

Clerks Report January 2022

Following on from points raised at the last meeting I can confirm the lights that are on a timer at the hall have now been adjusted and I instructed Westcotec to fix the light that was not working in the car park. They have carried out two visits, the first to check what the issue was and the second to repair. It seems the lamp's electrical set up was not a standard one and needed to be replaced. They have therefore replaced with a Holophane LED lamp and this is now fully operational. The cost of this was within the budget allocated for this year for village maintenance. I have also reported the overgrown hedge at the bus stop on the A47 to National Highways, noting we cannot cut it back as it's their responsibility.

Following agreement of the budget and precept required I can confirm that I have confirmed to Breckland DC that Necton PC require the sum of £71400 to be raised via precept for the year 2022/2023.

The meeting to be held by Vattenfall is still scheduled to take place and will be a hybrid of attending in person and via video link. Posters have been displayed in the noticeboards to inform residents and hopefully there should be a good attendance. George Freeman MP is due to attend as well and so it would be good if all Councillors can be there.

My CiLCA training is progressing and I can confirm I have now completed 20 of the required 30 modules. Of those completed 13 have been assessed, only one module needs some additional work- the assessor has asked me to add an additional paragraph to clarify a point. Overtime claimed is still within agreed amounts.

I have received correspondence from our solicitors regarding the First Registration of the land and all ID procedures have now been completed. This now means they are officially instructed to commence the work. As I was unsure as to whether this would be completed in this financial year the allocation of funds to pay for this work was included in next year's budget. If, however it is completed earlier and payment is due before then we have sufficient funds to cover this year. As this was agreed at a previous meeting there is no need to re-consider this, it will just mean that the balances carried forward will be lower but the budget line for next year will be removed thus negating each other. I will of course produce a revised budget to be considered once dates and payment timings are known.

Following groundworks at the allotments a few months ago myself and Councillor Bateman met with members of the Necton Allotment Association and the contractor on site just before Christmas. Whilst the works that were carried out have had some impact there is still flooding on some of the plots. You may recall we were made aware that the works may have to be in stages and it appears that the first stage has not resolved the problems fully. The contractor is currently looking at solutions and will provide an update and costs for us to consider very soon. In order to resolve the problems, we will need to spend more money and once I know what these costs look like I can present the information and budget information to you all.

Finally, I received confirmation from Ken Barrett that he wished to step down as a Councillor. I have updated contact information on the notice boards and on the website and informed Breckland of the vacancy. The obligatory 14 days whereby an election is required if requested by ten electors ends on 13th January and thereafter we can look to fill this vacancy via the causal vacancy process if an election is not required. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken Barrett for his time and contribution to Necton Parish Council and pass on the best wishes of the Council to him.