

Committee: Full Council

Date: 20 June 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:

S106 Funding

1. At the last Full Council meeting and at the recent Open Spaces Committee meeting concerns were raised over the reporting of S106 Funds.
2. An example of the lack of clarity that has been experienced can be viewed in the funds that have been allocated to the Winterhay Playpark.
3. You will see from an item later in this money that one of the three bids for funding has been successful. This is in fact the £61,936 that had been allocated for capital equipment specifically for Winterhay.
4. It was confirmed by the localities officer at the Open Spaces meeting that £35,775 had been allocated to "Commuted Sum" from the Powermatic Site for the maintenance of the play equipment at Winterhay.
5. This funding had been clearly identified by the Localities Officer back in early 2022 and in subsequent emails it was confirmed that it was available. This was confirmed in further emails throughout 2022 and 2023
6. 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."*
7. 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.

8. At a meeting on the 15 June with John Hammond and Tim Cook the issues around the information provided with regards to the S106 funding was raised. Tim apologised for the inaccurate information that had been provided to both officers and members of Ilminster Town Council. He accepted that they had dropped the ball and that efforts were being made to correct this
9. As a result of this, three outcomes were agreed.
 - a. All the documents relating to S106 would be provided to the clerk along with as much information as was available regarding the allocation and spending of S106 funds in Ilminster
 - b. That as the S106 agreement for the proposed Persimmon Development was concerned would be re-examined and that any allocations would require evidence to be produced that showed that they were still considered a priority both with the Town Council and with the community of Ilminster. They were supportive of the idea that the funds should be distributed on a wider basis to organisations in Ilminster not just those who knew who the system worked.
 - c. In principle they supported the idea that the field I1 as identified at previous meetings and where Persimmon has identified the Football pitch and Ecology Zone should go will transferred to Ilminster to oversee and manage what happens there.
10. I have now received a number of documents that I am in the process of looking at to see just what has been received, by whom and what might be left available.

Local Community Network

11. Members were sent a number of emails relating to the inaugural meeting of the Ilminster and Crewkerne Local Community Network that took place on the 15 June 2023.
12. Ilminster's Mayor Cllr Leanne Taylor went to the meeting as the Town Council's representative. The first two items of business were to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the next 10 months. Cllr Mike Best was elected chair and Cllr Taylor the vice-chair. It should be noted that also in attendance was the town clerk along with Cllr's McKillop, Sellers, James, Osborne and Keitch.

- 13.** A report from Cllr Taylor has been included as **Appendix 17A**.

Tennis Courts

- 14.** The tennis court refurbishment is due to commence this week and the initial works will last a week, with the balance of works taking approximately 6 weeks. We will send out update reports as and when we are provided with additional information.
- 15.** The office staff have now all been given the first stage of the booking software training and have been assured that additional training will be provided in coming weeks.
- 16.** Members to note this written report and any further verbal updates provided by the Town Clerk at the meeting.

Mark Tredwin

Town Clerk

June 2023