

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

GWR Sundial & WWI Memorial

Leisure & Amenities Committee – 10 March 2020

1. Introduction

This report is to seek approval to enhance the sundial at GWR Park and improve the surfacing of the WWI War Memorial.

2. Report Details

2.1 South Swindon Parish Council took a ninety-nine year lease for GWR Park from 22nd July 2019

2.2 So far the Parish Council has refurbished the play area, installed a WWI memorial, improved the shrub maintenance and supported the installation of the Mother Language Day Memorial.

There are further plans to refurbish the old toilet block as a Gardener's depot, reintroduce some formal flower bed planting into the park and possibly replace the fountain that was lost.

2.2 Next to the play area is a GWR themed human sun dial built into the ground. This was installed in 2007 in memory of Winnie Ockwell and funded by her daughters Caroline and Christine. Buried underneath is a time capsule, filled by St Saviours Brownie pack, to be opened in 2104 – Winnie Ockwell was one of the first Brownies in Swindon, having joined the St Marks pack in 1917 (no longer in existence).



2.3 Unfortunately most people are not aware that the sundial exists as it is based in grass which grows up and over the stones. In the past when grass cutting has been carried out the mowers have gone over the top of the stones and chipped edges away.



- 2.4** In order to enhance the setting of the sundial, make it more of a feature and protect it for future generations, quotes have been sought to strip back the soil and install a resin bound gravel around the stones with a connecting path from the main path.
- 2.5** The WWI memorial was installed by the Parish Council in November 2018 and was part of a dedicated service to mark the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of Armistice.
- 2.6** The surface installed around the edge of the memorial was of a 'hoggin' type, this is a loose mix of gravel and sand. Unfortunately, this has not lasted very well and is worn in areas with significant ingress of weeds and moss which require significant staff time to clean and remove by hand.
- 2.7** In order to enhance the setting of the WWI memorial, reduce maintenance costs and protect the site for the future, quotes have been sought to remove the current surface and replace with a resin bound gravel.
- 2.8** Resin bound gravel is recommended for these sites due to their wet location and overhanging trees. Benefits of this type of surface are –
Attractive finish, highly durable, low/no Maintenance, SUDS compliant permeable surface and UV stable.
- Due to the proximity of the two sites, quotes have been obtained for both to be done together to save on costs. If the Council choose to proceed with just one of the sites then individual quotes will need to be obtained and the cost will increase.
- All companies have agreed to include resurfacing the entrance to the play area at the same time.
- 2.9** Three quotes have been obtained as follows –
- Company 1 - £10,000
 - Company 2 - £8,700
 - Company 3 - £10,080
- 2.10** There is no revenue budget line to fund these works. The options are to fund the work from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of which the council holds £113,506 or the Earmarked Reserve for the Parks of which the council holds £242,579.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** To contract the work to Company 2 as per 2.9 based on price, previous examples of work and specification provided.
- 3.2** That the works be funded from the CIL reserves as per 2.10 due to the Parks Earmarked Reserve being required for other major projects.