Malmesbury Town Council
Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting 9.9.20
Report No.3

Parks and Open Spaces Report

1. **St Aldhelms Mead Play Area and Cemetery Toilets** – with the implementation of the new extended contract to service the Cross Hayes Toilets, the toilets at St Aldhelms Mead and the Cemetery have no re-opened. Opening hours are 8-5pm 9 (may be seasonal variation).

2. **Needles and syringe alert –** x2 syringe and needles have been found during the past few months; x1 outside Cemetery toilet (May), and x1 in Cloister Gardens (August). Reportedly one was also found in Reeds Farm park but this is not substantiated. Nevertheless, there has not been any such reports of syringes found prior to the 'Covid 19' period. The ground staff have asked to be vigilant, and any syringes now found will be reported to an external service for safe and appropriate removal. Needles and syringes are a high-risk hazard, presenting risk of infection from HIV and or Hepatitis.

   It should be noted there is a cost per removal of £350, which also includes a sweep of the area for other needles or syringes. A separate cost code has been requested to ensure clear monitoring and reporting of this matter.

3. **Pressure washing -** all parks have now been pressure washed, and or sprayed with an anti-bacterial infection (wooden furniture or apparatus). The later caused some splintering and the company commissioned returned on the 3.9.20 to rub down affected areas.

4. **Trees at St Aldhelms –** There has been some storm damage to a tree in St Aldhelms play park, and the tree in question was removed on the 18th August to make it safe. Also concern about the safety of the poplar's in St Aldhelms Mead (due to their height) has been raised by neighbouring resident. Work was done in March 2019 on these trees. The tree surgeon has been asked to re-assess their safety and integrity, and we are awaiting the assessment feedback. A verbal update will be provided at the Committee meeting.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk 26.2.20