

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 29 June 2022

Washbasin Leak at Forest Fold Toilets

The plumber has visited twice to carry out repairs on a washbasin leak in the Gents toilets. On the first occasion he replaced a washer, which initially seemed to cure the issue. However, the Caretaker reported that it was still leaking, although not as badly as previously. The issue this time was discovered to be in the joints. On his second visit the plumber repaired this and installed a bypass to enable the taps in the toilets to be isolated from each other. Each tap can now be switched off separately, so that the other can remain in use, which was not possible before. He has charged £100 for all the work and materials involved. As the repair was of an urgent nature and cost less than £500, the plumber was instructed to carry out the work under delegated authority.

Office 365

The annual subscription for Office 365 (now called Microsoft 365) was due on 22 June. The exiting Plan (£59.99) did not include MS Teams in the package. However, there was an opportunity to upgrade the Plan, so, as agreed at the Council meeting on 22 July 2020, I upgraded the Plan to include MS Teams and several other apps. The new Plan will cost £79.99 per year. This will be £20 more than the current Plan, but £32.81 less than the Plan approved in 2020, which would have cost £112.80.

We are now using our own MS Teams app to set up meetings, which may last as long as 30 hours and cater for 300 participants rather than the facility belonging to the school.

Plants & Planters

John Parker has power washed and painted the planters in Crooke Village. Moss Bank Nurseries have planted up all the planters in the Parish that they maintain.

Fly Tipping in Vicarage Lane Fields

This was removed at the end of last month.

Insurance Claim for Storm Damage Due to Winter Storms

Our insurers have come back with a partial reply to our claim. Fence panels are not covered for storm damage under our policy. Consequently, they will not settle the claim for the work carried out to remove the fallen tree limb that damaged it. They are still considering the roof repair and asked for a breakdown of the costs included on the invoice of the work carried out by the contractor. The contractor has provided this and it has been forwarded to the claims department. Had the tree limb caused the damage to the roof, this could have been considered for refund. If the claim is accepted there will be an excess of £250 to pay.

SUC Trustees' Vacancies

We have still not received any enquiries about these vacancies.

Possible Ash Dieback at Forest Fold

There is a possibility that one of the trees at the bowling green is suffering from ash dieback. Wigan Council's Trees & Woodlands officer has been asked to assess it.

Subsidence Beneath the Bowling Club Pavilion

The bowling club pavilion is positioned on short legs on top of a flagged base. There is a space between the floor of the pavilion and the rest of the flagged area beneath it. Three or four of the flags in this area appear to be tilting, as though the ground on which they are lying is subsiding. This will need to be investigated with a view to undertaking repairs.

Discretions Policy

We have been informed by the Greater Manchester Pensions Fund that the Council has to agree a discretions policy relating to pensions. A template and more information have been requested and are awaited.

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NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
The latest bulletin is attached.

K.M.P. 24.06.22