



**Community Assets & Opens Spaces Committee
Wednesday 9 September 2026**

Agenda Item 9 – Maintenance of Moat Pond

Purpose of the Report

Members are required:

- To **NOTE** that the Moat Pond dredging and boardwalk repair project has been added to the project planner for 2026/7.
- To **NOTE** that allocated Section 106 funds of £18,912 for this project are unlikely to cover the maintenance costs but that the parish council will have a clearer idea of costings in the autumn when quotes are received.
- To **NOTE** that once quotes have been received, the CA&OS Committee will need to decide whether a full external procurement exercise is needed and whether a construction expert will be required to oversee the process. The parish council's health and safety expert may also be required to oversee the project.

Background

Moat Pond is located to the rear of Wroughton Parish Church Hall and immediately in front of Moat Walk. It consists of a pleasant boardwalk/pond dipping area, three large mosaic floor insets made by local schools, a selection of seats and a central large dragonfly sculpture which is mounted on a floating pontoon in the middle of the pond.

The parish council's grounds team undertake annual maintenance of the pond area in line with the advice given by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, so as to minimize any ecological and habitat destruction.

Current Ecological Issues

In recent years, Moat Pond has seen a significant reduction in depth and a notable increase in oxygen, depriving plants such as algae over the last several years. In 2023, the parish council introduced some more biological absorbents into the pond to reduce the abundant algae growth, which included lily pads and colourful pond plug plants. The parish also ringfenced Section 106 monies to be used for future dredging and repair.

Dredging a pond is very harmful to ecology, and heavy machinery will be needed to drain the pond, extract the sediment and remove it from the site. The benefits of dredging, however,

include a reduction in growth of oxygen, depriving vegetation such as reeds and algae which are very prevalent and taking over the pond.

The boardwalk pond dipping area is beginning to rot and the parish's grounds team have recently replaced some of the planks. There is extensive rotting of the supporting structure of the boardwalk and the wooden post supports around the pond are now cracking and rotting. It would make sense for any remedial works to the pond to take place at the same time as replacement of the boardwalk and fencing.

Previous biological sampling undertaken in October 2022 suggests the soil at Moat Pond is free from contaminants and therefore will not need to be treated as contaminated waste as part of the silt and sediment removal.

Financial Considerations

There currently remains £18,912 in Section 106 funding that is earmarked for Moat Pond and needs to be spent by October 2028. It is likely that the cost for this work will be significantly more than the allocated funds.

The parish council's Projects Officer has requested an outline quote from Rock Groundwork Ltd, who have said they have the experience and expertise to deliver an engineering project of this nature. They have been asked to scope replacement boardwalk and fencing in hardwood and recycled composite plastic options, with the latter being more durable. The parish is also in touch with Oliver Saunders of Bath Land Management Ltd, who has managed similar projects for other councils.

Other Considerations

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) is the landowner and their permission will have to be sought for any works. Planning permission may need to be obtained.

Contractor access to the site is very limited, through a narrow footpath to the rear. The fence to the rear of the church hall and preschool could, with permission from SBC, be temporarily removed to enable a digger and other equipment to access and be stored in a secured compound on the grassed area within the Moat Pond site.

Due to the nearby watercourse, it is likely that the Environment Agency will also need to be involved in discussions.

Pictures of the site can be viewed at **Appendix A**.

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