

Clerk's Report – Warham Parish Council – 21 November 2024

The annual increase for staff working for local authorities (from 1 April) has been decided earlier than recent years and there will be a small back-pay adjustment added to the November (3rd quarter) payment.

Unity Trust have asked me if I have authority from the Parish Council to apply for an overdraft from them. This is required for the hopefully short period, that it will take for the government to repay us with the VAT which is payable on the new playground. Hence the agenda item number 5.

On 30 October Jon and I joined members of Homes for Wells, Flagship, and NNDC to be shown around the new houses which are still under construction, but they had one completed as a "show home". Both of us were very impressed with the houses, which have air-source heat pumps as well as solar panels on the roofs. They appear to be finished to a very high standard. They are still on-track to be completed by February. The footpath/trod is also very high good, although it will probably require trimming at least once, possibly twice a year.

I regret to say that Awards for All has turned us down for the £20,000 that I applied for. I am now looking at other possible grant providers. Their email reads as follows:

We cannot fund your project. We asked you to tell us how your community came up with the idea for your project. We want to know how many people you've spoken to (virtually or in person), and how they'll be involved in the development and delivery of the project. When assessing your application, we did not feel that you had sufficiently involved people from your local community in developing your project in comparison with other applicants. You mentioned that at an early-stage Councillors approached members of the village, particularly those with children with disabilities, to establish which activities and equipment were required to fulfil their needs, but to consider offering you a grant we needed to see more specific information such as how many people you spoke to and why they thought the project would make a difference to their lives. If you decided to reapply, we encourage you to read the guidance on our website, as it may be helpful in explaining what we are looking for. As additional feedback, we are unable to fund your project as it was unclear from the information you supplied, how the gap between the total cost of the project and the amount you have requested from National Lottery Awards for All would be covered. During our assessment of your application, you advised us that you plan to raise through small grants applications, membership fees? and donations. However, these

funds have not been received by the time of your application and it was unclear if or when they might be secured. Awards for All can only support projects that have a suitable plan in place to cover the difference between the amount requested and the total project costs.

Following the last meeting, I wrote to Holkham forestry department complaining that the tree that caused the power outage had already been reported as needing their attention. I received a reply suggesting that the message had not been received by forestry and asking for details of the person(s) who sent it. I have been unable to supply them any information. I was told by them that a regular 5-year inspection takes place and that if anyone has concerns, they should email directly: h.wakefield@holkham.co.uk

I am disappointed by lack of replies regarding a replacement grit bin. You'll remember that I suggested that we could use the money granted by carnival to replace this before winter and asking for approval. I only had replies from Karl and Jon and therefore was unable to get the bin replaced before Highways were due to fill the bins.

KL November 2024