

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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| Date: | 11 February 2020 |
| Title: | Memorial Gardens |
| Contact Officer: | Andrea Oughton, Asset Manager |

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the refurbishment of the ponds and the Pearce Memorial fountain located within the Memorial Gardens.

Background

2. The ponds were last drained and cleaned in 2011 when a new filtration system was installed. Since then silt has gradually built up despite attempts to remove it. The silt level in some areas of the ponds is now just below the waterline.

Proposal

Memorial Ponds

3. It is proposed to drain down both ponds, remove all waste from the bottom and fully clean the sides. The pond pumps and filtration system will be serviced. All the fish will be moved into two holding ponds on site whilst the work is carried out.
4. Once the ponds are drained a detailed inspection of the brick and render will take place. If found to be in good order the ponds will be sealed, painted and refilled.
5. Until the ponds are drained the condition of the brick and render is unknown. There may be the need to fill small cracks or more extensive work to remove some of the existing render and replace or repair large cracks.

Pearce Memorial Fountain

6. The only time the pipe work to the fountain can be accessed is when the ponds are drained. Refurbishment of the ponds provides an ideal opportunity to inspect the pipe work to the sculpture to see what is required to make it operational again.
7. Professionally clean the stone plinth and copper sculpture to remove dirt and lichen. The surrounding paving will also be cleaned.
8. The proposed work to the ponds and Memorial Fountain will ensure they are at their best ready to mark the centenary of the War Memorial in 2021.

Resource Appraisal

Project requirements:

| Item | Cost |
|---|-------------------------|
| To drain ponds, remove waste, clean sides & service pumps and filtration system | £1,900 |
| To fill any small cracks, seal and paint ponds | Approx. £750-1,000 |
| If required to remove and replace existing render or repair any large cracks | Approx. £1,000-2,000 |
| To clean the Pearce Memorial Fountain (stone and copper sculpture) | £900 |

To note the cost to get the fountain fully operational is unknown until the pipework has been inspected.

Risk Assessment

9. Poor maintenance of the pumps and filtration system may result in the need to replace equipment on a more regular basis. The overall appearance of the ponds will deteriorate. There will be an increased risk of harm to the fish and pond wildlife.

Legal Powers: Open Spaces Act 1906, s10

Recommendation:

- i) To approve the refurbishment of the Memorial Ponds and Pearce Memorial Fountain funded from rolling Capital Reserves.*