

## Millennium Green / The Lychgate June 2021

A few weeks back I dropped into Millennium Green / The Lychgate to tidy it up as I'd noticed it there was a fair amount of litter. Whilst there I took the opportunity to have a good look around and it became apparent very quickly that the whole area needs a little more attention than just sweeping through, and some of the issues need rectifying relatively quickly. Heavy tree canopies have led to the vegetation at ground level becoming sparse and the whole area looks a little tired and neglected.

I have collated a list of jobs that need doing:

Lychgate roof needs moss removing, there's a lot of it on there!

Broken tiles need replacing on roof and ridges recemented

Fascia needs refinishing. Looks like it has been treated in past?

Willow tree needs cutting back away from roof

Benches inside Lychgate need cleaning and a refinish. Some carved graffiti

All paths/block paving needs weeding, moss removed and power washing

The whole area needs raking and debris and fallen branches removed

Stake in tree needs removing as it's sticking out at a jaunty angle and a hazard

Handrails and supports need refinishing on bridge. Looks like one of the handrails has had some of the timber peeled away so wood is bare

Decking on bridge needs refinishing

Bench over far side of stream has an arm hanging off and this area needs vegetation cut back as it's overgrown and slippery at present

A handmade children's swing is hanging off a tree bough with a mud patch underneath

Low tree boughs starting to encroach on property next door

The notice board needs refinishing

Vegetation including brambles on Crosslynds side needs cutting back

Vehicular damage to stone wall next to noticeboard needs repairing

The substation doors are warped, not closing properly and show signs of decay (Western Power)

Please find quotes attached for tree works, gardening and building & maintenance

### Tree Works

Jim Murtagh of JM Tree Services has supplied a quote of **£550** for essential tree works and recommends that the willow tree is pollarded. This will preserve the tree, willow is very soft wood and the tree is now very large so eventually splits will start to occur in boughs and we could be in danger of losing the whole tree. It may well look alarming and be controversial as currently the tree is a feature of Millennium Green so this will need careful handling in terms of explaining to the village the reasons behind the pollarding.

The large cherry tree has very long lateral boughs which are looking for sunlight. This tree will need reshaping and the lower bough with the swing attached will be one of the boughs removed.

Once the tree works are completed the whole area will be lighter and will allow the grass to recover and open up the area to further development

### General Gardening Works

Green Gait have supplied a quote of **£903** for general gardening works, please see their quote

### Building & Maintenance Works

Stevie Rogers of Rogers Construction & Maintenance has supplied a quote of **£400** for repairs to the Lychgate roof and wall

These are Stevie Rogers notes:

*I have had a look at the Millennium Green Lychgate in Stoke St Michael and assess it as follows :*

*The damage to the boundary wall has resulted in two broken corner stones and the cracking and loosening of the top course ( this may be remedied by re pointing ). Hopefully the corner stones can be removed and “ turned, if not they will have to be replaced.*

*The mortar on the hips of the roof appears to have failed causing the bonnet hip tiles to slip and several have fallen off and are missing, 10 in total, 9 from the front right hip and 1 from the left rear - these bonnet tiles maybe hard to source.*

*The ridge tile mortar seems to have washed out in several places and needs replacing I would suggest lifting and rebedding where possible.*

*There is some missing mortar on the verges which may mean that this mortar is also failing and needs to be replaced.*

*Facia board looks ok on first inspection but could benefit from a rub down and coating with paint/ preservative.*

*There are 10 or so missing plain tiles to replace.*

*Labour wise I estimate the job to take 2 working days for 1 man my standard labour charge is £150.00 per day.*

#### *Materials*

*If the bonnet tiles can be sourced they may cost as much as £5 each*

*Half a dozen bags of sand and 2 of cement - £30*

*The stone we can re-use if in suitable condition*

*Plain tiles £10*

**The total of tree, gardening and maintenance works is approximately £1853 (we need to factor in a small variation incase the tiles prove more costly)**

**All of the above works are essential and relatively urgent to restore Millennium Green and The Lychgate to a safe and useable space before the winter brings further damage and to rectify Health & Safety issues such as slips, trips and falls and falling tiles**

#### **Benches**

We will need to replace the rotten bench. As the area will be opened up then it would make sense to install an eight seater family picnic bench, these retail at around £600. Millennium Green is popular with families, children are often playing in the stream so a family sized picnic bench like those which are well used on the Playing Field would be ideal.

The teak bench with the plaque in memory of Sue Holder needs a teak oil treatment and I am happy to do this during this next spell of hot weather, materials cost £11.10

#### **Western Power**

I have spoken to Western Power and they have agreed the substation doors needs replacing and these will be replaced in timber in the same style in the next 8-10 weeks, Western Power will cover this cost

In order to be able to carry out tree works the overhead power cables will need to be turned off. Western Power will cover this cost. This is already arranged in principle with Western Power, they are awaiting a date for works from the Parish Council. August onwards is preferred as birds will have finished nesting.

#### **Budget**

We do have a budget for the cleaning of the Lychgate of £500,

I have checked with Holcombe and they do not have a cleaner for their Lychgate, so if we are able to tidy the Lychgate on a voluntary basis as discussed at recent meetings then this budget could be allocated to the repairs.

There is also a sum allocated to village maintenance of £2000 in the budget and a village projects fund of £5000 we could possibly draw on

## **Further development / Grant Funding**

Inspired by looking at other village greens then I do think we could make much more of this area, it is a valuable village green space right in the centre of our village. A consultation with villagers may yield some ideas for further works. Facebook seems a good place to start alongside some posters around the village and networking with other village groups.

It has never been more important to encourage the use of local green spaces accessible by foot for outdoor socialising as well as the opportunity to provide an enhanced environment for bees & insects and wildlife in general.

Obvious improvements could include:

Additional seating / picnic areas

Low maintenance raised beds / hanging baskets

Developing the area on the far side where the rotten bench is as this will offer lovely views downstream once cleared

Planting of suitable shrubs and perennials

Improving the quality of the grass on the grassed areas

Providing pathways and a ramp down to the stream for pedestrian, pushchair / wheelchair access

Mendip District Council are inviting application for their Communities Fund (deadline 31st August) for projects that support community resilience, build capacity and promote well being and having read through the grant criteria this project would qualify

### **Proposals**

1) SSM PC accept the quotes obtained (£1853 with a small variation for cost of tiles) for essential works including pollarding the willow tree. The quotes are from local contractors therefore reducing our carbon footprint. These contractors also have the capacity to do the work within a reasonable timescale

2) SSM PC reimburse Amanda Taylor £11.10 for teak oil

3) SSM PC purchase a family size picnic bench with a budget of £600

4) Amanda Taylor to be granted permission to set up and administer a Millennium Green and Lychgate Facebook page where we can seek ideas, publicise the pollarding works and potential grant funding, ask for suitable plants and possibly recruit community help with projects going forward

5) SSM PC agree that Amanda Taylor will apply for a grant from Mendip District Council's new Communities Fund (deadline 31st August) to refurbish/redevelop Millennium Green. Amount of grant to be determined at meeting.

There are two types of grant:

Small projects, of up to £2000

Large projects, of up to £30,000 (evidence of work to secure match funding is expected)

*Cllr Amanda Taylor*

*June 2021*



**From:** Green Gait Garden Maintenance  
Church House  
Church Street  
Stoke St. Michael  
Somerset BA3 5JS  
01749 840 994

**Quote**

**To:** Stoke St. Michael Parish Council  
Stoke St. Michael  
Somerset BA3

**Date:** 10/06/2021

Quote for works itemised reference Millennium Green / Lychgate :

- 1) Benches inside Lychgate need cleaning and a refinish - ***Green Gait can do***
- 2) Paths need weeding and moss removed - ***Green Gait can do***
- 3) Whole area needs raking and debris removed - ***Green Gait can do***
- 4) Stake in tree needs removing - ***Green Gait can do***
- 5) Handrails need refinishing on bridge - ***question, are you suggesting replacing the damaged handrail?***
- 6) Decking needs refinishing - ***question, what are your thoughts on this, i.e. paint, preservative or just pressure hose?***
- 7) Bench over far side has an arm hanging off - ***as we observed both arms need attention however the whole piece is suffering from rot, therefore remove it.***
- 8) The bench area over far side needs vegetation cut back and a power wash. Very slippery at present - ***Green Gait can do***
- 9) Children's swing. Are we happy that this homemade swing remains in situ? - ***I believe the three of us agreed this remaining will become a H&S issue therefore it's best removed to avoid issues in the future?***
- 10) Weeding of block paving throughout and jet wash - ***Green Gait can do***
- 11) Vegetation including brambles on Crosslynds side needs cutting back - ***Green Gait can do***

Item 1) Pressure wash 3 hours at £36.00 per hour	£108.00
Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10) As one = 8 hours at £36.00 per hour	£288.00
Item 7) Remove	
Item 8) 6 hours at £36.00 per hour	£216.00
Item 9) Remove	
Item 11) 6 hours at £36.00 per hour	£216.00
Disposal of debris	£ 75.00

Please note; If the work is completed in less time this will be indicated in the invoice

Kind regards.

Gordon Gait and Paul Green



# J Murtagh Tree Services

1 Avenue Villas  
Fosse Road  
Stratton on the Fosse  
BA3 4RG

Office	01761 569116
Mobile	07816 899530
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:jim.jmtreeservices@gmail.com">jim.jmtreeservices@gmail.com</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.jmtreeservices.co.uk">www.jmtreeservices.co.uk</a>

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Stoke St. Michael Parish Council  
c/o Amanda Clements

## QUOTATION

Re. Tree works in Millennium Green.

Prune back long lateral branches on Cherry tree that are encroaching nearby tree and neighbour's property.

Reshape ornamental Cherry as appropriate.

Reduce in height and overall size a large Weeping Willow, Prune away from the Lychgate.  
Or.

Pollard Weeping Willow. Remove all leafy branches leaving the main structure of the tree.

Remove all waste from site.

TOTAL

£550.00

Should you find this acceptable, please contact me on the above numbers to arrange a suitable time for the work to be carried out.

**Rogers Construction and Maintenance (RCM)**

Tadhill Farm

Tadhill

Leigh On Mendip

Radstock

BA35QX

Mobile: 07801480185

**Quotation for Millennium**  
**Green Lychgate Stoke St Michael**

<b>Customer / Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Amanda Clements</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021</b>	<b>100179</b>

<b>Description</b>	
<b>Wall and Roof repair</b>	
Materials	<b>100.00</b>
Labour	<b>300.00</b>
	<b>Total £400.00</b>

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