

Clerk Report Full Council 14th January 2021 – 5.4

Training

I will be attending three training courses in the new year: New Clerks Finance, Data Protection and Clerks Year End Finance.

Two councillors responded to my email regarding the councillor training offered and I am currently in the process of booking this course.

Barclays Bank Update

After an unsuccessful attempt at completing the process online, the relevant forms are now being sent via the post and will hopefully be completed in the next few weeks. Once the forms are returned it will take Barclays 10 working days to set up. Once I have received the letter of confirmation for a change on the bank mandate, Keith can ring Barclays and they will set him up for online banking. Chris will remain on the mandate as a cheque signatory.

The Bodle Street Green Gates & Bodle Street Green Notice Board

I attended a Wealden Clerks meeting in December where the topic of licences was discussed. To clarify prior to the Costain contract town and parish councils didn't have to pay for licences. It was a matter of concern for all Clerks and one particular Clerk will be contacting ESCC to find out whether these charges could again be waived in order that we can realise roadside projects without the significant additional expense.

On the 16th December I had a site meeting with Robin Hayward and Darren Arnold from East Sussex Highways regarding the approximate costs of the installation and licences of the Bodle Street Green gates. They also assessed the new location of the Bodle Street Green notice board.

Regarding the notice board they suggested moving the location to the village hall car park adjacent to the back of the grass verge (marked with a star in the attached picture). They felt it would be a safer place for the public to view notices rather than being on the grass verge adjacent to the main road leading through the village and being close to road junctions at this spot.

Furthermore, as the car park is not part of the public highway we would not need any form of licence from Highways. This would be a saving to the Parish Council of: Section 115 £57.20 and Section 171 £380 a total cost saving of £437.20.

The new notice board siting will be an item at the next CIL meeting on the 19th January for Councillors to discuss.

Robin will be compiling a report on the Bodle Street Green gates which will include all the relevant information the Parish Council will require and including a quote for them to carry out the works. He has promised to send this report in February ahead of the CIL meeting where this will be an item to discuss.

He has also provided me with a list of approved contractors.

Lastly, he confirmed that payment for licences could be made by BACS.

David Bysouth Bench

Despite numerous attempts to contact Jakk Country Furniture Designs Ltd, I have still not received a quote for the bench installation.

I have received one quote from a Highways approved contractor for £750. Now I have a list of approved contractors I will attempt to obtain another two quotes for the CIL meeting in February.

It was resolved at Full Council in October 2020:

00194 It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council would agree to pay the installation costs of the bench, a maximum sum of £745.50, donated by David Bysouth and to be situated at the Blackdown Lane / Forest Lane junction

If the other quotes are also in the region of £750 much higher than the predicted £300 which was agreed this item will have to go back to the CIL Committee for discussion and recommendation to Full Council.

CIL Flyer

The CIL flyer was successfully distributed by the 11th December and the survey went live on the website shortly after. The flyer was also displayed on the notice boards in the parish. There will be a progress update at the CIL meeting on the 19th January. I am currently promoting the survey online as much as possible and a copy of the flyer will be displayed at the Rushlake Green Village stores. The deadline for responses is the 31st January.

SLR

At the request of Cllr Smythe, the Clerk will start to organise an SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meeting. These meetings should be held twice a year. They normally require three parish Councillors, Bill Bentley, a representative from East Sussex Highways and the road safety officer Ian Johnson. If any councillors would like to volunteer to represent the council then please email me directly.

Wild About Warbleton

An email supporting Wild About Warbleton's five proposed new routes for conservation adoption was submitted to James Numark at East Sussex County Council on behalf of Warbleton Parish Council. This email has been acknowledged.

00216 It was **RESOLVED** to support the Wild About Warbleton's five proposed new routes for conservation adoption subject to there being no adverse Highways safety issues or concerns with the same principle applied to any properties situated along those particular verges regarding their sightlines. Also, on the condition East Sussex County Council have a management scheme in place and will not neglect these verges. Cllr Smythe abstained from voting, Cllr Wells and Cllr Powell voted against the resolution.

David Morris – Police Community Support Officer

Cllr Iremonger suggested contacting the local PCSO at the last Full Council meeting. I have been in touch with David Morris who was enthusiastic about attending a future meeting. He has been sent the agenda and a zoom invitation and I have asked for confirmation regarding his attendance. I am hoping he will be introducing himself and allowing time for Councillors to ask him questions.