

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 27 September 2022

Title: Clerks update

Purpose of Report

TO update members on matter already reported to council

Recommendation:

To note the report

Report:

Resilience Matters

1. As members are aware the draft Section 19 Report was sent out to both them and members of the community who had put their names forward for the resilience group. As a result of this comments have been fed back to the writers of the report.
2. Meetings are still taking place with various groups including the 3 monthly Flooding group which includes the Environment Agency, Somerset Rivers Authority, members of both District and County Council, Somerset Highways and others.
3. There have been several emails recently raising concerns over trees that are still in the Ile and also the Bund behind the Park Homes site. The clerk spoke with the agents for Dairy Gold last week and they are actively looking to engage contractors to remove the trees.
4. It is hoped to discuss in the next meeting on Tuesday 27 September the situation of the bund and to see if we can move this forward.
5. Earlier in the month a couple of residents the park homes site expressed concerns over the possibility of imminent flooding and enquired if there were any sand bags available. These were provided as the SRA has indicated that they will be replaced as part of any resilience grant funding that is applied for.
6. Members have been notified that a "Resilience Day" is to be held on the 13 October. This is being organised by the Somerset Prepared partnership which includes the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit,

Environment Agency, Avon and Somerset Police, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, Somerset Rivers Authority, Somerset Rotary, SWAST, Spark, Red Cross and Safe South West. It would be good if members were able to attend. It will be taking place at West Monkton Village Hall. Tickets can be booked through the link sent to members.

7. Details any pertinent history. This should be kept factual and accurate.
8. Each point should be in a separate numbered paragraph.

North Street Working Group

9. Cllr's Hurford-Jenner, Tinson and Paul met virtually with the town clerk to discuss the North Street Offices on the 8 September.
10. It was agreed that it is unlikely that there is time to acquire the Building and get funding in place through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2022 it may be possible to put something in place for the year 2023-2024.
11. As part of the acquisition it was felt that valuations should be obtained for North Street. At the same time as making enquiries about North Street the deputy clerk also sought out a valuation for the insurance purposes for Cemetery lodge.
12. At the time of writing the report a valuation has not been obtained for North Street as alternative quotes for carrying out the valuation are being sought due to it being a Commercial property. This designation means that valuers charge.
13. However valuations have been obtained for Cemetery lodge and these are:
 - Freehold £200,000 - £225,000 primarily because of no parking and very limited outside space including the flower bed area on the cemetery side.
 - Leasehold £175,000 - £195,000 if there was a 125-year lease.
14. It was also agreed that officers should attempt to set up a meeting with SSDC and the Premises Group to establish the conditions for the sale of the North Street premises.

Wessex Water

15. No confirmation has yet been received regarding the chosen site for the Overflow Tank. Chasing emails have been sent and the response was that they are looking at the options still.

Neighbourhood plan

16. Information has been shared with the members that the Regulation 16 Consultation documents along with SSDC's response has been uploaded to SSDC's website. These responses have been sent through to the inspector and the Neighbourhood Plan group met during week-ending 23 September 2022 to discuss SSDC's comments on the plan.
17. It will now be up to the inspector as to whether they wish further information from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group or if they wish to take it to a referendum.

Welcome Back Funding

18. The original Welcome Back Funding that was applied for has now been fully allocated and spent. This totalled approximately £12,000 (before VAT) of additional equipment for the community.
19. As members are aware from the last Resources meeting an additional £9,000 was also offered to the council and this has now also been approved by SSDC to be spent on benches, bins and educational equipment for the community.

Access to Ile Court

20. The access route allowing residents from Ile Court to go through the Old Magistrate Courts gates to East Street has been opened up. A small number of residents are using this currently and have expressed their gratitude to the council for allowing this.

**Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
September 2022**