

# Clerks Report December 2021

The annual playground inspection has been completed and whilst there are a small number of findings they are all low risk, I will draw up a schedule of works needed with a order of priority and then look to get these undertaken.

Following agreement to endorse the Crimestoppers initiative I have registered the PC as a community ambassador. The next steps are for them to send us a welcome pack and further information which I will share once received.

Tom Cox, Highway Technician at NCC has confirmed work has started to clear the area on the bend of Mill Street and Chantry Lane, they have felled the trees that needed to be removed and the ditch work and clearing of the pavement has now been booked in, as well as a check on the gully there. Hopefully this should improve any potential flooding issues and make it safer to walk here as the pavement will be clear.

The meeting being held by Vattenfall to deliver information on their Community Benefit Fund has been confirmed for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. This will be held between 6.00pm until 8.00pm at the Community Centre. I have advertised this in the Link magazine and have also emailed neighbouring Parish Council Clerks to let them know the event is being held. I am awaiting some posters from Vattenfall which, when received will be used in the noticeboards. We obviously would like as much representation at the meeting and so please therefore I would like us to encourage attendance with as many residents as possible. I can also confirm George Freeman MP will be attending as well.

The Norfolk Arborist has now reduced the crowns on the trees at the edge of the playing field and this completes the work needed there.

I can also confirm the lease of the parcel of land at the Marlpit is progressing well, our solicitor has a draft copy of the lease which she will inspect and myself and the Chair have provided identification to our instructed solicitor as this is required by themselves.

My CiLCA training has commenced and I have registered with SLCC, who are the accreditation authority and award the qualification. There are 30 modules in total and I have so far completed 13 of these since starting at the end of September. Submissions are divided in different topic modules and I have had my first module marked and assessed by the SLCC. Their comments were 'A very impressive start to your portfolio Justine and you have set a high bar for the quality of your future work. Unit 1 is successfully completed and your assessor is impressed with both your level of presentation and accuracy of content'. In regards to overtime utilised to date for CiLCA I have claimed a total of 20 hours from the 60 hours authorised by the Council.

Finally, as we all know the Covid restrictions seem to be changing and moving at great speed at present. The legislation that was in place to enable Councils to hold meetings remotely was only a temporary one and expired in May this year. NALC and SLCC are campaigning for this legislation to be enshrined in Law as a permanent piece of legislation to allow for restriction changes. Until then we are in a position where any meeting called has to be in person. NALC did suggest in the last few days that Councils could consider not holding a meeting in December. We had already called ours and, like many other Councils the December meeting is a crucial one as budgets and precepts are determined in order to request the precept required from the District Council. I will monitor the situation and assess, along with updated guidance and advice as to whether a meeting in January should take place.