

# WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

## ITEM 157 UPDATE FROM CLERK

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**Author:** Clerk Michelle Legg  
**Summary:** An update on work progress and issues

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**i. Tree work** on Littleworth Green has been carried out. Contractors took images (which have been circulated) of the deterioration of the trees, highlighting the need for removal. Work along the footpath at Farm Close Rd/Station Rd has been delayed. New contractors have been appointed and work is due to be carried out between 3-5<sup>th</sup> March.

Further advice and one quote has been sought, in relation to replanting. This was to support a grant application (£2,500) from SODC Councillor Community Grant. The application is being reviewed and we await a decision.

This item will be discussed in greater detail at the next Open Spaces Committee.

### ii. WNP response

**iii. Community Larder.** The Clerk has approached the Howe Trust, who showed some interest, but there has also been an approach made from the church, so further updates are expected.

**iv. Handforth PC feedback.** This has been a very topical subject both in the media and in the local council realm. There have been some positives that can be taken from the recording, and Ms Weavers interviews, that it has raised the profile of local councils, the opportunities to become a councillor and the work that local councils do, however there have also been discussions around bullying and meeting management.

**v. Learning and Development** – Clerk has attended SLCC virtual conference (3 days) and attended OCVA training on Managing Impact. Any learning will be shared with the council in the coming days/weeks.

**vi. Virtual/face to face meetings.** At the time of writing there is still no sign of an extension to the current legislation which expires on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. If no extension is granted and with restrictions and social distancing measures in place, we will need to consider:

- A. Revert to a schedule of delegation to designated Cllrs and the Clerk until social distancing measures are reduced
- B. Work with Merry Bells to confirm availability and COVID securities that can accommodate at face-to-face meetings and our legislative requirements

C-19 risk assessments will be reviewed as appropriately

**vii. Annual Meeting of Parish Council** – this meeting is impacted by the point above. I would make the recommendation that the council move its May meeting (currently scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May, due to Bank holiday on 3<sup>rd</sup> May) to Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This will enable core appointments and legislative requirements to met and made, before the legislation ends.

**viii. Annual Parish Meeting** – confirmation from OALC that the meeting can still go ahead with this meeting virtually, providing it takes place before 6<sup>th</sup> May. After consulting with representatives from WNP and Dame S Street we are looking at a meeting to take place during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> April. A suggestion is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, although alternatives welcome

Please note that the April Parish council meeting will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April, due to the Easter Holidays. P