

**Clerk’s Report – for Parish Council Meeting, 21st July 2025**

A monthly report to Councillors with updates, information and correspondence relating to matters which do not require a decision and therefore have not been included within the agenda.

**Feedback from Councillor Enquiries from Parish Council Meeting, 14th June 2025:**

1. **Cllr Bulmer enquired about Forest Grant, £1,500 payment and where it was coming from:**

On further investigation, this payment forms the final part of a grant that was applied for by CWaC in the name of Great Boughton Parish Council and paid directly to them for their services in helping establish the forest planting at Thackeray field. This final payment has been sent directly to CWaC for this service.

**Updates on Previous Operational Information:**

**1. Bins on Great Boughton Council Land** – Cllr MacGlashan request that a list of all QR codes on the bins on GBPC land; has not yet been started.

**2. Dog Signs –** The 4 signs on all entrances to Thackeray Field are now in situ.

**3. External Auditor** – Email received acknowledging our submission and we are in queue.

**4. Vat return** – The Vat Return for Nov-March 2025 has been successful and we have received £2,324.45 for VXCC and £1,267.30 for GBPC.

**5. Great Boughton Awards** – The Poster has been created and is on display. Also, a full page ad has been run in two of the local handbooks for the month of July. Councillors are asked to nominate any gardens, volunteers, local heroes and young people that go above and beyond.

**6. Sam Dixon Visit, 24th July, 3.30-4.30pm** to visit Thackeray Woodland with Mersey Forest to view the tree planting and woodland creation site – POSTPONED: to be rearranged.

**7. Circus** – The circus advertising is in place and they will give free tickets to properties backing onto Thackeray Field.

**New Operational Information:**

**8. Staffing Committee** has been formally established and had first meeting on 14th July.

**9. Clerk Advert** – Clerk advert has been placed and closing date is 31st August, Interviews will be held beginning of September and the chosen candidate will be ratified on Parish Council Meeting 13th September with new Clerk hoping to start mid-October.

**10. ROSPA certificate** – Maintenance Officer is due to attend further ROSPA training and at present, identifying suitable location and timing.

**11.British Gas Lite** – The first bill for British Gas Lite for Old Laundry Corner should been £25 but they charged £589. This is a huge overcharge as they have estimated the reading. Maintenance Officer provided correct meter reading and photos. A complaint has been made and they have accepted a fault in their systems. They have changed the invoice have agreed to refund the £551 overpayment.

**12. Berry Collecting at Thackeray Field** - Forest start was granted permission to collect cherries for growing future trees. The berries are then processed and treated ready for nurseries to sow and grow more trees from. This is the third year they have attended.

**13. Dulverton Field** – Maintenance officer has replaced gate post, re-laid slabs and also cut back some overgrown hedges on the entrance to Dulverton as was becoming nuisance to contractors accessing field.

**14. Broadmead Path** – Maintenance Officer has cut back the overgrowth to allow the path to be useable again.

**15. Thackeray Drive Court** – After the work by Red Squirrel to cut back the overgrowth that was growing through the hedges and causing potential risk to users, Paul Felgate has attended as a volunteer and cut back and cleared all the ivy and growth and washed the court – all alone and as a volunteer. It looks incredible and huge thanks to Paul Felgate for going above and beyond for us.

**16. Thackeray Drive Playground** –Playground has been looking unkempt and thistles growing were around the play equipment. Interim Clerk has discussed with Morgan and he had conflicting instructions about leaving wild areas in the enclosed Playground section. To ensure the Playground is a safe area, Interim Clerk has confirmed in writing that all areas in the Playground must be cut and kept thistle and bramble free to avoid risk to children.

**17. TalkTalk Office Phone Lines** – Contracts have been re-negotiated with a both lines achieving discounts and have been resigned for 12mths for GBPC and 24mths for VXCC.

**18. Line Markings at Thackeray Drive** – We have been requested by a resident Community Centre user if we can re-line the car park as difficult to know where to park in small car park and also a Regular Hirer of VXCC has asked for lines to be remarked on the court – tennis, netball and basket and the purchase of two moveable netball nets.

**19. Potholes at Thackeray Drive Car Park** – Maintenance Officer has repaired the potholes in the carpark

**20. Rough Sleeper at Caldy Valley** – Botanic, our contractor, has reported roung sleeper at Caldy. Have notified PCSO and PC.

**Updates on Previous Correspondence:**

**1. Friends of Cherry Grove Crown Green Bowls Club** – Ian Huffer contacted asking Councillors to attend their meeting on 16th July, 6.30pm at Caldy Valley Neighbourhood Centre and for us to publicise their event. Steve Collings attending and will provide feedback.

Also asked Council to fund room hire but as group out of Parish and also as individual requesting funds, this was not possible.

**2. Queens Road Field** – Complaint to CWaC regarding Russin Vine and Bind weed entering gardens on Queens Road. The complaint was sent on 25th April and we have received it from CWaC on 13th June. It has been acknowledged, Cllr Otter attended site and Contractor has inspected area. This has led to identification of much overgrowth in the beds and sides of Queens Road Field which is not currently within contractors’ maintenance contract. Ex Cllr, Sam Otter to meet with Cllr Peter Bulmer and handover on this issue. Awaiting Dan from Red Squirrel to have a look at the situation and provide a quote for removal.

**New Correspondence:**

**3. Queens Road** – Resident has called as concerned that one of our trees is growing diagonally and is now over his garden shed and is very concerned it will fall and break the shed or land on his grandchildren. I have reassured him that we will soon be conducting the tree survey. As Peter & Mal on holiday and Sam resigned, contacted Dan from Red Squirrel to have a look at the tree and report back.

**4. Caldy Valley Playground -** Resident phoned to report glass and litter at Caldy Valley Playground on Sunday, 22nd June. Maintenance Officer attended the following morning and removed broken bottle of wine and litter that could have been pulled from the bin by animals.

**5. Anti-Social Behaviour at Dulverton Field -** 22nd June – Report of youths drinking and gathering at Dulverton Field til late. Resident collected two black bin bags of litter, larger cans and bottles the next morning, The local PCSO has been emailed and weekend evening patrols have been requested to deter this behaviour. PCSO confirmed that he and PC McCue would be attending the following weekend.

**6. Suspicious Behaviour at Queens Road Field** has been reported to Cllr Otter who informed the Clerk. This information was emailed to the PCSO and Cllr Otter managed to update him further. The incident involved a lone male carrying a white carrier bag and making a number of ventures into the undergrowth.

**7. Summer Fair Enquiry** - Resident enquiry regarding the date of this year’s Summer Fair. Emailed to explain that it is now held every 2 years and this year, the circus will be in town.

**8. Grass Cutting at Marbury Road** – A complaint was taken about the state of verge cutting and around obstacles. Also, the sign had been knocked off. Cllr MacGalshan received feedback from CWaC officers regarding cutting and this was fed back to the resident.

**9. Trees at new Lidl** – two residents written in regard with distress that the trees are being removed within the carpark. Have written back stating that we objected but could only save trees at edge and that they were within their planning permission granted by CWaC to remove.

**10. Thackeray Drive Playground** – received a complaint that there were rotten panels on the pirate ship which allowed a bolt to be exposed and potentially dangerous. The Maintenance Officer has removed 3 rotten planks and has used wood to replace them. It is 8 years old and so need to investigate Warranty on product.

**11. Thackeray Drive Court Basketball Nets** – Following a complaint on Facebook that the basketball net has been damaged for a long period, the Maintenance Officer was instructed to fix the basketball net. They actually came as a pack of two, both nets have now been replaced.

**12. Overgrown Hedgerow obstructing pavement between Caldy Nature Park and Sainsburys Reported** – Resident complained as watched a disabled resident scooter barely make it along the pavement. A report has been made with CWaC, also resident encouraged to use Report It system be providing link and Ward Cllrs were copied in to reply in case they had access to cutting schedule for resident.

**13. Glass and Litter reported on Queens Road MUGA and alongside Josh’s Jumps** – As Maintenance Officer on holiday, Cllr Bulmer kindly agreed to investigate. Discovered pots that have been left by resident for free collection on Queens Road, had been taken and smashed on the MUGA. He has swept up litter.