

CLERKS REPORT 31/01/24

Advertising revenue

There are still 2 outstanding invoices for the advertising revenue, Joanne's Cleaning Services and Ben Collis Fencing. Liz is going to create an Excel sheet which will show who has paid and we will share this document so that we can add and remove people. I have not heard if there are any new people keen to advertise in the Newsletter.

VAT refund

A VAT refund up to the end of Dec 23 has been received, this is for £617.24.

Councillor Training

Basic Councillor Course 1 & 2 has been booked for Cllr Gwynne.

Coffee Morning

A resident approached me concerning the pothole near the junction of Bridge Street/Low Road. I have reported this to SCC, but no response has been received.

Another resident approached me concerning the footpath on the main road as it is covered with mud and leaves, this was reported, and the SCC response stated that they have limited funds and have to prioritise where this is spent.

Bridge Street.

Following on from the flooding, a resident reported that there was a tree under the bridge in Bridge Street. I reported this to the Environment Agency, who said that they would be in touch regarding access to the site. Having emailed the resident, he was happy for the workmen to access the site from his property. I have had no further communication from the Environment Agency but having looked at the site, I can see the bridge is now clear.

Flooding

A resident contacted Richard Smith regarding some flooding that was affecting the Carlton Road/Rosemary Lane junction and then running down Sandy Lane, the PC has been copied into this email.

A resident who lives off Carlton Road, has been in contact with the Environment Agency, ESC and the PC concerning contaminated water that is flowing into her pond. It appears that water with oil in is running from the road into the drain and then appearing in her garden pond, which is killing the fish. The Environment Agency has made a note of this issue.

Pear Tree Close

A phone call was received from a resident of Pear Tree Close, to enquire about the field to the back of the properties, they wished to know if there were any plans to develop that piece of land. I suggested that the PC were currently not aware of any plans for the development of this field, but they should contact ESC planning, who may be able to assist further.

Grit Bins

A phone call was received from a resident of Church Close, this was regarding the refilling of the two grit bins in that area. The first is in Church Close and the second is outside the Church. When the report was first sent in SCC said they had no knowledge of the grit bins, they were not on their map. I sent in photographs of both grit bins, along with some dates of approved minutes back in 2011 where the PC had received a licence from SCC to say that they would fill the grit bins. I am waiting for a follow up from SCC.

Meeting with Julia Ewart

Julia met with me at the coffee morning on the 24th January, we discussed various items including the way forward regarding the Outreach Post Office. The chair of the village hall commented that she would construct a generic letter for residents to fill in their name etc and send to Therese Coffey. Julia commented that it is necessary to write to the head of the Post Office as well. Julia had received many complaints from residents in Rosemary Lane, as the parking at the Poachers Pocket is causing concern. Apparently, there was an occasion where an emergency vehicle was unable to get through. There is a course which people are able to attend which will give them a qualification to enable them to clear the river as a volunteer. The riverbank belongs to the landowner, but this could assist with the clearing of grass and debris to allow the Fromus to run more efficiently. Details of the course would become available, but it may be held in Bury. The various Community Partnerships in the area are being linked together by their waterways. This means that they are working together to clear the waterways to ease the flooding. This is not possible with Kelsale, as we are linked to Framlingham, Wickham Market and Yoxford. Julia has a small amount of money that may be used to assist with the repairing of village signs. Please let Julia know if there are any road signs that require some repairs. Some concerns have been sent to Julia about the proposed planning at Curlew Green.

Highways

The fence panels that are to the side of the A12 near the entrance to Kelsale-cum-Carlton have not been replaced, and this has been removed from the SCC online reporting tool. An email has been sent to the department that informed me of the intention to remove and replace the panels, to ask why the panels have not been replaced.

D-Day Commemoration

The insurance form for this event has started to be completed, I am awaiting further information.

Charging Points

A form relating to possible funding for charging points on the car park has been submitted. A response has been received and they suggested that the charging point should be near to a building to join to an existing power supply. They have asked if we have an alternative site within the village. If not, the site may be sent to a colleague for consideration for the LEVI Capital project which will be launching later in the summer and is focussed more on standalone car parks and on street charging.

East Suffolk Services

Grass cutting costs, this appears as a separate item on the agenda, the cost of the grass cutting has increased considerably. In 2022/23 the cost was £318.27. In 2023/24 the cost is to be £811.54 (+VAT). In 2024/25 the quote is £1399.44. This is for 14 cuts on both the Carlton Road site and the main Recreation Ground. They have changed the way in which they are charging, it is now going to be an hourly rate. We have placed in the budget £600, which is considerably less.