



GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL CLERK'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

7th September
2020

Report to Full Council

Procedures

In April 2020, the council introduced Emergency Standing Orders which dissolved some of its more pressing, decision making powers to the Clerk for the purposes of continued operation. Other business has been conducted via email, in line with the new emergency standing orders.

All business decisions made are minuted within documents Decisions Made Apr- May & Jun-Jul 2020.

While the Emergency Standing orders provide a mode of operation for full lockdown the Clerk advises that this cannot be a long-term form of business operation for purposes of transparency. Government and NALC advice is that in person council meetings should still be avoided unless absolutely necessary, with business being conducted via virtual channels. This creates a challenge for GMPC with the limited broadband capacity. The council needs to find a suitable alternative particularly as the pandemic appears to be on the increase again.

Financial

The council's finances are in good order, with a successful internal audit completed in June 2020. The annual return has been completed and

signed off and a Certificate of Exemption registered with PKF Littlejohn. The latest budget and actuals were circulated on 25th August 2020.

An application for CIF funding towards the cost of boules courts and new picnic/bench tables, has been submitted and a decision is awaited.

What Happens Next?

Looking forward, the Autumn verge cut and footpath mowing is scheduled for late September. The council may wish to consider whether it is appropriate and Covid safe to conduct litter picks.

It will not be long before the council is invited to consider Precept for 2021/22.

FYI

As a point of note, please be advised that when legal or procedural advice is required from EALC the process is now much longer and a response can take 2/3 weeks!

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UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

FINANCE