



Jubilee Gardens Discussions

Councillor Lyrick <scottlyrick@chelmondistonpc.info>

25 August 2023 at 00:28

To: Rosiekirkup <rosiekirkup@chelmondistonpc.info>, Clerk <clerk@chelmondistonpc.info>

Hi Rosie

I have spoken with Paul of PJB and have communicated with the Horticultural Society and summarise as follows.

Firstly I start with what the PC agreed previously.

-Members approved £450.00 per annum paid in arrears for maintenance of the gardens post the original gardener stepping down. This cost is the same which we have paid for sum years.

-Members approved for The Horticultural Society to liaise and advise PJB

-Members approved for The Horticultural Society to advise on the cost of plants and soil replacement etc

-Members approved for PJB to work on an hourly basis of £20 per hour to get the garden ready for the season

-Members have agreed costs of £575.00 to date as far as I can establish

To date PJB has kept the gardens tidy by removing, pruning and tidying the garden. At the time the PC was advised that the gardens contained sensitive plants relating to memorial plantings from residents so care had to be taken to not remove these. This limited a more comprehensive upgrade to the gardens.

Secondly I confirm that following communication with the Horticultural Society, who have worked with PJB that the Society's has collectively had a further review it is now felt best that a full upgrade is needed as a number of plants / trees are not sustainable for future planting and are beyond their life. Therefore the Society recommend

-Completely dig over the whole gardens leaving only shrubs which will themselves need a prune

-Save a good portion of bulbs (daffodil and tulips) which are to be given to a Horticultural Society member to re plant.

-Planting of a special commemorative Rose as a memory to a much loved Parishioner no longer with us. This will be donated by the Mothers Union.

-The Horticultural Society have interesting plans for re planting developments and soil fertiliser.

Thirdly the outcome of discussion with PJB

Paul Confirms that worst case it will take 4 days to cut, clear and tidy the gardens, dispose of waste and trim the Shrubs to have the gardens ready for the replanting upgrade. There are some deep rooted items to be disposed of and the Village Hall Brown bin would not be sufficient.

The disposal of the waste is a main cost

He would prefer to be paid on day rate but in essence if we charge per hour it will be the same costings. I have asked him to offer us an estimate to guide us.

I have agreed with the Horticultural Society that to save time and PJB cost of sifting the soil to save every bulb that removal of the majority of bulbs is fine and dispose the rest. PJB is happy to comply with this as he was concerned that being so detailed in splitting and sifting through the soil would add time of clearing and cost hence why he reverted back to us. This plan should assist in lowering time on site and limiting the worst case scenario.

PJB has confirmed that when the Horticultural Society is ready and have purchased the plants and soil he will help with the planting. This means that the Horticultural Society can place the potted plants in their proposed location and he will plant them.

PJB recommends a bark chipping top to help dampen the growth of weeds and for easy maintenance going forward. I have put this to the Horticultural Society for comment.

PJB confirms September - October would be a good time to clear the site.

Going forward to enable the PC to consider further

- I have asked PJB to estimate the cost of clearing worst case 3-4 days

- I have asked the Horticultural Society to offer us with a cost budget for New soil and Plants

- I have asked the Horticultural Society to offer us insight into their plans

- The Horticultural Society are going to visit a garden centre to review and price it up and revert to us

- The £450 annual maintenance paid in arrears budget after completion of the community project is sufficient and disposal of waste will be via the Village Hall brown bin which save us great cost

My view following the above.

The Parish Council deemed early this year that the gardens needed an upgrade due to lack of care and attention over the years leaving it overgrown and many plants beyond their years. The sensitivities at the time did limit us to having them developed pre season however this seems to have been resolved with any bulbs that relate to sensitivities will be re homed. The Horticultural Society is keen to be part of the community garden upgrade in the spirit of community togetherness which is the original intention of The PC asking for their involvement and bringing groups together. I think once completed we should advertise this and reopen the gardens as it where. The initial outlay will be at a cost but appears on the face of it economical should we employ a specific landscaping team to complete the task. This would need to have been completed at some point anyway. The outcome will offer a revised area that will complement the Village and visitors to the amenities (shop who will be opening a café soon and Take away) making for a more pleasant environment and honours the status of the Jubilee Garden. Could it be seen as part of a regeneration project following the coronation The PC could even plant a Rose or some other plant as a commemorative symbol?

I note that the neighbours who back onto the gardens have inserted a couple of scaffold poles to hold up their perimeter fence following the storms later part of last year. I think we need to contact them and ask for this to be addressed as the encroach on a path running behind one to the planting zones.

Hope this adds for a good update and propose this is an agenda item for September. I would like to have received the estimate costs from both PJB and the Horticultural Society failing which perhaps we could agree on a budget to set aside.

Best regards

Scott

Scott

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