

- I. **Pond:** The annual Boating Day would be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September and the Clerk advised that the necessary public liability and volunteer insurance cover is in place.
- J. **Open Spaces:** The Clerk advised that the hedge in Newtown Pocket Park is overhanging the neighbour's garden at No 32 Newtown Road and needs to be trimmed back. Cllrs Fairchild and Norman will investigate.
- K. **Wayman's Pits:** Cllr Fairchild had cut and baled the grass but advised that a lot of work will need to be carried out over the coming year to get rid of the weeds and scrub. He will submit his invoice for the baling work in due course. Cllrs Parr and G Wilson had met with the County Council representative to discuss the vehicle access and possible parking area now that the 40mph buffer zone has been installed but unfortunately the outcome of the meeting was not favourable. The issue of pedestrian access also still needs to be addressed.
- L. **Youth Club:** Cllr Parr had discussed the complaints reported last month (see Minutes MM 07/2012 Item 11I) and the youth leader had promised that she would sort them out.
- M. **Recreation:** The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The play equipment, etc., has all been installed (see Minutes MM 07/2012 Item 11J) and a few councillors had painted the existing swings and slide to smarten them up. The official opening of the play area would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm. Cllr G Wilson reported that the Haddenham school children had been busy making bunting and Baroness Ros Scott had accepted his invitation to carry out the opening duties. The press and local radio have also been invited to cover the event. Cllr G Wilson advised that the next project to be pursued will refurbishment of the Aldreth Play Area and he had been advised that an application could be submitted to WREN, as it would be classed as a separate village application. The Clerk was asked to instruct the Groundsman that the hedge at Aldreth Play Area needs to be cut back to a height of 1metre and some self seeded elders removed.

## 11. SECTION 106 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

There were no new projects to be considered. The Clerk was asked to find out what the remaining balance of the fund will be once the grant has been claimed for the play equipment. She was also asked to enquire what funding has been added over the past year.

## 12. GROUNDSMAN COSTS

Cllrs Parr and Lyon had met with Spencer Ambrose of K Fergusons Ltd on 4<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the general grass cutting costs. Cllr Lyon explained that there is some concern that the costs will go over budget based on what had been spent for April – June this year. It was understood that this may be largely due to the very wet and humid weather but nevertheless the Council has to keep on top of the situation to avoid a large overspend. Spencer explained that his normal programme of cutting would be on a fortnightly basis from the end of March to the start of November, which would be 16 cuts per season. Due to the weather conditions he has already done 10 cuts and since the meeting he had advised the Clerk that he would carry out a further 7 cuts from September 2012 and including March 2013. It was agreed that he should be furnished with a programme for cutting green footpaths, Fairchild's Meadows and hedge cutting. He also requested a list of hedges to be cut and mentioned that there are some Lime trees and shrubs in the Churchyard, which need trimming back. Cllr Lyon asked Spencer to draw up a management plan for the Recreation Field for the coming year. One or two other issues regarding bins were also discussed. Julie had assured Spencer that she is completely satisfied with the service he is providing. There was some discussion about the meeting and it was agreed that one councillor should be responsible for supervising and advising Spencer on what needs to be done and when. Cllr Smith voiced the opinion that the cost of the grass cutting needs to be reined in. Mr Underwood produced some photos of the Cemetery regarding, in his opinion, unsatisfactory grass cutting and the Burial Areas Group will look into this. The situation will be discussed again at the next Finance & Emergency Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

## 13. ARKENSTALL CAR PARK

(See Minutes MM 07/2012 Item 11H) Cllr Fairchild reported that the neighbouring property to the car park is experiencing damp problems, which may have been caused by the resurfacing work carried out a couple of years ago. He had obtained a quote for just under £1000 to carry out work to rectify the problem. It was agreed that he should also check the Arkenstall Centre insurance and obtain a further quote ready for the next meeting in October. Cllr Fairchild reminded the Council that there is an

