

CLERK'S REPORT – 14th January 2019

Financial Matters – Agenda Item 5

NJC New Pay Scales – New pay scales for implementation from 1st April 2019 have been issued. The Parish Council will need to approve their use.

Grant Request for Lifeskills Charity & Dial a Ride – You have received requests for Grant support from these charities which I am obliged to put before you. However, in order to make a grant of this sort you do need to be satisfied that it is for the benefit of at least some of your electors. You are not permitted to give grants unless there is a benefit to the Parish.

Parish Council Matters – Agenda Item 6

Parish Councillor Vacancy – The resignation of Mr. A. Done has now also been received. The vacancy has been advertised over the last few weeks and as such can now be filled by co-option without any further notice as we are close to the elections in May 2019.

GDPR Compliance and Data Privacy Policy – Agenda Item 6.

The Data Privacy Policy is not yet complete as the clerk has not had sufficient time to do this. It will need to be done for the next meeting for adoption and so that councillors will have plenty of time to review it beforehand.

General Parish Matters – Agenda Item 7

Southstoke Lane and Village Road Safety – The Clerk has requested implementation of such a scheme from B&NES Highways. They have responded indicating they are unwilling to consider this, and are equally unenthusiastic about a statutory 20 m.p.h. limit. However, given the recent injury from an accident and the persistent pressure from your electors some measure needs to be considered and implemented. The Parish Council will need to put pressure on B&NES Highways to achieve this as they seem unwilling even if Parish CIL money is used to fund it.

Midford Road/Village – road safety issues

- Midford Village - Any further progress to report.
- Castle Bend – Any further progress to report.
- Combe Path Lawn BA22/7-8 Diversion and Crossing – The footpath diversion order has come into force and the path diverted and gate moved. No road safety measures have been implemented but are planned for 2019/20. The new gate emerges at a significant splash point on the road, neither gate on the two footpaths is visible from the other and sight lines appear to be rather short from the BA22/7 gate position for safe crossing. The old gate position remains open, and it is recommended that this remains the case until satisfactory road safety measures are implemented. These need to address the position of the crossing point and the splash point if highway safety is to be improved.

Broadband Provision in South Stoke and Midford – TrueSpeed have been active in the area carrying out works in Combe Hay and surveying South Stoke. It is understood that they are close to recruiting sufficient customers to reach their 30%, but it is not known what area they are applying this 30% to.

Midford Phone Box - The Midford residents have met to discuss the relocation of the phone box and any refurbishment will wait until further comment from them.

Police Liaison – PCSO Meeting Place The next meeting has been arranged for Monday 14th January at 11:00 a.m. in the Packhorse Pub, so should have taken place by the time of our meeting.

Footpaths and Open Spaces – Agenda Item 8

Millennium Viewpoint – Damage from Vandals – The clerk is awaiting quotations from builders for the repair. These need to be sent to our insurers to make a claim before works can be instructed.

Churchyard – A new contract for the Agency Agreement may be available for approval and signing at the meeting.

Highway Matters – Maintenance Update and Road Safety Issues - Agenda Item 10

Maintenance Update - It is thought unlikely that there will be anything further to report beyond those matters arising above.

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B&NES Matters – Agenda Item 11

Cam Valley (BathAvon South) Forum – The next meeting is Thursday 14th February

Correspondence Received – Agenda Item 13

B&NES Council has produced a draft Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy and guidance which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on the 6th February. Community assets are land or buildings that have current or future potential use for community value. They can be brought into community ownership through a number of routes and can involve different organisational structures and terms of ownership. The policy provides a framework and criteria for organisations wishing to apply. It follows the principles set out in the guidance document produced by Locality on Community Asset Transfer and examples taken from other local authorities including Bristol City Council, Isle of Wight and Wigan Borough Council.

We would welcome any views or comments that you may have on the draft policy by completing the on-line form here, deadline 25th January 2018. The draft policy will be presented to the CTE Scrutiny Panel on the 21st January 2019.

Royal Garden Party – The invitation to nominate someone to attend as a representative of West of England Councils has been received from ALCA. As in previous years we are invited to nominate someone for the ballot for the two places available.

Dates for Future Meetings – Agenda Item 22

Dates for future meetings for the coming year need to be agreed, the following suggestions are made:-

Monday 11th March 2019

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday April 15th 2019

Annual Parish Council Meeting: May 20th 2019