

Clerk's Note

Walnut Meadow Sports Pitch Drainage

David Baily (Miller Homes Production Director) has been in contact with Nigel Porter (our D2200 Technical Director) with a proposal to resolve the problem of the subsoil on the sports pitches. Our August trial pits (dug by White Horse Contractors for the Parish Council) have revealed that there is concrete and other debris in the subsoil, and insufficient proper soil depth across the site. The debris would break the mole plough our contractors would use for inserting the pipe drains required to drain the fields properly, so needs to be removed first.

P.O.C (Millers earth moving contractors who are responsible for the debris being there) have proposed that they do the trenching for our drainage pipes. This will allow them (and us) to control the costs of the work. The work would be done in conjunction with White Horse Contractors (or any other company appointed by the Parish Council). The Parish Council's contractors would supervise the P.O.C works and install the pipes etc.

Nigel Porter writes:

Although there are considerable disadvantages to this approach, there are benefits. The major one being that the work gets done with no risk of additional costs to the Parish Council. The pros and cons include:-

PROS

- Resolution of the problem
- Probable cost saving to Drayton Parish Council (DPC)

CONS

- Material left in the ground
- Potential conflict with the D.P.C contractor
- Loss of single point of responsibility

Among the issues to resolve are:-

- I. Would W.H.C/any other DPC appointed contractor be willing to work in this way?
- II. Millers are keen to get on with the work asap. This may cause problems with appointing W.H.C or another contractor.

I emphasised that the levels and variations in top soil depth also need sorting out

Clerk's Comment

1. This is a decision for the whole Parish Council, to be made either at an EGM (requires a week's notice) or at the regular PC meeting scheduled for Monday 2nd October
2. The Council's NDP Implementation Group should debate this proposal at its meeting on Friday 15th September 2017, and advise the Council

3. The Council's Financial Regulations require a formal contractual process with closed bids from at least three contractors. The Auditor will expect to see a clear paper trail that this process has been followed, despite any time pressures. This is a highly technical matter and I would advise that Nigel Porter be asked to receive the bids and write a summary report evaluating them and the capability of the firms tendering.
4. Before the Council places any contract it will need to have sufficient funds in its own bank. Millers have paid VWHDC £169,504 sports pitch money and the amount to be drawn down by the Clerk to the PC's bank account will need authorisation at a PC meeting so that the Clerk can apply for this to VWHDC. Quotes for the work will also be required to satisfy the VWHDC that the work is being carried out.

David Perrow
15th Sept 2017