

HALLS CEMETERIES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 23rd May 2022

Title: **Open Spaces Strategy, Committee Objectives and Work Programme for the Municipal Year**

Contact Officer: Town Clerk/RFO – Sharon Groth

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to

- a. review the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for areas under the responsibility of this Committee and where necessary review the timescale if commencement of completion dates has slipped; and
- b. give consideration to this Committees objectives/priorities in order for the Town Clerk to come up with a manageable programme of works, so that she can deploy the necessary resources appropriately.

Agenda item 18 – Major Projects –in confidential session may also have a bearing on the Committees objectives and priorities so Members may wish to defer or add to this item after considering this later agenda item.

CURRENT SITUATION

The attached appendix (A) details the projects funded (or not) during the budget setting cycle – and members are asked to prioritise these.

In addition, there are several larger projects where funding has been accumulated over numerous years with funding set aside within the Council’s Earmarked Reserves. In particular:

Memorial maintenance The council has an obligation to carry out inspections in the cemeteries and closed churchyard and sets aside funds each year in an EMR 318. With the current balance at £34,301 it was agreed during the budget setting cycle to use £10,000 towards the repairs needed at St Mary’s Church on the boundary wall.

Cemetery Access Rd This relates to Windrush Cemetery and setting aside funds to be able to provide for an internal road when/if the entrance off Cogges Estate is agreed. EMR A/c 327 currently stands at £93,853.

Public Halls	EMR 328 £57,458 for Public Halls and being used towards the phase 2 project of sound, lighting and seating. During the budget setting cycle it was also agreed that £10,000 could be used to part fund Cinema/projector equipment; and EMR 363 £50,000 is for replacement Lift in the Corn Exchange and Damp Works. Damp works have just been completed May 2022, although there will be some decoration works required once the wall has dried out
Madley Park	Contingency for repairs under the Landlords obligation and a small grant remains from the setting up of the Trust to run it. EMR 329 amounts to £20,980.
Towerhill Cemetery	EMR 362 £21,500 set aside to keep these historic buildings in good order, stop them falling into disrepair. £5,000 of which was agreed to appoint professionals to come up with an options appraisal.
Burwell Hall	Committed funds towards the heating £30,000 and £3,000 for curtains under EMR 372
St Mary's Church Wall	As mentioned above £10,000 is being diverted from EMR a/c 318 (Memorial maintenance) towards this projected – therefore the funds currently stand at £35,000. A report is up for consideration at a later agenda item of this meeting.

OPEN SPACES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Appendix B provides an extract from the adopted OSS relating to this Committees responsibilities. The Town Clerk doesn't suggest that any of these actions need refining at this stage.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

RISK

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

When considering its priorities the committee should be mindful of all resources – financial as well as human resources – and the competing demands from other Committees. There

needs to be a clear programme of works to ensure that the council is realistic in what it can achieve in the next 12 months. Failure to have a plan could result in wasted resources and undeliverable projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are detailed above and also in the attached appendices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider the Committees objectives/priorities for the coming municipal year.