who wish to sit while their children are playing. Benches can provide social focal points and will be

5. About the place

5.1 A name for the space

Everyone we have spoken to has advised us or suggested that this space needs a name. We propose to invite people to make suggestions or express preferences for possible names when we consult College Fields and Barton Park residents about the proposals outlined above.

5.2 Community interest group

A local community interest group could provide a focal/coordinating point for work on and changes to CFBP space. We propose to invite people to express an interest in being part of a local group for the space when we consult College Fields and Barton Park residents about the proposals outlined above.

5.3 Garden Permit arrangements

Wiltshire Council have advised us that if Marlborough TC and Wiltshire Council establish the relevant agreement, MTC can then award Garden Licences to local groups (e.g., a resident's group, or Transition Marlborough) to maintain aspects of the green space. These permits last for three years and can be renewed if all parties agree to do so. In essence, it makes the Town Council the "Head Gardener" on Wiltshire Council land and they in turn delegate responsibilities to interested parties.

One advantage of doing this is that the licence can operate in parallel with any negotiations between MTC and WC over asset transfer: it transfers agreed maintenance responsibilities while leaving the ownership unchanged.

5.4 Wiltshire Council maintenance contract

The current contract between Wiltshire Council and iVerde runs to autumn 2022. This restricts the options for 2021 and 2022 but the Wiltshire Council are open to a wider range of options that could be contained in their new maintenance contract.

The following is a summary of its history & status:

- 1) An application was made in 2017 for this POS to be registered under the Commons Registration Act as a Village Green. This was supported by a petition in 2017 from the local community.
- 2) The Village Green application had two objectors: Wiltshire Council & Marlborough College. Wiltshire Council own the land & Marlborough College own the land adjacent to north of it.
- 3) A public inquiry was held between the 9th & the 11th of January 2018, at which the Village Green application was rejected. This was despite numerous submissions from members of the public in support. However, the land was legally designated as Public Open Space by the government inspector & accepted by Wiltshire Council.
- 4) Following legal recognition of the status of this POS & following a Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan (MANP) Public Consultation exercise this POS was included in MANP as part of the Policy MARL 14 (Local Green Spaces). This was in order to give this POS the legal protection that such spaces enjoy & to honour the results of the MANP Public Consultation. The evidence from this Public Consultation indicated its loss would have a detrimental effect on the local community that use it as a recreational "lung", there being no available equivalent to the west of Marlborough.
- 5) On the 9th of September 2019, a motion was supported by MTC requesting that this POS be transferred to MTC as part of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme.

- 6) A petition was raised in October 2019 for this POS to be passed across to Marlborough Town Council as part of the Community Asset Transfer programme. At the same time, a number of people in the surrounding community announced that they were willing to fund both benches & bins for this area, independent of MTC or WC.
- 7) This petition was presented MTC & MAB in November 2019. Both bodies fully endorsed & supported the sentiment expressed by the community through this petition.
- 8) Following local endorsement Wiltshire Council was presented with this petition in November 2019. Following this WC's Democratic Services Department ruled that the petition had crossed the threshold of support for it to be debated in cabinet.
- 9) Independently a group of residents (chaired by John Rogers) discussed maintenance & management of this POS with WC's landscaping department which has resulted in the proposals outlined in John Roger's various emails. This engagement with WC's landscaping department is seen by the community as a natural precursor to management of the land being passed across to MTC in due course.

(Cllr Cairns)

ITEM 13 Improving Bio- Diversity on the Common

Summary

1. A representative of Transition Marlborough (TM) has approached the Council to ask if a wildlife meadow can be created on the Common where the 'diamond plantation' is located.
2. If implemented this would mean our grounds team would cease from mowing the area and TM would arrange what mowing would be necessary to fit with developing a meadow.
3. Initial conversations with the Council's Grounds Manager has indicated that this request does not present any significant implications for the Council, other than to ensure clarity in respect of each parties' responsibilities. Also, to ensure appropriate accountability and communication to ensure the good upkeep of the land in question, as required.
4. If agreed by the Council a partnership agreement would be required to allow Transition Marlborough to manage the area, and to ensure the matter raised in point 3 is accounted for.

The Committee are asked to consider this request and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

ITEM 14 Cemeteries

To note any Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial issued

To note any memorials and inscriptions approved

ITEM 15 Allotment Association

To note the minutes of the Allotment Association AGM

Marlborough Allotment Association AGM

Committee members -roles are shared.
The association does not hold a bank account.
St John's - Jo Payne
Stonebridge - Ian Ryman
Elcot Lane - Judy Pitts, Wendy Jackson, David Levett, Bronwen Brown

Dear Member,

2020/2021 update

The past year has been extraordinary in so many ways. As the Coronavirus spread rapidly westwards in Spring of last year we were cautioned to stay at home with exception made for taking exercise. What a blessing our allotments were over that time. The sun shone and our plots responded to the extra work we were able to put in.

The Marlborough Allotment Association Committee met whenever possible last summer outside at the newly established Community Garden on the St John's allotment site. More recently meetings have taken place on zoom. The minutes of all meetings are available on the Marlborough Town Council website. An AGM was held in July, canvassing members for ideas and opinion via email. Response was muted but all 3 sites were running well and in the absence of any other contenders the committee was re-elected. This committee has sat pretty much in its present form since 2018. We are always keen for members to join our meetings, when gathering in numbers is allowed and some of us would readily step back if others were willing to become involved in a more official capacity. Come to a couple of meetings.....see if it's something you'd like to do.....no obligation.

Again, this year we will be holding an AGM on Zoom, scheduled for 19th April. If there are any topics you would like to have covered, please do forward them by replying to this email.

Dates for the diary
AGM 19/4/21
Team tidy days 9/5/21 and 10/10/21

Site reports

Elcot Lane

2020 was a productive year at the site.

In general plots were well worked and handovers were timely.

Marlborough Town Council (MTC) were able to fulfil their commitment to mowing the access strip and maintaining the fence line.

Double taps were fitted to both water sources courtesy of members

A seed and plant swap on a minor scale had mixed results but would be worth developing further. The bench and notice board provided a natural focus for this.

There were reports of petty thieving of produce at harvesting time and the MTC agreed to provide combination padlocks for all gates. This has been delayed conforming with protocols surrounding Covid 19 but is up for review this year. Members were canvassed at the time via email for their thoughts on locking gates, but opinion was divided.

2021 has started well and over the next few months.....

Continuation of site and plot monitoring.

Review security re padlocks on gates

Establish drainage around water taps.....project for team tidy day??
Develop the idea of a seed and plant swap
Improve maintenance of fence line at Football Club end of site re rat deterrence
Support of The Bee Road project by optimising bee friendly planting.
Manure delivery from a local source has been trialled recently and if successful could be repeated.

St Johns

There is a mix of Town Council and privately owned allotments within St John's Close, which were all well-tended throughout 2020

- SJC welcomed 2 new tenants, and they had terrific crops growing in no time
- A VE Day party was enjoyed across the allotments, which gave plenty of scope for socially distanced socialising
- The Community Garden was tremendously popular for meetings, cups of tea and open-air visits
- The new dome over the seating area was decorated in theme with the seasons
- Fairy lights adorned the dome and the trees throughout the winter
- RHS cancelled Britain in Bloom, but the garden is entered as an It's Your Neighbourhood project for 2021 – hope judging will be in person in July
- In 2021, digging started early and a plot has changed hands already
- Unofficial plant and seed swapping are a regular feature of allotment life
- On April 1st there was a sighting of a wild boar 😊

Stonebridge

Hi all, well what a year! Stay at home, go out, back home, quite a merry go round, thank goodness for the allotment. I presume everyone else was grateful for theirs. We have had at Stonebridge a fairly even year plant wise, lots of colour and activity, not much drama. A few plots changed hands and there's been a flurry of a start to the new year.

The compost has again proved very popular..... now only a few crumbs left. Requests for more have been made but as yet will have to wait and see. Drainage has been maintained to the outfall and hedge line trees have reduced somewhat. We look forward to a new season and welcome new and established holders, more plots, possibly a new gate etc on the horizon, watch this space!

Regards Ian No 3

Ps. Any queries etc as ever, please do get in touch via email, message, note on the door.

And finally with best wishes from the committee for a fulfilling year on your plot.....some gardening thoughts

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.

Gardens are not made by singing "oh how beautiful" and sitting in the shade

A society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they know they will never sit.

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- i [\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do)
 - ii [Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37)
 - iii [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15)