

Clerk's Report – Warham Parish Council – 18 January 2024

Item 6 on the agenda is to discuss biodiversity and conservation within the Parish. It is a government requirement that all public authorities, including Parish Councils discuss this by 31 December 2023. This announcement was apparently made last May, although it wasn't very well publicised, and the attached paperwork, from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils, only arrived in my inbox on 15 November – one day before the last meeting of the year. Hence Warham Parish Council has been acting illegally for the last 18 days!

This is a typical Government initiative, which, however good it may be, I suspect will be forgotten about in due course. However, in the meantime we have to consider it. So please do your best to at least scan the 5-page *Biodiversity* file before the meeting!

The streetlights have all now been fitted with timers to turn them off between midnight and 5.30am. The payment to the contractor of £1092 has been made, and we had previously received the grant that I had applied for from the Sheringham Shoal community fund for £750. Also, at the end of the financial year (31 March) I shall claim back £182 of VAT. Consequently, the net cost to the village has been £160, which should be saved in less than a year in reduced electricity charges.

Steve Balding, who has cut our grass for many years has now retired. Barry and Shaun Andrews will be taking over the contract from 1 April, although only on the village green until the new playground has been built.

Once the site has dried out a bit more, I will visit the new development in the hope of getting some accurate measurements of the area that we are to be provided with for the new playground. Having got this, we will be in a position to decide what equipment we would like and to make plans for obtaining grants to do the work.

KL 11.01.24