

**TO NOTE THE PREFERRED STYLE OF VAN FOR THE LENGTHSMEN IN LINE WITH ITEM 163/21 AND DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK TO PURCHASE THE SAME UP TO A VALUE OF £20,000.**

**Issue/background.**

The Council's Lengthsmen have been using a van bought in May 2017 at a cost of £350.

Having been used daily by the Lengthsmen to help them carry out their duties, this van is coming to the end of its useful working life and is now ready to be retired.

The problems with the van are as follows:

- There is no working heater and the fan does not work, which means that (a) the windscreen cannot be cleared when it mists up (possible danger here) and (b) the Lengthsmen are unable to keep warm and dry out when they are working in cold and wet conditions.
- At the last MOT, the van initially failed to pass as the rear side suspension mounting was broken
- It was subsequently passed with the following advisories:
  - Offside rear suspension spring corroded
  - Oil leak, not considered excessive at the time
  - Near side rear brake corroded
  - Near side front tyre worn
  - Offside front tyre worn
- The van has now done 240,000 + miles and quite clearly its best days are behind it.

Given the above it is clear that the council has had its money's worth from the van and the options open to the Council are as follows:

- Do nothing and when the van finally becomes unusable the Lengthsmen will not be able to carry out their duties, or,
- Agree the purchase of a new van now to replace the existing van. This will cut down on maintenance in the future, will be under guarantee for some time, and will be expected to serve the council for at least up to 2029/2030 and possibly beyond. The timing of the purchase is urgent as the van is coming up for its annual MOT in May 2022 and we do not know what problems will emerge at the that time.

**Recommendations.**

**The council has already agreed in principle to the purchase of a new van under previous agenda item 163/21.**

Please note that as well as the old van nearing the end of its working life, the requirements of the Lengthsmen have changed and evolved since the existing van was purchased. The Lengthsmen now require a van with the following:

- A twin cab van, but with the rear cab replaced by a locked storage for their tools

- A caged tipper van, to allow them to transport debris etc. As the rear of the van tips up this would allow them to transport large amounts and unload them in a more efficient way.
- An example of the type of van required is shown on the accompanying picture/link.

**To complete the purchase, the recommended course of action is that the Clerk be delegated authority to purchase a new van in line with the requirements of the Lengthsmen up to an amount of £20,000**

**(Please note:** It is understood that the price of a van can range anywhere from £13,000 upwards, and it is not the intention to spend £20,000 dead. This is a maximum limit requested to allow the clerk to have room to manoeuvre when trying to purchase a van with the necessary requirements that have already been identified. If the limit set is too low, then we either purchase a van that does not properly meet those requirements, or the clerk will have to return to Council once again, which will introduce further delay.)



To: Clerk, Colwich Parish Council

From: Cllr A M Dunn

Cttee: **Full Council**

Date: **7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

## **Agenda Item 56/22: To Note the Update on the Great Haywood Memorial Hall Car Park Drainage**

### **GHMH Drainage Update.**

Cllr Dunn met with Alan Doehern and Liz Harris on Thursday 24 Feb 22 to discuss the possible provision of drainage facilities on the GHMH car park to minimise the possibility of water run-off from the car park entering adjacent properties. The following points were discussed:

1. The GHMH Ex. Committee have approached the Clerk for a copy of the GHMH Deeds; the Clerk has agreed to provide a copy, which is awaited.
2. The GHMH Ex. Committee have approached a solicitor to better understand their responsibilities wrt the flooding of adjacent properties from the car park 'run-off' water during heavy and/or prolonged rainfall. It is believed the Committee would not be liable for any damaged caused by the 'runoff' water, however a moral obligation remains.
3. The rough order of cost (ROC) for the provision of drainage facilities to the car park is thought to be in the region of £30-40K. The ROC could be further refined with the production of a design and tender estimate.
4. Any future drainage works to the GHMH car park would need to be considered in conjunction with the provision of the proposed Surgery Path to ensure there are no subsequent detrimental effects to the adjacent Hazeldene Surgery.
5. Cllr Dunn was asked to liaise with Mr Young of Drainage and Construction Ltd to determine the costs associated with the development of a tender package, incl. estimated cost, for the provision of the car park drainage system (connected to STW's sewer) to enable an informed decision to be made by the GHMH Ex. Committee to proceed with the car park drainage or not.

**Recommendations.** None

**Way Forward.** To note the update

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**Agenda Item 55/22: To Note the Update from the JPF Working Panel, consider the Recommendations and agree the Way Forward**

**JPF WP Update.**

An update was provided at the previous Full Council Meeting on the 3 Mar 22 and several Resolutions were agreed. This update provides further information on points raised during the Full Council meeting and subsequent to it.

The next JPF WP meeting is to be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**Asset 1. Car Park and Buildings.** Previously reported that the third porosity test has been completed by Drainage and Construction Services (DSC) Ltd and the Report has been uploaded onto SharePoint, the requested topography survey remains outstanding. Mr Young from DSC Ltd has been contacted and has advised that the topography survey will be completed week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. When complete the information made available a further update will be provided.

To Note: Topography to be completed week beginning 14 March 22.

**Asset 2. Playground.** No further update.

**Asset 3. Grass Area to left of Playground.** No Further update.

**Asset 4. MUGA/BMX/Skate.** Previously, Full Council Meeting on the 11 Feb 22 considered maintenance work to the BMX and Skate areas under Agenda Item 25/22. The Full Council resolved to undertake the repair work to the Skateboard area, and to obtain further quotes for the remediation of the BMX track. The JPF WP is considering other options for the BMX track including its replacement with a Green Gym facility, which was one of the most requested new facilities in the JPF Questionnaire.

During the Full Council Meeting (3rd Mar 22) information was sought on the content of the Questionnaire with respect to the BMX track.

The responses to Q3 '*Which play spaces do you use and how often?*') indicated the usage of the BMX track to be similar to that of the Skatepark i.e. Never 37.5%, Rarely 11.54%, Sometimes 19.23%, often 21.15%, & All the time 10.58%. From a total of 113 returns, there was only one specific reference to the BMX track not being required, four responses identifying the need to remediate the surface, and a single response suggesting it should be extended.

To Note: The summary of the Questionnaire results regarding the BMX track.

**Asset 5. Field.** Since the JPF Update at the last Full Council meeting Cllrs Dunn, Walters, & Rattray have visited the JPF to measure the field to determine the maximum size of football pitch that may be provided. The width of the field from MUGA fence to hedge (northside) was 70m, whilst the distance from the northeast corner perpendicular to the hedge (northside) towards the BMX track was 60m; the length from west to east (top to bottom) exceeds 90m. (The measurements are shown on the JPF-Suggested Areas of Work v1.2 on SharePoint.)

The FA recommend a pitch size of 100m x 64m for over18s and Adults, details of FA pitch sizes is included in SharePoint; the football pitch at Shugborough was 90m x 60m. The measurements and field topography suggests a pitch length of 90m is achievable but the width may need to be reduced to 55m. (A pitch of 90m (max.) by 45m (min.) is acceptable. (tbc.) Contact is being made with Staffordshire FA to better understand the local needs for football pitches and specific requirements.

To Note: Anticipated football max. pitch size is 90m by 55m.

**Asset 6. Tracks.** No further update.

**Asset 7. Hedgerows and Trees.** An update was provided at the previous Full Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 22, Recommendations made, and Resolution agreed. Unfortunately, one item was missed-off this previous report and is included below.

Between the hedges at 7A and 7B the existing fence is damaged and provides a short opening that provides access from the Green Lane (Public Right of Way) to the JPF; this is not a formal access point. It is recommended that the Full council considers, in conjunction with the works agreed to the southern hedge (7A and 7B) at the previous Full Council meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March 22), the fence line is repaired to close off the access point and native species hedge, similar to that for hedge areas 7A and 7B, is provided.

**Asset 8. Pathways, bins, CCTV, benches, tables, etc.** The JPF signage, see photograph at end of this Agenda item, at the entrance to the car park is in a poor condition and in need of remediation. It is recommended the Full Council considers cleaning the existing sign and repainting, in part (signage frame and supporting posts), prior to the Platinum Fete.

## **Recommendations.**

The JPF WP make the following Recommendations:

1. **Asset 1.** No Recommendation.
2. **Asset 2.** No Recommendation.
3. **Asset 3.** No Recommendation
4. **Asset 4.** No Recommendation.
5. **Asset 5.** No Recommendation.

6. **Asset 6.** No Recommendation
7. **Asset 7.** Repair damaged fence at junction of hedges 7A and 7B to close access to JPF, and plant native species hedge to match that agreed for adjacent hedges.
8. **Asset 8.** Remediate the existing JPF signage at the entrance to the car park prior to the Platinum Fete.

### Way Forward.

To consider the Recommendations above and agree a way forward.

### Photograph – Asset 8. JPF Signage

