

Clerk's Report – Warham Parish Council – Tuesday 17 September

I have completed a form to apply for a grant with the National Lottery – Awards for All for £20,000 for the new playground. They say it will be about 3 months before they advise us of their decision.

I have also put in an application to Wells Carnival – I'm not expecting more than a couple of hundred and they don't normally give grants to organisations outside Wells. But I have laid it on thick and said that the allocations for the houses are being done by Homes for Wells, and it is quite likely that Wells people will be amongst the tenants. [It may help that I and a fellow member of Wells Local History Group raised over £400 for them doing a couple of history walks around the town during carnival!]

I have also asked Unity Trust Bank if they are able to give us a short-term loan, or possibly an overdraft to cover the VAT payment for the playground before we receive it back from the government. This is necessary because although we are entitled to claim it back, my experience is that this can take several months. And we are talking about an amount in the region of £16,000, which is more than two year's precept! The bank has said that they will consider this and let me know if is possible ASAP. I have told them that we are unlikely to require it before next spring at the earliest.

With regard to Unity, I have received notices of a couple of changes. The interest rate on a deposit account with reduce from 2.75% to 2.6% on 5 November. Hardly surprising in the current climate. And secondly the bank charges which are currently £18 a quarter, will become £6 per month from October.

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