

AGENDA ITEMS

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of August 6, 2024

Re. minute number 2672/2425

The details of the speed indicator device and equipment has been forwarded to Cllr Tyrrell.

Re. minute number 2678/2425

The allotment holder has been advised of the Council's decision not to allow a toughened glass greenhouse to be installed, in line with the Agreement and Schedule (the Schedule forms part of the Agreement), as issued to all allotment holders; they have been advised that a Perspex or similar product would be allowed. Although the holder expressed his disappointment and advised he was not aware of any Allotment Holders Agreement, I was able to forward a copy of the Agreement, in his name, to him as a reminder.

Re. minute number 2679/2425

A submission of support for the Cricket Club's Neighbourhood CIL application has been made and a receipt acknowledged by Babergh District Council.

Re. minute number 2681/2425

The link to the Suffolk County Council Highways Reporting Tool has been circulated to cllrs and the residents who requested it. As soon as the Parish Council website is up and running, I'll add the link and details.

FINANCE

Babergh DC Dog & Litter Bin Emptying

(Having checked the findings of 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.)

UPDATE: 19 August 2024 - I've been advised by Babergh DC that the request for a refund has been passed to their Finance Team.

Unity Trust Bank (UTB) revision of charges

24 June 2024 – received notification from UTB that following their review of the 2023 banking transactions, the tariff had been adjusted according to the credit turnover throughout 2023.

1 July 2024 - I challenged this increase of charges as the CWPC records showed a total of £94,965.07 had been paid into the account; the threshold for tariff 1 is £99,999

31 July 2024 – the findings of the challenge were not upheld; the credit turnover had been £135,738.94. Having reconciled a print-off of all credit transactions from 010123 to 311223 against the CWPC cash books, I've identified the amounts that were credited to the bank account, but which weren't credits in the Cash Book.

13 February – Royal Bank of Scotland closing balance paid into UTB	£39,607.95
6 April – DD salary payment to A Chapman returned and paid into UTB	£866.92
25 April - payment for playing field hire returned to hirer	£25.00
3 July – DD rent paid by cricket club in error (subsequently returned)	£274.00
Total	£40,773.87

CWPC Cash Book receipts for 2023	£94,965.07
UTB credits for 2023	£135,738.94

Difference **£40,773.87**

Therefore, UTB are right to change the tariff to T2 for 2024, but which should be returned to T1 next year.

Tariff 1 - £6@ month fee

Tariff 2 - £6 @ month fee plus 15p per each credit or debit transaction

In 2023 the total number of credits and debits would have generated an increase in bank charges of £31.65 (79 credits and 132 debits @15p each) however, I would anticipate a decrease in the number of transactions for 2024.

In 2023, allotment holders had to each make 2 payments during the year, one for the annual rent and then a top-up payment as the rental year was changed within the SCC revised lease (approx. 46 additional payments - £6.90)

Monthly payments for the clerk's pension are no longer made - £1.80

OTHER MATTERS

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.)

UPDATE: The allotment holder who had broken her wrist has been helped out by her family who have restored the plot to a manageable state. The other allotment holder has given up her plot, which Richard has been advised of.

Streetlight, Whights Corner I'm pleased to report that this streetlight has finally been repaired.

Strudwick Codes (old website provider) The monthly direct debit of £35 has been cancelled, paid to Strudwick Codes for the monthly management of the old website. This fee was in addition to the hosting fee.

Sue Frankis

Clerk to the Parish of Copdock & Washbrook