Clerks Report

January 17

1. Dale Lane flooding – actions required?
2. Ash Drive – Clerk has been in contact with Stafford and Rural Homes about the skip. SARH do not own this land and believe it is owned by the property who are using the skip. Clerk has contacted planning enforcement to ask for advice in relation to planning and will advise when a response is received.
3. Amenity Visits – Cost for these has now risen as the third visit isn’t free. Haughton usually has 3 x 1 hour visits, cost 2016 - £136.66 (ex VAT), 2017 - £225 (ex VAT). Councillors to decide how many visits required and the months to be requested.
4. County Council/ SPCA update - **Thursday 23rd February 11.30am to 3.30pm**

The Association and Staffordshire County Council are together arranging a workshop at which the County Council will outline proposals for inviting parish and town council to work in partnership and/or take full responsibility for a number of services historically vested in the county itself. The workshop will be held in County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford on Thursday, 23rd February, commencing at 11.30am and continuing over a buffet luncheon.

**NALC CEO Jonathan Owen** will present the ‘key-note’ opening address, highlighting the opportunities now open to, and the challenges facing, the local council sector in respect of the ‘devolution agenda’. **Andrew Donaldson, Head of Strategic Policy & Partnerships of Staffordshire County Council**, will then provide a synopsis of the funding issues facing the County Council and an introduction to the current thinking of how it was envisaged certain responsibilities might be transferred successfully to local councils.

Other speakers from SCC will include senior members and /or officers covering specific briefs including (i) highways and associated environmental maintenance and (ii) health and care, notably the issues surrounding social isolation. It is intended that representatives of parish councils which have already entered into partnership with the county for service delivery and/or successfully taken on particular responsibilities will participate in discussion on certain topic areas. More information about the workshop, together with booking details, will be announced shortly.

1. Speedwatch meeting Nov 2nd, 8pm – No further sign up’s for Speedwatch. 30 mph bin stickers ordered by Clerk. Average speed camera cost is £175,000 provided by Mark Keeling.
2. Grassy Lane ditch/Redfern Rise water discharge – Clerk has chased up Debbie Jones in Planning, information required about why drainage conditions in the application were discharged and who approved discharge into Grassy Lane ditch. Reminder sent in writing 17th January 2017. Has been passed to the enforcement team for them to assess.
3. Stafford West Collaboration meeting – 19th January 2017 – discussed SCC new way of working which involves Parishes taking on more responsibilities previously done by them. List included grass cutting, weedkilling, gully emptying, sign cleaning and various other responsibilities. County Councillors noted Parish precepts would need to rise and this would consititute double taxation. However they no longer have the funding and see this as a new way forward. There is an event on February 23rd to explain more about this partnership working.
SPCA provided an update on legalities (forwarded to Councillors)
Streetscene attended and gave information about services which they provide and can provide for a charge to Parishes. This includes tree works, grass cutting, inspections etc.
Next meeting Thursday April 27th at 7pm.
4. CILCA – Course Dates - 21/02, 28/03, 11/04, 16/5. Councillors will help manage workload during this period.

**Correspondence**

1. Stafford Borough Council Members Digest
2. SPCA Weekly Bulletins – forwarded to all
3. War Memorial Trust – confirmation of grant monies and information about protection and theft.
4. Staffs County Council – Diversion order ref footpath number 4 – to Cllr Sunley
5. Letter from Mr & Mrs Godwin ref flooding in Dale Lane
6. Letter from Mrs Ruth Clark about Ash Drive potholes and skip sited on corner
7. Christmas cards – Staffordshire Retired police dog fund, Mayor and Mayoress, Chief Executive (Stafford Borough Council), Parish Council websites, John Hall.
8. Phonebank for business information (Lloyds Bank)
9. Signatory update forms for BKV Account – to signatories
10. Staffs County Council – Cancellation of lengthsman agreement
11. Stafford Borough Council – notice of publication of inspectors report on Part 2 of Local Plan
12. Request for financial assistance for Citizens advice bureau Debt benefit and consumer advice service
13. Amenity Visit letter – Stafford Borough Council
14. Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc/Staffordshire County Council – Developing a community based approach workshop – item 4 Clerks Report

**Holidays**

Please be aware that I will be working limited hours during half term (20th-24th Feb). I am attending CiLCA Course on Tues 21st (all day) and at a County Council update on 23rd (11.30-3.30).

July meeting

I am away between Saturday 8th and Sunday 23rd July. The July meeting falls on Monday 24th – are members happy with this date with preparation of the agenda before I leave or would they prefer an amendment of date?

Note:

SCC- Staffordshire County Council

SARH – Stafford and Rural Homes

SBC- Stafford Borough Council

SPCA – Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc