**Agenda Item 10 – To receive any correspondence**

Community Growers – lead on this is Katie Piercy – request written support from Overton Community Council to:

1) Plant a community orchard in the playground (please see attached design)

2) Plant a hedge along the edge of the playground and the millennium meadow

3) Buy and install a barn owl box in the millennium meadow

4) Buy a cut and collect mower to help with the management of the mini meadows

In order for Members to consider this request the following will need to be considered

* The cost maintenance of the new orchard/hedgerow
* Who will be paying for the work
* Who is ultimately responsible for the trees/bushes and for the cutting them
* To also consider if the cut and collect mower could be stored at the garage (football Pavillion)

The layout of the trees is not set in stone (Katie has been advised the fair normally set up in the area showing fruit trees).

Katie Piercy has confirmed the Community Growers are aware of the grant application; have checked their insurance in relation to planting the trees/hedges etc – this is as our insurance company have made the following comment in relation to this request –

*With regards to the Public Liability element of the policy, any event or activity that OCC run, manage or organise would automatically be covered so in the event of an injury, where OCC were found liable, the policy would respond.*

*So, in this situation, if the injury led back to a defect on the land the OCC owned, any claim would be considered by your insurers. But in the event that the injury stemmed from the activities of the “Community Growers”, then this should be picked up by their own insurers (if they have cover).*

Below is the response from the Landowner – he has forwarded his queries to Katie Piercy/Community Growers

I was discussing the on-going maintenance of the hedges with the farmer, Mark Owen and we concluded the following: -

Hedge Around the Football and Cricket Fields.

Mark Owen would be happy to cut his side of the boundary and this would mean that the Overton Cricket Club and Overton Council would have to be prepared to cut the inside of the hedge and the top.

Hedge alongside the Avenue.

Again Mark Owen would be happy to cut his side of the boundary and this would mean that the Overton Council would have to be prepared to cut the inside of the hedge and the top.

Due to the close proximity to the Avenue Trees, the hedge would not be able to be cut with a tractor on the inside and this would therefore be very costly to cut by hand. The Estate is also concerned that should the land be given back to the Estate in future years, it would be lumbered with this expensive cost. To my knowledge it is illegal to remove a hedge without permission and I think it is unlikely that we would get permission to remove it once it has been established.

Has anyone discussed the proposal with the Cricket Club?

Therefore, unless this issue can be resolved, the Estate cannot give permission for this work.

*Community Growers have responded to the query regarding hand cutting the hedge – they are currently seeking confirmation from contractors that the hedge will be able to cut using machines.*