

## **Oliver's Battery Parish Council**

### **All-Inclusive Recreation Ground Project**

#### **Progress Report to Parish Council**

#### **November 2023**

We are pleased with the progress on the project during the past month.

#### **Tree Planting and Installation of Equipment**

11 trees have been planted, staked and fitted with simple tree guards.

2 metal tree guards were ordered for the memorial trees, but were not found to be appropriate - too narrow, too tall, given the shape of the tree branches. Smaller, wider guards could be ordered, at a similar cost, but the decision on this is still pending. <https://www.designermetal.co.uk/tree-guards/halfguards>. We had to pay a charge to return the larger guards to the supplier. Cost of guards will be refunded if we choose not to go ahead with them.

Oliver's Battery Primary School School Student Councillors and their teachers visited the planting. Callum from Itchen Valley Trees gave an excellent commentary on how the trees were planted and encouraged the children to participate. A report on their visit will appear in the school's newsletter.

Cllr Ironside gave a very well received Assembly on the project, on the trees and the importance of watering them after planting. Children were enthusiastic in their involvement with the assembly. Cllr Leach was also present. Teachers were delighted with activities of the day, Callum will be invited at some stage to do another assembly about trees.

An article on the project will be appearing in the next OB News, together with a posted asking for help with the watering project.

The positions of the picnic tables, benches and bins have been marked out, installation of all these will begin on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Dates for installation of goal posts and pitch lines is still to be advised.

#### **Watering Arrangements**

David and Jackie Warren (Handyperson Group) are organising a rota. There have as yet been very few people who have volunteered to help. This is disappointing. It is hoped that Parish Councillors will form a Group themselves. See Proposals below.

A further large advertisement will appear in the next OB News. Cllr Leach will be contacting Marianne Foster and Demelza Healey (St Mark's and OBWI) to see whether any help could be forthcoming from these organisations.

## **Watering Equipment**

It is proposed that we purchase a 110L Water Bowser. <https://www.onlinetankstore.co.uk/product/110-litre-water-trolley> at a cost of **£280 EX VAT (£336 inc VAT) Delivery from £58** in 3 - 5 working days. This will enable the watering groups to transport the water to the trees. It can be kept at home, rather than at the Rec, and easily transferred between watering Groups once the rota is published.

### **Other Costs - Trees**

Mill Farm Trees Invoice was the same as their Estimate and has been paid.

**Cost £580.95 plus £116.19 VAT**

**Total Cost £697.14**

### **Other Costs - Labour**

Itchen Valley estimate was **£970**, but the invoice will be slightly less.

**Cost £896**

**Cost for picnic tables, benches, bins, goalposts, pitch lining and pitch preparation**

See item 7.6 on the agenda.

**Cost for return of inappropriate Tree Guards**

£100 plus VAT.

## **Proposals**

**That Parish Councillors form a Watering Group to be part of the Tree Watering programme, starting March 2024.**

**That no metal Tree Guards be purchased at this stage, and that cost of inappropriate Tree Guards be refunded.**

CMLeach December 2023