

Parish Clerk & RFO Report August 2024

AGENDA ITEMS

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 July 2024

Re. minute number 2632/2425 & 2648/2425

Achilles have signed and returned their 2024/25 Licence and have paid the fee of £600.

Re. minute number 2639/2425 & 2648/2425

I've seen sight of the Cricket Club's year end accounts.

7. Finance & Governance

iv. Financial Regulations: to ADOPT updated Financial Regulations, in line with the NALC Model 2024

(Re. minute number 2628 iv/2425 & 2649 iv/2425)

Please find the summary below of the adaptations Adrian and I have made to the NALC Financial Regulations Model 2024; we consider these changes will bring about simplicity and continuity throughout the document:

5.6 the threshold has been reduced from £60k to £5k

5.8 £3k to £5k

5.9 £3k to £5k

5.15, second bullet point £2k to £5k

5.18 £2k to £5k

6.6(i) £2k to £5k

17. Allotments: to CONSIDER/AGREE allotment holder request to erect a toughened glass greenhouse

19. GDPR

I've re-visited the GDPR policies and procedures adopted by the Council in May 2023, and where necessary have updated those that referenced the 'Locum Clerk' with 'Parish Clerk' and replaced the old email address with the new email address for the Clerk.

FINANCE

Babergh DC Dog & Litter Bin Emptying

Having checked the findings of the the audit undertaken by Cllr Tyrrell, against the schedule held by Babergh DC, it was found that we were being charged for 2 bins that we don't have @ £69.00 each. This was brought to the attention of the BDC public realm team 3 weeks before the direct debit payment was due to be taken but unfortunately, the error wasn't amended in time. A request for £138.00 +VAT (total £165.60) has been requested.

OTHER MATTERS

Update re the **Copdock Interchange underpass / art student's mural project**. I continue to chase the National Highways (NH) regional senior engineer (structures) for a satisfactory response to the proposal of the Suffolk One Art students painting a mural on the underpass walls, in light of the projects that NH supported in Bristol and Nottinghamshire.

In the meantime, I've contacted NH enquiries in an attempt to speak with these other regional teams to see how the projects were allowed to happen. Their response of 26 July 2024 is as follows –

“Thank you for your call of 16 July 2024 to our Customer Contact Centre about creation of murals in the underpass. I'm replying as a team member responsible for the management of the A14.

We are currently having internal discussions about the best approach to allow murals to be painted on our assets and with a view of which to be applied at a national level.

Following this, a process will be prepared, and then we'll provide more details when it'll be ready for implementation.

Whilst we're not categorically against this, we also need to make sure our structures will be able to be inspected and maintained in line with our inspection regimes.”

East Customer Services Team

Operations (East) | National Highways

Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

As this response didn't answer the question raised when I contacted the customer services, I've gone back to them, again asking for the contact details of the Bristol and Nottinghamshire teams so that I may contact them in order to better understand how those schemes were allowed to happen, and to thereby assist the eastern region team in speeding up their approach in granting permission for a mural project to be undertaken by the Suffolk ONE art students.

Allotments Richard English contacted me to advise that 2 allotment plots are being neglected. I contacted the allotment holders and asked about their intentions going forward.

One plot holder has broken her wrist and advised that she's asked her family to help her out. We've agreed to review the matter at the end of August.

A further email was sent to the other plot holder, but no response was forthcoming. A notice to vacate has been sent via 2nd class mail, signature required.

Sue Frankis

Clerk to the Parish of Copdock & Washbrook