

Parish Clerk & RFO Report May 2024

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 April 2024:

Minute 2588/2425. Parish Council Insurance

The existing policy, AJG Community Scheme, insured through Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd by Gallagher has been cancelled and a **refund of £762.99** has been paid.

The new policy is with Ansvar and has been arranged through Business Services at CAS Ltd.

The old policy cost **£1,517.70 + a pro rata addition of £223.66** for the new play equipment and revisions of the valuations on the Fixed Asset Register.

The new policy has cost **£1,268.40** on a 3yr LTU.

Notes to accompany 7 May 2024 Agenda Items:

Agenda 9 v: to ALLOCATE the General Fund 2024

The General Fund is the balance of monies received and paid in any one financial year by the Council. At the end of each financial year, the General Fund has to be allocated to Reserves; these can be earmarked reserves or a general reserve.

The General Fund 2024 is £18,333.65.

I've prepared a paper to show the budget headings this is made up from and a proposed allocation.

I've suggested the funds from the Achilles Annual Fee, playing field hiring and excess pitch repair funding is allocated to the play areas, but you might like to change this?

ACTION: Perhaps either expanding the 'Play Area' budget line to include maintenance etc. of the playing field or to introduce a new budget line for the playing field?

Agenda 14: Tesco / Old London Road Underpass

At the beginning of the year, Anne Kell approached the Parish Council with a proposal to deal with the graffiti in the Tesco / A12 underpass.

Quote from Anne –

"As [the removal of graffiti] seems to be a never-ending battle between National Highways and the graffiti artists we would like to propose an alternative solution, which we hope would make a much brighter and less threatening environment for pedestrians and cyclists and, hopefully, act as a deterrent to the graffiti artists. It would also be an educational resource and give local students a pride in their community.

This underpass is used on a daily basis in term time for students to access the sixth form college at Suffolk One. Suffolk One has a thriving Art and Design department which has already been involved in some community-based enterprises, most notably the production of some hoardings to cover the windows of the now unused BHS store in Ipswich town centre. These have received many positive responses from the local community and certainly brighten up this part of the town centre. The Art

and Design department have already been approached with a view to producing something similar for the underpass and would welcome the opportunity. This would provide a real-life opportunity for pupils to see their designs have a real purpose rather than just be a classroom-based activity.”

However, National Highways are doing everything they can to obstruct this proposal despite a similar project being undertaken by the primary school children at Sproughton, for the Sproughton / A14 underpass; we’re having to face obstacles at every turn but are determined to get the result we want.

FINANCE

Since the 2024/25 budget and precept were set, monthly bank fees have been introduced for the Corporate Charge card, a fee not budgeted for. We’ll therefore need to add £36 to the budget line ‘Bank Charges’ at some point, to meet these costs.

Sue Frankis
Clerk to the Parish of Copdock & Washbrook