

## **Clerks Report March 2022**

Following further concerns raised by residents regarding dog fouling near Kingfisher Drive I have contacted Breckland to raise this ongoing issue again. This was done via their online portal and I confirmed that this is an ongoing issue with many previous reports being made. I asked if some signs could be erected around the area to remind dog walkers of the Law in this regard and confirmed there seems to be a lot of dog mess in this area. I thereafter received an automated response with a reference number which confirmed this would be passed to their contracted company Serco to take forward.

I have also reported to NCC that the ditch at the bend on Mill Street seems to be blocked or at least running very slowly. Bearing in mind the issues there previously I have asked Tom Cox the NCC Highway Technician to take a look.

After emails received from the public I have contacted Breckland to request a litter pick on the A47 at the junctions with Tuns Road. I am aware these are carried out on a regular basis but I have been informed there seems to be a lot of litter there at present and so a request has been made for them to undertake as soon as possible.

Our street lighting bills are still being suspended by Npower whilst they are considering their billing structure. On a positive I can now look at our account with them online now after several weeks of waiting and chasing for a unique code allowing me access. I have increased the draft budget for the next financial year for street lighting to take into consideration these suspended bills. Our contract with Npower expires on 30<sup>th</sup> April and I have instructed a broker to seek out alternative suppliers with competitive rates for the Council to consider at the appropriate time. I have however, been informed no companies are willing to commit to fixed priced contracts at present due to the current global crisis and so we will need to consider next steps in a months' time with hopefully better news regarding energy prices.

I have now had confirmation that Wayne, the Parish Assistant will be leaving us on 31<sup>st</sup> March. He will ensure all paperwork etc. for the year is in order and I will cover the role in the short term until decisions are taken regarding a replacement. His final salary payment includes pay to cover for all of the unpaid holiday for this year and his P45 and other paperwork has been processed.

Finally, I have now completed all 30 modules for the CiLCA qualification. I am still waiting for the last 7 to be marked and there may be some re-working to undertake following any feedback from the assessor. I can confirm that I have utilised 53 hours of the agreed 60 hours agreed to complete the training and the assessments. There may be an additional hour or two required if any re-working is required on the last 7 awaiting marking.