

Agenda Item:

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8a) To consider request for replacement road name signs

The Town Council has received a request from a resident (David Drewett) to replace two particular road name signs in the Town: the one for Clements Lane which is a hand-painted sign and one by The Pound. Mr. Drewett would like the road name signs replaced with cast iron ones (he says that the one on Clements Lane should be blue) as the majority of our road name signs are made of cast iron and have lasted far longer than blue plastic road name signs around the town which have cracked, faded and split. Also, as he has demonstrated, the cast iron signs can also be refreshed and repainted (Mr. Drewett has voluntarily repainted a number of road name signs throughout the town). He would therefore like to encourage the Town Council to pay the extra for traditional cast iron signs to match the ones we have.

I have had discussions with an officer (Paul Shaddock) from Wiltshire Council who has said that there are various ways we can get new or replacement Street Name Plates:

1. Via CATG (this has been done at Salisbury Area Board). I guess we would need to go through the process of identifying which signs we wanted replacing, sending the project through to CATG, they would then need to agree the project and then we would need to wait for it to get to the top of the priority list. The Town Council would then be expected to make a contribution towards the cost (%?)
2. Town Council can go direct to Wiltshire Council's contractors -Ringway - and order new/replacement signs directly from Ringway. We would then pay Ringway to install the signs but this would also involve doing utility searches for installations. I explained that most of ours would just be replacements but was told that it is sometimes easier to re-install the whole sign, including posts than it is to try and put a new sign on old posts (this is definitely the case when old signs are placed on wooden backing boards). Average cost for sign, removal of old sign and assembly of new sign is around £200-£250
3. Town Council can identify a supplier (e.g. road signs direct <https://roadsignsdirect.co.uk/>), get a proof and get approval/permission from Wiltshire Council to use this supplier.

I asked Paul about colours and he said that there is no particular specification.

Salisbury is going for black background with white lettering but other places in Wiltshire have a white background with black lettering and some have a blue background with white lettering.

Type of sign:

Recycled plastic (using in Salisbury at present time).

Aluminium & Die Pressed Aluminium -cost of sign (Castle Street) - £70 + VAT

Cast metal – these are much more expensive but do allow the sign to be repainted after a period of time.

Please see signs at: [https://streetsignsdirect.co.uk/street-name-signs?gclid=EAIaIQobChMlyYe-oHv7wIVkbbtCh0O2AQ1EAAyAAEgKvCPD\\_BwE](https://streetsignsdirect.co.uk/street-name-signs?gclid=EAIaIQobChMlyYe-oHv7wIVkbbtCh0O2AQ1EAAyAAEgKvCPD_BwE)

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9b) Refurbishment of Mere Tennis Courts

Myrene Coward has informed me that the Tennis Club's court contractor has suggested that the courts should be re-coated with resin and repainted after the summer season. He has quoted £3850 which the club can pay for from their funds but they have pointed out that they will be unable to make their usual donation of £500 to the Peace Memorial Charity. Are members in agreement with this?

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9c) Application for fee-paying sporting activity in Recreation Ground

In accordance with the decision made by the Town Council in December 2020 – that there should be no blanket policy but that each application is judged independently and any restrictions and charges will be imposed by the Town Council on a one-to-one basis, we have received an application form:

Applicant is Mrs. Susan Marks of Motcombe who organises Tai-Chi for Health. Mrs. Marks charges £6.00 per session and wishes to hold regular sessions on a Monday & Wednesday starting at 9 am/9.30 am ending at 10 am/10.30 am (dependent on weather). There are approximately 5 people that attend on Monday and 3 people that attend on Wednesday. I am in receipt of Emergency Procedures, Insurance Certificate, First Aid Training Certificate and Instruction Certificates. Mrs. Marks says that she has been taking Tai chi in Mere for nearly 12 years at the Grove Buildings and it was started as a project from Wiltshire County Council to improve the wellbeing and mobility of people in rural areas. Over the years she has worked with various organisations for this training to be available in local areas. The classes in Mere are for Mere people.

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