**CLERKS REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL MEETING 13th March 2024**

**Actions from January Meeting**

* Precept demand send to BDC, and confirmation now received. Precept set at £12500 for 2024/25
* Raise request with BDC Local Highways Panel for various repairs at Hulls Mill – response outstanding

**Parish Noticeboard**

My personal thanks to all those involved in removing old board and erecting new board, it is appreciated.

**Braintree Council Services**

The regular emptying of poo bins still seems to be a problem, I have had to chase BDC for unemptied bins again in the past few weeks.

**Bus Service**

Have undertaken research of other rural parishes who have experienced loss of bus service in past 12 months to understand key issues to help inform further communication with ECC.

**EV Charging Points**

See separate briefing paper

**Playing Field Car Park Surface**

See separate briefing paper

**Local Council Award Scheme**

Following initial assessment by the Triage team, I had to make some amendments to the information displayed on the council’s website. A revised application has now been submitted and the council is advised that a response will now not be received until April 2024.Apparently the scheme will be updated in the next 12 months, so it will be good to get the assessment now and have it in place for 4 years before a new exercise needs to be completed.

**Training**

Cllr.Last is due to attend Councillor Training Days 1 & 2 in March and the councillor training bursary has been applied for.

**Internal Audit**

Heelis & Lodge are confirmed as the council’s internal auditors for 2024 and it is hoped to comlete this process early in April.

**Insurance Claim**

Replacement equipment has been purchased – an upgraded Stihl multi-tool which also has a strimmer attachment. Clear insurance have confirmed they will cover the cost of the new equipment, provided the total does not exceed the insured cost of the previous 2 pieces of equipment on which we had claimed. A £125 excess will still be due, and as soon as the insurers have all the information required for the claim, the council can submit a copy of the invoice to claim appropriate reimbursement.

**D-Day 80 Beacon Lighting Commemoration**

Parish beacon lighting on 6th June has been confirmed with the Pageantmaster.

St Giles PCC will participate in national bell ringing at 6.30pm.

Beacon lighting and tribute at 9.15pm

Fish and chip van to arrive at 8pm

Cash bar to operate at village hall and free drink to be handed out to coincide with beacon lighting

Non-ticketed event, to be promoted in parish news and via social media

**Parish Assembly – 17th April 2024**

Invites sent to various village institutions/groups in past week

Believ to deliver presentation on EV Charging points

PCSO attendance requested

**Financial/Budget**

1. ****Budget** I have circulated an up to date Budget spreadsheet showing Actuals v Budget up to end October 2023. Hopefully this will help towards your initial thoughts for Precept next year, as the next council meeting in January will be when you agree annual budget and Precept for 2024/25.
2. **Council Bank Account** As per e-mail 28th February, a suggested change of direction from Lloyds bank to Unity Trust Bank.
3. **J&M Payroll Services** The council has not received an invoice for services for 2023/24, I have chased. This will now most likely fall into the new budget year.

 **Produced by Ann Crisp, Clerk 07/03/2024**