

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Julie Hodgkiss
Chairman: Cllr C Clode

Clerks Report September 2023

I hope you have had a restful Summer.

Kids Summer Activities

We provided 4 sports sessions, 4 craft sessions and 2 movie afternoons. We had 121 children attend in total, it was restricted to children from Bayston Hill. All sessions were extremely well received and enjoyed by the children. We received a lot of positive feedback. My thanks to Rachael and Peter who both supported the events, special thanks to Cllr Stevens who helped us with the movie afternoons.

Strategy Meeting

We held our Strategy/Budget meeting back in mid-July which was very useful. Members focussed on the priorities for the next year, notes from the meeting have been circulated separately.

Audit

The access to the Co-op account remains an issue. Our complaint is now with the Financial Ombudsman. The auditor required the year end bank statements – which Co-op said they couldn't provide, despite Cllr Clarke having access. I have lodged a second complaint to the Co-op due to this matter. The completed audit has not yet been returned.

Oaklands site

We continue to communicate with Cornovii and they have reacted quickly to complaints about mess on the road. We were invited to visit on 9th August to view progress and were told that there had been a huge interest in purchasing the properties.

Glebelands

The application has been withdrawn and the local press will be at the Glebelands on Thursday. We have written to Balfours to request a reinstatement of our lease arrangements. We have also written to members of the Northern Planning Committee updating them and asking them to support the application for Village Green status.

Playground

I have had 2 onsite meetings with playground companies. One so far has come back with some ideas. A third company will be providing a desktop quote. I have asked for a small piece of "imagination" play equipment and a refresh of what we have. Toilet Block – I am still waiting for a revised quote to convert to storage as opposed to a toilet from one company.

Staffing

Summer has had its trials, along with the usual staff annual leave we have had some periods of ill health. In spite of this the team have worked really hard to remain on top of work at this very busy time.

Pavilion

I have had an initial visit from a local architect regarding plans for the site. I am waiting on a second. This is to quote for plans at this stage. I will need these to apply for additional funding and to tender for the works.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon – 29th September 1pm, Memorial Hall

Apple Pressing – 7th October 1pm, Pavilion

Repair Café – 14th October 10am, Christ Church

Remembrance Observance – 12th November 10.30am, Memorial Hall

I am on annual leave September 7th – 17th.

Julie Hodgkiss, Clerk/RFO