

Clerks Report September 2023

Another very busy month! We are now up and running again with the facility to do on-line banking transactions. This was mainly due to a 4 week back log at the bank. After being advised by the bank I would be in receipt of the fob within the next week I continued to wait rather than issues cheques as the time frame would be very similar. Sadly the bank still had not sent the fob and I was notified of a £6.75 fee to be added to HMRC payment as this payment was now overdue. I rang the bank and explained this was now having a serious effect on the Council. After logging a complaint it was recognised that it was the bank at fault and they have refunded the £6.75 + £10.00 compensation for the inconvenience.

Also the PC is up and running and everything installed including the RBS system.

Due to a recent spate of vandalism in the town I have been speaking with the Police and Norton College. We are hoping to do some talks with the pupils in order to try and get the messages across about what effect this has on the town, other people that use the facilities and the costs involved. To explain the concept of Council rates, what they are and that potentially they may have to rise to cover the increase in costs and how an increase would impact on their parents. This is in the very early stages but I have the Police very keen to do this and I am just waiting for the College to come back to me.

I have confirmed the dates for the Christmas Lights switch on, this will be on Sunday the 26th November. The Senior Citizens Party will be on Saturday the 27th January 2024. Also confirmed the First Aider to attend both dates.

Ryan Swain has kindly agreed to do the honours of the switch on. He has a great following with the younger generation in the town and is really active on social media so we are hoping between us we will have a great turn out for the event.

Had a meeting with Adrian Hamilton regarding St Nicolas Street Car Park the new hedge and its ongoing maintenance. Following discussions with Malcolm he is able to maintain this with the costs being invoiced to NYC. We estimate approximately 2-3 cuts per year upon maturity but watering hours will cover the inactivity in cutting during the next few months. Adrian has also agreed to replace the dead plants as we have agreed the maintenance.

Next steps have agreed to maintain the wall planter opposite the garage area. We may need to purchase some new shrubs for this in the future. I have arranged an onsite meeting with Next Steps to agree if anything is required etc.

NYC have agreed to cover the costs of replacing the wall and repairing the wall at the opposite side on the corner that hides the recycle bins. This should make a big difference to the overall look of the Car park area going forward.

I have also arranged an onsite meeting with Streetscape regarding the Gates and the damage to the elephant rocker (caused by vandalism). Costs will be brought to Council at the next meeting.

