

# Clerks Report February 2021

I have had confirmation from Breckland Council that the period which electors may request an election to fill a casual vacancy has now elapsed and so we can proceed with filling the vacancy created after Frank Stopp stepped down by co-option.

The vacancy has been advertised on the noticeboard, website and in the Link and hopefully we will be in a position to consider applications at next month's meeting.

Following numerous concerns regarding the wooded area behind Jubilee Way I have been informed that the Enforcement Team at Breckland Council have drafted and sent written correspondence to a resident informing them they must remove all of their property from this area within a set time period. Hopefully this will now resolve the ongoing issues.

Breckland have also confirmed they have visited the site at what was the First School following reports of the site being overgrown. They have confirmed the site does not meet their criteria for an untidy site and so no action has been taken and they have closed their file.

The Clerk and the caretaker have reviewed the action plan drawn up by the Clerk following the play equipment inspection and I can confirm all findings are now, or are in the process of being resolved. The findings were all deemed low risk; however, it was pointed out in the report the safety signage on the outdoor gym equipment does not meet new Health and Safety standards. The current signs state a minimum age limit to use the equipment, whereas new compliance standards state that the signage should state a minimum height as opposed to age. It was also noted there should be signage on the MUGA pertaining to the need to refrain from climbing on the nets frames or hanging from the hoops and also to remind users not to wear jewellery as this can get caught.

Despite many attempts to speak to the company that installed the equipment I did not receive a prompt response. When one was finally received, they stated that as the equipment was installed prior to the changes in the law the signage did not need to be changed. The Clerk liaised with the Play Ground Inspector to clarify and it was confirmed that to meet current legislation the signage should be correct, regardless of when it was installed.

I therefore approached Fenland Leisure to enquire if they can provide signage and they can provide bespoke signage plus the other small items we require to resolve the findings. We have sufficient funds within the approved budget for this maintenance work and therefore I have instructed Fenland Leisure to provide what we need.

Finally, Lanyards for all Councillors are currently in the process of being created and these should be with us soon.