

Committee: Full Council

Date: 25 April 2023

Title: Clerk's update

Purpose of Report: To receive an update on matters already reported to council

Recommendation:

Members to note the report

Report:

Coronation

1. Members will be aware that Cllr Hamilton and officers have been working hard to ensure that the council has been able to source and provide items ahead of the Coronation of HRH King Charles III on the 6 May 2023. We have ordered Coronation gifts, purchased from the Coronation budget, for the children of Herne View school. The gifts are a bag, a mug, a hand waving flag and a packet of wild flower seeds.
2. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be visiting the school on the Thursday or Friday before the event to hand out the gifts.
3. Volunteers to help put the gift packs together would be greatly appreciated and if you could contact the office or Cllr Hamilton dates and time will then be able to be confirmed.
4. As I am sure you will have seen the flags ordered for the Coronation have now been put up thanks to the Christmas Lights team. There was an initial issue with the way in which the eyelets had been put on the flags but this has been addressed and four flags sent to replace those with the eyelets in the wrong.

S106 Funding

5. We have been notified by the Locality Officer for Ilminster that *"With Unitary happening the S106 officer has been pulled to another job, all S106 Downloads and requests have virtual come to a standstill."*

6. As a consequence of this the three applications for S106 funding would appear to have come to a halt. This matter has been raised with the LGR team and they are looking into it with the Planning Department as they were unsure why this would be the case.

New maintenance equipment.

7. The grounds team have been grateful to receive the Stiga replacement and this is proving a very capable piece of equipment. The cemetery grass cutting is taking half the time with a better cut.
8. Unfortunately there has been a small issue with getting the tractor replacement registered for road use. The issue has arisen due to the DVLA sending back the initial registration documents erroneously claiming that information had not been included on the form.
9. When they were contacted, they told us to send the forms back but there would be no way that they could find the application when it came in to prioritise the application.
10. In the meantime the equipment can still be used on the Recreation Ground and Britten's fields. It is hoped that it will be road registered during May.

Roots and Shoots

11. We have been contacted by the team that ran the trial "Roots and Shoots" event for young people in March to request that they be allowed to carry on running similar events over the next few months. Under the delegated powers, the clerk has agreed for this to continue. This will be on Friday afternoon and evenings and it is hoped that it will lead to a regular provision. They have provided an update for what took place in March.

We used the opportunity to talk to parents about our intentions to run regular structured activity sessions on the Recreation Ground, gauging how comfortable they would feel about a church-led session occupying this public space. It was a fairly damp and chilly day, so the park was not as busy as it can be on a Friday afternoon. However, we spoke with around eight separate individuals and their children and were really heartened by the responses, which were entirely positive.

Our plan at present is to repeat this exercise on a warmer day during April. In addition to providing some light refreshments, we will lead a few games, from team sports, to giant bubbles and parachute games, as well as a closing story or 'weekend takeaway'/thought for the weekend, for families to ponder together. We would like to discuss with families what they would most welcome and try to accommodate that over the coming

months. Initially we would look to gather monthly, with the potential to increase the regularity, if successful. The structure of previous Roots and Shoots sessions, which we would intend to introduce at the Rec, has provided an opportunity to engage with three 'stations', encouraging participants to Get Active (usually running around, scavenger hunts, hide and seek, etc), Let's Create (crafts, clay and colouring, often using natural resources) and Be Still (a quieter zone for reflection). Each session concludes with drinks and snacks.

We did not stay on into the evening on Friday 10th March, but hope to work with other members of the team and wider community, where possible, to meet young people where they are in this space.

Unity Trust account

- 12.** We are now able to confirm that the new Unity Bank Account has been opened although funds are yet to be transferred to it. The other bank account with Cambridge and County Bank is in the process of being opened and as soon as this has taken place, we will notify members.

Benches

- 13.** Members will, we hope, have seen that the work on refurbishing the benches around Ilminster is carrying on and that the latest benches to receive the expert care of the grounds team, are at the top of North Street and at Frog Lane. They are in the process of finishing the bench from outside the Arts centre and once this has been done all of the benches in the town centre will have been refurbished.
- 14.** With the better weather hopefully coming, attention will now shift to other tasks with more benches being looked at next winter.

Tennis Courts

- 15.** The refurbishment of the Tennis Courts will take place week commencing the 8 May 2023 and will last for approximately 6 weeks when the courts will be out of action. There will be a works compound placed alongside the courts which will be accessed by the contractors and all the appropriate Health and Safety requirements put in place.
- 16.** The town clerk has applied for his enhanced DBS check and has been registered as the Safeguarding officer for the courts as per the requirement for safeguarding contained in the agreement. Training for this will be arranged in the near future.

