

Parish Council Clerk report

1. Relating to agenda item 30/21 – Dispensation request received from Cllr West in relation to White Hart Inn until such time as his reason for making such a request is otherwise negated. As proper officer this has been granted however this dispensation will cease after May 2023. It is granted as proper officer (s13 e), in line with Foul登 Parish Council's adopted standing orders under section 13 h. ii. granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area. I am aware that the White Hart Inn is a community asset with the aim for it to run as a community project.

I would like to remind the council that Cllr Winterbone's dispensation in relation to the White Hart Inn still remains until September 2022.

2. Relating to agenda item 37/21 – The standing order for the signing of minutes is that they would be signed at the next physical meeting. However, as we near year end I would be grateful if, on this occasion, the council would consider and resolve for all approved minutes to be signed outside of a meeting.
3. Relating to agenda item 40/21 – recommendations circulated with each application. When the council adopted the grant awarding policy and set the budget, the budget was for £2900 for 2021/22, there is currently no budget for 2020/21. If the council could consider timing for payment of grants are awarded.
4. Relating to agenda item 41/21 c – the current electricity supplier has offered to install a smart metre free of charge. The previous supplier had installed a smart metre however, I am led to believe what was installed was not standard at the time and was in fact specific to that one supplier.
5. Relating to agenda item 44/21 – separate reports circulated.
6. Relating to agenda item 45/21 – Remote meetings. The current legislation only permits remote meetings up to 7th May. The requirement for an annual meeting has been removed under the coronavirus legislation so the council may move and amend the May meeting accordingly. If the council still wish for an annual meeting the legal requirement is for it to be held in May. However, the chair kindly subscribed to zoom almost a year ago and the council will need to decide on subscribing to zoom pro at the current cost of £119.90 for the year.

Another point for consideration in the annual parish meeting, last year it was cancelled as it was deemed unsafe to meet and was not permitted to be held remotely at that time. However it can now be held remotely until the 7th May. Parish Meetings can be held from 1st March to 1st June each year.

7. Relating to agenda item 46/21 – This was a parishioner request who said 'the WHICBS is investigating all avenues of funding from donations through to share issues. An item I would like to present to and discuss with the Council is the opportunity that the Public Works Loan Board offers our community.' Hopefully, they are here to elaborate
8. Relating to agenda item 47/21 – This was a parishioner request who said 'I am sure it doesn't fall directly under the Council's aegis but it is a matter that the Council can offer some influence and gravitas in discussions with the appropriate authorities. The flooding in Becket End, by the mill and sometimes elsewhere in the village after sustained periods of rainfall' However since then I have received correspondence from a parishioner between themselves and Norfolk County Council regarding the collapsed culvert at the recreation ground (which I have circulated to all councillors) as well as the historic water management issues at Becketts End (I have circulated the relevant correspondence to councillors). Then finally Cllr West has requested this to be addressed.
9. Relating to agenda item 48 – Policies
Risk Management – whilst doing this policy it raised a number of queries that I would be grateful if the council would consider and resolve. The issues are:-
 - PC Business continuity – In the case of the clerk what would happen if they were on long term absence? I have put 'appoint a locum Clerk' but would be good to confirm what the council consider a long term absence. Also are there any measures the council wish to put in place to ensure the clerk is active? (i.e at what point would the council worry if they did not hear from the clerk?)

- PC Council Assets (street furniture, dog waste bins, litter bins, notice boards) currently there are no inspection or maintenance plans in place for this and street lighting is once a year. Is this sufficient?
- VH Business continuity In the case of the VHM what would happen if they were on long term absence? I have put 'would be advertised for long term absence' but would be good to confirm what the council consider a long term absence. Also are there any measures the council wish to put in place to ensure the VHM is active? (i.e at what point would the council worry if they did not hear from the VHM?)
- VH Assets – I am only aware of visual inspections from the VHM who reports them at the next meeting, however I don't think there is a set criteria for these inspections. Is this sufficient?
- RG Assets – there is only an annual inspection. Is this sufficient?
- The lastly is keys. There are a number for the village hall and each set has different ones to it. However, there is currently only one key in circulation for the SAM2 and defib so does not allow for business continuity (as well as training use) and there appears to only be one key in the council's ownership for the recreation ground, again affecting business continuity.

10. Relating to agenda item 49/21 – 3PL/2020/0842/F an appeal letter has been received regarding the change of use for White Hart Inn

11. Other items since last meeting

- Wayleaves cheque forwarded on for recreation ground, contact details now updated.
- War memorial update. The contact at Skillingtons is continuing to make enquiries about stone supply but this is a real problem stone now that good quality Clipsham isn't available.. He has been told by one supplier that he might need to look at French limestones ... He is starting to wonder if they need to get formal advice from a consultant geologist and thought he would informally seek someones advice.
When he has an answer, it might be 5 weeks to procure the stone, 2 weeks to do the lettering etc, and the final works on site within a week – so say 8 weeks in total.
He apologies for the delay, however he wants to get it right first time as he has had some monuments fail in the first winter.
The grant extension runs out 22nd May, so another extension is likely to be required.
- Recreation ground seating – the grant of £2500 has been won and received and caloo have been instructed to proceed with the sheltered seat.
- Drains flooded in the dip on the 29th January due to heavy rain
- Bus transport. Correspondence has been received in regards to the Rural Mobility Bid – Swaffham Area Flexilink that was brought to the attention of the council in May 2020. They have made it through to the next and final round and are 1 of 17 proposals.
- Textile recycling. Correspondence has been received for the confirmed tonnage amount for textiles for 2021, which has dropped considerably due to Covid. The budget for expected total recycling credit is £400 however the textiles may impact this by £100-150 and this does not take into account that the quantity of all the recycling may be less due to people staying in.

	Quantity Recycled	Price received	Tonnage price
2018	0.290	89.10	307.24
2019	0.760	242.52	319.10
2020	0.680	190.55	280.22
2021 (proposed average)	0.58?	34.39?	£59.30

g. Then lastly, I have received a very nice e-mail from a parishioner which says:-

'I should like to thank Billy Pye and assistants for the work they did in clearing the culvert under Vicarage Road which drains our garden and part of the Recreation Ground. They also had to dig out part of the dyke and cut back the vegetation at the outfall end. The result was the best flow that could be obtained without professional work on the culvert. After the rain stopped, after a few days we had no standing water in our garden'

Well done Cllr Pye and team.