

## CLERKS REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Actions from May Meeting

- All ROI forms submitted to BDC following election. Link to completed forms awaited, once received it will be placed on the council website.
- AGAR – completed forms submitted to external auditor PKF Littlejohn, and public notices displayed in line with regulatory requirements. Sign off from PKF Littlejohn awaited.
- Letter sent to the owners of land at Kofali Farm requesting clearance of roadside gullies and cut back of overgrowth at Purls Hill – no response received.

### Financial/Budget

1. **Playing Field Project.** The final invoice payment to Earth Wrights has now been paid at the mutually agreed, reduced amount of £5232.31. This allows for the additional costs of £1110.89 for playing field surface repair. A first payment of £33732.28 has been paid to Premier Play Solutions in respect of the pathway. A final instalment of £6779.72 will be paid once we have received the final drawdown from the National Lottery. 5% (£3750) has been withheld by the Lottery, as part of their usual agreement, and to allow for a full assessment of the project and all requirements have been met. A payment of £1000.00 will be received from St Giles School, by way of their contribution towards the pathway marker posts, and the remaining balance to the Lottery will be covered from VAT to be reclaimed. It is possible that I may ask to make use of general reserves pending receipt of the VAT reimbursement, due to timescales.
2. **Council Bank Account.** In line with previous recommendations by the council's internal auditor, and for my own personal peace of mind, I am hopeful of transferring the council's bank accounts to Lloyds Bank who offer a free banking service for parish councils with an annual turnover below £25k. Obviously with the impact of the Playing Field Project & Lottery grant GMPC currently exceeds this threshold, but I am currently in the process of finding out what Lloyds Bank may be prepared to do. The alternative is Unity Trust Bank, which many councils use, but will cost £6 per month and does not pay interest. I will keep you advised.



**National Grid Bramford to Twinsted Tee** – The council is registered as an “interested party” to ensure it continues to receive all planning updates and information

### Local Council Award Scheme

I have registered the council's interest in reapplying for Foundation Status. Registration will cost £50



### Highways Defects

A number of potholes have been reported to Cty.Cllr.P.Schwieer in line with his request for submissions. All defects reported have apparently already been identified