Appendix 1 April 2022 Report of the Clerk

New issues during month

A | Email from resident of The Avenue:

"Please can you, or council, advise me on the responsibilities for the planting and care of trees and shrubs along the grass verges of The Avenue in Kennington. A sapling opposite my house (no. 48) was snapped off in the storm the other week and still lies on the ground. I am happy to clear the broken top branches, but the whole trunk and roots need digging out. I would hope another tree would be planted in its place. I would be happy to buy such a small tree and even to plant it, but I don't know how to gain permission for this. Elsewhere, over the last couple of miserable years, many bulbs have been planted in various spots along the verges, I presume by ordinary citizens, and these add interest and colour to the grass verges, at no cost to the council. I myself have already put in 100 snowdrops. I assume that such activity, reasonably and properly carried out, is permissible?"

Clerk passed on relevant information from the Oxfordshire County Council website.

- B Telephone call from resident to report that there is a tree which has fallen down on The Avenue and another tree on the corner of Poplar Grove and Meadow View Road, which is leaning against a telegraph pole. The resident has also written to Oxfordshire County Council to ask when the road will be resurfaced.
- C Telephone call from resident of property next door to Playfield Road (behind the pavilion), who is fed up of dogs and their owners coming on to her property. She said that she has even had people appear in her kitchen in the past. It was queried whether the parish council could put up a sign.
- **D** Email received from Cllr. Bakewell

"I am sure someone has this in hand but nevertheless I need to express my concern about the tottering brick wall close to the Post Office – a propped up length of timber is simply not good enough and this is a disaster waiting to happen."

Clerk contacted Building Control at district council, who advised that the temporary fix is satisfactory and the homeowner is waiting for the insurance company to arrange the repair. Building Control will suggest that a fence is erected on the footpath to prevent the beams from being tripped over and they have reported this on Fix My Street.

- E Southern Gas Network have dumped debris from the roadworks on Links Road onto the car park at Playfield Road without notifying the parish council. Clerk reported to SGN, who will pass this on to the local depot and ask them to contact the clerk ASAP.
- F A report was received of a white van driving on and off the kerb on Kennington Road, crashing into the bus shelter opposite Kenville Road, and driving off. The resident passed on the number plate and the details of the incident were passed on to the police. The bus shelter has suffered some damage to the canopy and appears to have twisted the frame.
- G Clerk has contacted Malcolm Clamp to ask if he would be willing to act as the internal auditor again and to request a quotation.
- H | Cllr. Alison New resigned from Kennington Parish Council and the notice of casual vacancy has been posted.
- I Clerk attended two training courses aimed at town and parish councils, Asset-Based Community Development and Active Listening, which were organised by Community First Oxfordshire, and is booked to attend a PAT testing workshop.
- J 'Local Councils and Sustainability Survey' received from Property and Facilities Manager at Didcot Town Council.

 Clerk responded on behalf of the parish council.
- **K** | Email received re. overgrown hedge

"We are becoming increasingly concerned about the large fir trees and hedge on the corner of Links Road and Simpson's Way that are growing over the public footpath, it's becoming difficult to walk along the pathway, especially when using the pushchair. We have a young neighbour who uses an electric wheelchair, so good access to the pathway is important for her. Please can you help resolve the problem?"

- **L** Email from resident querying whether the railway bridge by The Tandem could be made accessible, so that the Sustrans track could be accessed more easily by many more people.
- M Information from Hinksey and Osney Environment Group received in relation to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, with offer to speak at a parish council meeting if it would be helpful.
- **N** Email received from resident:

"Twice in one week I have seen cyclists that have indicated with an arm signal that they are slowing to turn across lanes being over taken dangerously by drivers. The drivers, both of large utility vehicles, both yelled rudely

from their windows. Other drivers then hooted their horn at one cyclist who was now stranded stationary in the centre of the road. The car driver then overtook he cyclist, rather than let the cyclist make the turn.

I saw that Thames Valley police mounted a "close pass" operation in Oxford this week. Is there a way of the Parish Council inviting the police to carry out such an operation on Kennington Road please?"

O Oxfordshire County Council Volunteer Co-ordination Officer has advised that Fix My Street Super Users are being sought and requested that information is shared on noticeboards, website and newsletters.

Continuing issues

- P | Clerk has updated the village website for various local organisations.
- **Q** Email from manufacturer in relation to the new panels for the bus shelter on The Avenue:

"...we have a different issue with the mesh panels for the shelters in The Avenue. The original shelters were painted a dark green BS14C40 but this is now very much a special colour, which we were not aware of. We obviously intended to get the mesh panels painted that colour but it would now cost £700.00 just to have them painted that colour, which is not really feasible. Can you therefore confirm that you are happy to have the panels powder coated black, which is the standard colour for the panels so the cost would therefore be as quoted. Because the shelter colour is dark green, I don't think it will really notice that the panels are black but obviously I wanted to get your approval first.

I apologise that we did not inform you of this earlier but it has only just come to light."

R Clerk contacted OCC Parking Team to query whether Fixed Penalty Notices could be issued by Civil Enforcement

Officers if they produced photographic evidence. Response received:

"We only issue Regulation 9 PCNs, which have to be served by the CEO by attaching the Notice to the vehicle or handing it to the driver. It is possible to issue Regulation 10 PCNs, where a CEO has recorded the information but the vehicle has driven away before the PCN is served, but this not something that we have the system to do."