

Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley Parish Council

CLERK'S REPORT. PC Meeting 10th November 2020

Items to note for this meeting

20.11.10 Bank accounts

I have attempted, several times, to transfer money from the Lightsource Account to the Acton Burnell account. I have not managed to create a Payee as it says the name is not correct. I have tried to ring the bank to discuss but the lines are continuously busy and after 20 mins holding, I give up. With the new banking rules setting up a Payee requires that the Bank account name is 100% accurate. If I can't manage to do it, I suspect no one wishing to create the Parish Council as a payee will be able to do it. I have spoken to the bank previously about amending the Account names but this requires the setup of a new account.

My recommendation is, therefore, to set up a new business account with a shorter simplified name, either at the same or a different bank. I believe only one business is required (with a current and a savings account), as the Lightsource monies are now included in the PC Accounts. This will also will make Financial Management easier, both to undertake and to monitor.

20.11.11 Payroll Service

The Parish Council has received advance notice, from our Payroll provider, of an increase in the annual fee for Payroll provision commencing April 2021. The fee will rise from £75 to £95 per annum which equates to an increase of 26.66%.

My recommendation is that to accept the increase. This is the first increase in four years.

20.11.12 Office Equipment

The Parish Council laptop requires replacing. The bottom of the screen has black patches, which obscures any data and functions displayed on the lower edge. I am concerned that at some point too much of the screen will be obscured.

The Parish Council no longer has a printer, as the previous one was scrapped. I have, by choice, been using one of our own. Any new employee is likely to want the PC to provide a printer.

My recommendation is that the Parish Council authorises the purchase of both a Laptop and a Printer. The Laptop should be purchased as soon as possible to ensure continuity of administration. It may also allow a short overlap between the existing and new Clerk, if the old laptop holds out for a little longer. The purchase of the printer could be delayed until discussed with the new Clerk as, like myself, they may not want to house multiple printers in their home.

20.11.15 We Don't Buy Crime

WMP has provided and installed all the signs requested, including an additional sign for Causeway Wood. The sign for the bottom of Rowe bank has been installed on the bridge railing and another has been added at the north border of Pitchford, so that the signs are seen from either direction of travel. As WMP had been so accommodating, I managed to convince Cllr Johnson that we should provide the requested photograph for their Twitter page, which we did.

20.11. 16 Highways Matters:

The three sunken manhole covers, in Acton Burnell, have been logged online with SC.

Elizabeth Wicks

Clerk & RFO ABFPR&L Parish Council