

CLERKS REPORT 30/09/26

Policies

There are four policies to re-adopt at this meeting, and they are the Accessibility Statement, Publication Scheme, Equality and Diversity, and the Health & Safety Policy.

Car Park.

There are no updates on the permanent vehicles in the car park. A comment was placed in the article for the Community News.

Traffic management

A chasing email has been sent to the Highways Engineer, this was regarding the signage at Bramble Corner as this work has not been completed.

No further update has been received from Rebecca Quigg regarding the 30mph.

Sizewell C Community Fund

A statement has been received from the Football club that use the recreation ground, this has been added to the review form. Following on from Edwina's email, if anyone has any other statements that could be placed on the form, please let me know.

Planning Forum

There was a forum held at the ESC offices in Melton. This was quite informative (the slides will be shared with the PC). There are some changes to be made to the planning committee, this will now be one committee with 13 members, whereas before it was 2 committees, north and south. There are 2 schedules regarding planning, the Schedule 1 applications (up to 9 houses) will go straight to the Nominated Officer (Head of planning and building control). Schedule 2 will go to the Nominated member (Chair of planning committee) as well. Local input is important, but the process should become quicker. There is to be a second call for sites, this is common practice and should not alarm residents. The housing targets for ESC currently run at 795 per annum, the Government have stated that this should now be 1658. It was suggested by someone attending the event that Darsham would be a good place for a new town location on the basis that it is on two strategic routes, the A12 and the railway, and it is in a gap between other towns. It is near a high growth area (Leiston) and can access schools by Public Transport. The CIL funding rules remain the same.

Webinar

SALC held a webinar about the changes that are happening with regards to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. One of the changes mentioned includes the move to place the staff wages into the expenditure, as this is becoming an issue for some Councils where the Clerk is the only member of staff. There is of course the move to make this all digital by the end of the 2028-29 financial year. More training is to take place between September 2027 – April 2028. It was also advised that the Clerk should make themselves aware of the Practitioners Guide, as this will assist with the changes.

Resilience and Emergency Planning the Parish Councils role – this is another webinar that I have attended again held by SALC. This reinforced the need for an Emergency Plan to be in place. This can be led by a group but would need some involvement from the PC. The main question to come out of the session was the insurance cover for volunteers. Support can be given to write an Emergency Plan, but it was also advised to look at other parishes plans to assist with the completion of one. The plan should be relevant to this parish, as the needs for each are different.

Coffee Mornings

The Rural Coffee Caravan will be attending the coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of the month in October, November and December. It has also been mentioned that the Essex & Suffolk Water will be attending with their van on the 4th November to provide an update to the village about the proposals on the new pipeline. No further update has been received from VANessa, which is led by ESC, as to when they may attend the village.

Budget

Please note that I will start working on the budget next month. Let me know if there is a project that you would like added to the budget for some funding to be considered. I hope to present a draft budget in November, for full approval in December. Linked to this the PC will need to approve the precept request in December for submission to ESC in January.

Advertising Revenue

Email reminders have been sent to 4 companies regarding their outstanding invoices for adverts in the Community News. This totals around £400.

Annual Leave

Please note that I will be on Annual Leave on the 23rd October.