

**Strategic Resources Committee**

**Wed 9th October 2024**

**MINUTES**

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| 1 | **Present:** Cllr Rob Herd (Chair), Cllr Amanda Miller, Cllr Krissie Myler, Cllr Sam Otter  **Apologies:** Cllr Peter Bulmer  **In attendance:** Cllr Keith Scargill and Kath Lloyd, Clerk |
| 2 | **Open Forum:** There were no members of the public present. |
| 3 | **Declarations of Interest:** There were no disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. |
| 4 | **Asset Report:** Councillors received an update on the following anticipated expenditure on council buildings, land or property –   1. Refurbishment and electrical issues at Vicars Cross Community Centre – Cllr Otter reported that it would cost approximately £1300 to finalise the electrical work at the community centre and fix the new security light. The work so far is estimated at around £8,528 from a budget of £12,000 and Cllr Otter is expecting an underspend of approximately £2,000. 2. Refurbishments at Caldy Valley Neighbourhood Centre – deferred to next meeting as no further details are yet available. 3. Gates at Queens Road Field update – Cllr Otter is still collecting quotes for an improved accessible entrance/exit onto Sutherland Way, there would be a lot of groundworks involved as the land is very uneven and has steep banks on each side. Early indications are suggesting that to flatten the area, install paving slabs and metal barriers would cost around £3,000. It maybe that external funding needs to be sought but Cllr Otter will report in more detail at a later meeting. 4. Scrutiny of Annual Playground Inspections – the four play areas are all inspected by an impartial, external RoSPA inspector (currently contracted to Winsford Town Council) on an annual basis in order to meet our insurance obligations. However, the contracted Maintenance Officer is trained to RoSPA Level II and carries out inspections every month and his latest reports were circulated. Councillors were asked to note that Vaughans Lane has some old equipment remaining which may need to be replaced over the next year. **RECOMMENDED:** that a budget allocation for Vaughan’s Lane play area is included in next year’s budget. |
| 5 | **Allotments:** The Clerk shared a paper copy of a recent email from the Environmental Protection Officer in CWaC which was discussed. (Appendix A). As a precautionary measure, all allotment holders have been informed of the asbestos and ten warning signs and stakes have been ordered which will be erected asap. After an in-depth debate, the following decisions were made:   1. The Clerk will take an Asbestos Management Plan and Policy to the Governance Committee on Tuesday 29th October and take legal advice from our insurance team. 2. Cllr Otter will continue to collect quotes for the removal of the asbestos identified. |
| 6 | **Finance:** Councillors noted the half yearly budget summary (below) and agreed that work should begin to build the budget for 2024 – 25. |
| 7 | **Grant Applications:** Councillors considered a Grant Application from the United Reform Church on Green Lane, including the additional information provided by the applicant giving the dates of the submission of the grant application. This application had been deferred to the Committee for consideration from the Council meeting on 16th September due to doubts about it meeting the criteria within the Council’s Grant Guidelines.  After a lengthy debate, the Committee agreed the following:   1. That the grant for £1,000 be approved as the Committee were satisfied that, with the additional information received, the application met the criteria for approval. Proposed by Cllr Herd, seconded by Cllr Miller, motion carried unanimously. 2. That the Grant Guidelines be reviewed and updated – Clerk to action. |
| 8 | **Information Exchange:**  None shared |
| 9 | **Delegated decisions to report to council:**  That the grant for £1,000 be approved as the Committee were satisfied that, with the additional information received, the application met the criteria for approval. Proposed by Cllr Herd, seconded by Cllr Miller, motion carried unanimously. |
| 10 | **Recommendations for council:**   1. That a budget allocation for Vaughan’s Lane play area is included in next year’s budget. 2. The Clerk will take an Asbestos Management Plan and Policy to the Governance Committee on Tuesday 29th October and take legal advice from our insurance team. 3. Cllr Otter will continue to collect quotes for the removal of the asbestos identified. 4. That the Grant Guidelines be reviewed and updated – Clerk to action. |
| 11 | **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd December at 6.30pm** |

Hi Kath

Sincere apologies, I have been inundated with other demands over the past month and have only just got back around to this.

I need to caveat any advice that I provide as strictly speaking asbestos does not sit within our area of expertise, it is a Health and Safety function primarily although we do deal with it as and when we assess site remediation reports.

What you appear to have is some bonded ACM contained within the corrugated cement panels and the bitumen coating to corrugated panels.  The asbestos type has been identified as Chrysotile.  Both the material and the asbestos type are fairly common and sadly can be found in numerous locations throughout the UK.  I would point you to the Control of Asbestos Regulations and in particular Section 4 and whilst these Regulations do not apply to your situation as far as I can ascertain, the process of forming an asbestos management plan may be useful if you choose not to dispose of it.

If you choose to dispose of the ACM then disposal must be through a specialised and licensed waste disposal company and can be quite expensive.  Whilst the Environmental Protection Team would like to see the removal of all asbestos, the reality is that the risk scenario for that identified at the allotment appears to be low and if left undisturbed will likely generate few fibres.  Broken fragments within the soil matrix represent an even lower risk bearing in mind the exposure scenario is outdoor air and not indoors.

Our best advice would be that if the decision after you assess the ACM is that it is not in such poor condition that removal via a specialised waste disposal company is necessary, you should form a management plan to ensure that its location is recorded, its condition is periodically checked, allotment holders should be notified of its presence and informed not to disturb or damage the panels, effectively minimising the release of fibres.  Typical fibre release from the ACM listed is likely to be very low in any event.

The company that undertook the sampling may be able to advise on risk from the ACM present taking account of the land use and the potential exposure scenarios.

We cannot advise you what your approach/response to the risk should be, that has to be your decision.

Kind regards

**Martin Doyle**  
*Lead Environmental Protection Officer* – Public Protection  
**Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council**