

## Clerk Report – April 2022

- We kindly received an email of thanks from Coggeshall in Bloom for the grant awarded by CPC towards plants and equipment for the upcoming season.
- The Councillor grant from ECC, via Cllr Paul Thorogood have been paid – the Information Board for Dick Nunn's bridge has been ordered and paid for, and we are now awaiting delivery. The Tourist Leaflet has also been completed and we have kindly been offered further grant funding from Cllr Unsworth for printing.
- Bovis Homes confirmed that they have agreed to use the 'lace' road names which CPC put forward to them recently. Only one name was not able to be used, as it is already in use in Coggeshall, so a couple of alternatives were sent to them. They are just waiting for BDC Street Naming and Numbering to approve them, along with the suffixes (lane, road, street etc).
- I have been liaising with the Headteacher of St Peter's Primary School and the ECC Sustainable Travel Officer regarding 'park and walk' schemes for children who travel in to the village, or to school, by car, in an attempt to alleviate the parking issues along by the school. We only really have control over the Stoneham Street car park to offer assistance with, and as there is 2 hours free parking available for use at both school run times, we have given permission for the school to promote this. It is unfortunately a little far away from the school, but the children are earning badges for walking in, so they may be able to apply parent pressure! ECC are trying to recruit the Co-op into being part of the scheme by using their car park and promoting a walking route from there, but the Co-op are unfortunately reluctant to take part.
- I am also liaising with Cllr Thorogood and NEPP on looking into potential schemes along Stoneham Street/Tilkey Road to alleviate the solid parking which causes issues with sight lines and the narrowness of parts of the roads. Paul is currently canvassing residents for their views and we are hoping to then continue discussions with NEPP around whether 'passing places' could be created to allow cars to pull in and let an opposing vehicles pass. It may be that CPC could assist with looking at, or promoting the car park permit scheme to help with the problems, but this is obviously one for discussion a bit further along the line.
- Village Hall Boiler: We are currently struggling to get three quotes for the replacement of the boiler – we have one quote on its way, but it has been surprisingly difficult trying to find companies who work with commercial boilers rather than domestic. We are still working on it and hope to bring these to the May meeting.
- A successful prosecution took place recently regarding a fly-tipping incident at Stoneham St Car Park in 2019 – details of which I have circulated to you all.
- The Community Payback Team are working extremely well in the cemetery each week, with Cllr June Alston directing the work. It is really making a difference with tidying up and exposing old gravestones which have been covered in vegetation.

The rosebeds around the memorial garden have been turned over and given some care, and the rose bushes are now coming along beautifully. June is also working extremely hard there every week on Tuesday mornings, cutting around each ashes memorial tablet, which is looking fantastic, and I would like to thank her on behalf of CPC for all her hard work.

- We are also currently doing an inspection of all of our street furniture – benches, bins etc – to draw up a rolling maintenance schedule in priority order. Most of the maintenance work will start in the autumn after the cutting season ends, but some benches are needing more urgent repair, which we will get on to in the next few weeks.
- You are probably all aware of the recent anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Recreation Ground playground a couple of weekends ago. One of the new bins has been destroyed and one other older bin set on fire. We can replace the liner on this bin so it is salvageable, and one other bin was put back together, but we will need to deal with the one which was destroyed, as the ground fixings (also bent) will need to be taken out and a new bin installed. Dave Griffiths was there first thing on the Monday morning clearing up the broken glass and mending what we could, and also cleared up broken glass from Vane Lane. Unfortunately, Ian Jordan found some fixings had been removed from some of the equipment over this weekend, which have been put back, but this was a worrying development, as the equipment had been made unstable. This seems to be the only item tampered with and we will be checking the equipment as often as we can for safety, and to monitor the issues. These have been reported to the police.
- Refuse collections: We have seen increasing amounts of refuse in our litter bins, and an increasing amount of full litter bags around the village. This is obviously a good thing in the sense that waste is being properly disposed of, however, it is causing us a capacity problem with our big bins at the village hall, car park and cemetery. I am liaising with the Refuse and Recycling Service at BDC to see whether we need more frequent collections, or another bin, and monitoring how the situation progresses. We have also been told by BDC that we are not able to give out the purple sacks to anyone outside our own staff, so I have let the litter picking group know that we are not able to supply them any more once they run out of their current stock. They will need to contact BDC to take that issue any further, so if you are contacted by them about this, please refer them to BDC.
- We seem to have a leak in the village hall toilets at present, which should be looked at in the next day or two and hopefully resolved. The toilets are unfortunately closed in the meantime as the floor is covered in water.

**Philippa Potter**

**19 April 2022**