

A day in the life of a Parish Clerk

Another busy day scheduled with a meeting planned with the Village Hall Committee to look at the legal aspects of the new lease to enable us to build the new Community Building. This is the first time a project of this value, £1.2 Million has been undertaken by this Parish Council.

I then have a meeting with the Project Manager for this project as we do not want to miss any vital deadlines especially with funding. We will need to liaise with all the users as much as possible so that they are aware. The newsletter, the Gazette that we produce and deliver is a good tool for this.

Still no response from the Charity approached for a large grant (£100K), so will need to chase.

It is also time to start progressing the PWLB for monies but the need to get all the councillors in one place to all vote together, it is seeming impossible, we will get there but that box must be ticked before we can go any further. I will ask the team to help with this while I am away on annual leave.

Also need to chase the architect regarding the applied for Planning Permission.

The Council's budget needs to be revised to avoid unnecessary overspend in areas affected by the Play Park improvements. Savings will need to be made elsewhere to allow for this. I need to ask the councillors and Committee chairs of their plans for spending next year so that we can be included in the budgets for next year.

The Grounds Contractor's contract is nearing its end, it has already been extended by one year, really need to go out to tender again. It is time to get on top of all the legal requirements of such a tender. County will need to agree the funding for us cutting the verges again soon.

The cemetery needs to be visited this week to ensure that the works to the new paths are progressing and then to ensure the benches are coated and the pergola before the winter.

With winter will come the Remembrance Day parade initially followed very quickly by the Christmas lights switch on event both of which are down to us to arrange and book everything. Must ensure that our insurance is still covering these events and arrange for the Christmas lights to be delivered back to us, checked and ready for putting up again to cheer the village.

Meanwhile another resident has come into the office to complain about the new pothole that has appeared on Church Road, some only come for social contact but that is part of what we are here for I consider as I get to hear what is going on in the village with their visits. The Youth that cause problems in the cemetery late in the evening don't realise this which works to my advantage as I have my own "spies" so it is easier to handle the minor aggravations caused at the moment and hope that they don't escalate, or we will have to involve our friendly Police Officer! However, must report the pothole to County so that it can be repaired before causing damage to someone's car.

It really isn't a Vicar of Dibley day and Jackie Weaver has a lot to answer for!