

Clerk's Report

Summer was not as quiet as hoped due to the BCC Draft Local Plan Consultation.

I have been working through the modules of the ILCA qualification.

Attended a day's training on AI for councils.

A resident has asked that the green spaces working party tidy up the allotment hedges – I believe this is on their to-do list.

We have received the second installment of the Precept.

The previous clerk has reported that old accounts information that she still had was accidentally destroyed

Agenda notes

26/096 a) I attended a day's in-person training on AI use for councils. Very useful, especially in terms of the scope of what you can do and what precautions to take. I am awaiting a model policy for AI use and will update the IT policy to include it. The main things are that free versions of software don't necessarily have data processing agreements, but the ones that are part of e.g. the council's Microsoft 365 may already be covered. Avoid inputting personal data. I'm going to try using it more & see how that goes.

26/098 b) We have received a request from a resident to cut back the copper beech tree at the entrance to the Garden of Peace as it overhangs the properties on either side. Note that the Tree Safety policy states the PC will not undertake to fell or cut back healthy trees without good reason.

26/100 d) It's always been hard to separate council printing costs from personal ones. Since Andrew & I plan to buy a new personal printer, I suggest we donate our old one to the PC, which I would then be able to buy separate ink & paper for.

26/102 f) Budget preliminary thoughts.

While on the whole spending this year has agreed well with the budget, we did not allow enough for the SID or for tree safety work. If we decide to buy a second SID next year and also increase the tree safety fund, the budget increase will be roughly 16%. If we keep things similar to last year the increase will be closer to 5%. I will give both options when I present more detailed budgets in November.

26/102 g) As already circulated the NJC pay award for 26-27 was settled at 3.3%. I have calculated the back pay due & new standing order to reflect this.