

Clerks Report July 2021

Following the agreement by the Council of the leases I can confirm that the lease between Necton Parish Council and the Necton Allotment Association has been signed by both parties and the lease between Necton Parish Council and Mona Hill Trust has been renewed for a further 10 years. All parties have copies and ours will be retained in the files held at the office and an electronic copy is stored on the Clerks computer.

There have been some further enquiries in regards to ditches and the clearance and maintenance thereof. I have spoken to Breckland Council and checked on their website in this regard. Their website provides a very clear explanation under the heading of **"Who is responsible for the ditch which runs across the bottom of my garden?"** which confirms

"Unless it is known to be owned by others, a ditch which borders your property becomes your responsibility as a riparian landowner and you have a responsibility for maintaining it. Even if you have a fence along the bottom of your garden, in front of the ditch, then you are still the riparian landowner. The responsibility of ownership is shared 50:50 with the landowner on the other side of the ditch unless deeds show otherwise."

Breckland confirmed that a large number of people are unaware of their responsibilities, especially if there is a fence separating their garden from the ditch, however the above statement confirms the position.

The Clerk contacted NCC to report the overgrown trod between Ramms Lane and Black drift. They have responded and confirmed they will not be taking any action at present but will monitor the position. Further to this numerous reports have been made that the reflective posts positioned along the trod appear to be damaged, Councillor Barrett inspected these and the Clerk also noted these were damaged when driving past. These damaged reflective posts have been reported to NCC they have contacted me to ask for some photos which I have duly provided.

Following agreement at the last meeting whereby the PC confirmed it would support the No Cold Calling Zone in Farm Walk the Clerk contacted Breckland and made the application. Chair Bass will act as champion as this is in her area and she will provide updates when appropriate.

Following agreement by the PC at the last meeting to lease a small parcel of land in the Marlpit to a resident the Clerk made contact to confirm the decision and agree the conditions. The resident is agreeable and a lease document will be drawn up and checked by our solicitor. I have contacted our solicitors, Ward Gethin Archer to instruct them and can confirm there will be no financial costs to Necton Parish Council in regards to this agreement. Further updates will be provided accordingly.

Chair Bass, Councillor Jennings and the Clerk conducted an interview with the applicant for the caretaker position. Unfortunately, the decision was taken not to offer the role. Therefore, we are still looking to recruit a new caretaker. This will be re- advertised in the next edition of the Link.

A leaflet produced by NFSA (Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance) has been distributed to all residents in Necton giving a telephone number to call. It also mentions a Parish Council Emergency Plan. Just to confirm that we do hold a plan but it requires updating since there has been a number of changes with Councillors. This is a piece of work that has to be undertaken in partnership with Breckland. I have commenced work on this and am liaising with appropriate Officer.