

Clerk Report – June 2022

- Jubilee celebrations went very well with Coggeshall looking fabulous with bunting and scarecrows, and the village event on the Recreation Ground on the Saturday.
- Missing 40mph initial sign on West Street – ECC Highways designated the replacement of the missing sign as non-priority. The Clerk emailed Cabinet Member Cllr Lee Scott to ask for this to be re-listed as a higher priority, with a copy sent to County Cllr Thorogood for assistance in promoting the change.
- Broken cover on pavement outside William H Brown on Market Hill, exposing a vertical hole/pipe and creating a trip hazard – this was reported to Highways at the beginning of May 2022. Reply received at the beginning of June to say that the case has been closed with no action – monitor only. Clerk escalated to the Cabinet Member Lee Scott for action to be taken to make the pavement safe. The reply was that the cover is the responsibility of the local gas company, who ECC have contacted to chase up the repair.
- A wobbly lamppost, outside Spot Hairdressers on Stoneham Street was reported to Highways in mid-May, which they will be coming out to assess and hopefully repair. The loose water cover on the junction of Vane Lane and Church Street was also reported to them on their emergency line. This is owned by the water company, and ECC have asked them to fix it.
- We have had the Annual Playground Inspections done and we are going through the various jobs to schedule in repairs and maintenance. Fabians Playground does need a fair amount of work, however, as we are looking to refurbish this area in the not-too-distant future, the maintenance here may need to wait.
- The dangerous bin footings which were left in the Rec playground after the bin was vandalised has now been removed by our Groundsmen. This job took almost two hours to undertake, as a couple of feet of concrete was needed to be negotiated to remove the post.
- Another vandalism issue at the playground is where one of the brackets on the wooden bridge had been undone, with the screws removed. Proludic have very kindly agreed to replace this part free of charge, on this occasion, and will be coming out shortly to do the repair.
- The grant for the fingerpost signs for the public rights of way leading to Dick Nunn's Bridge was approved, and the posts are on order. We do have a few hoops to go through with ECC to get the locations approved, but we are hoping that this will be finished over the summer.
- In the churchyard, we are about to start using the new area for burials, which is adjacent to the current area. We have plans for memorial benches and wildflower edging in this area, and the new ashes area, which we will be hoping to get in place by the autumn.
- The annual tree survey has been arranged and will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks.

- The Clerk is liaising with Braintree District Council and Essex County Council to find out who is responsible for the cutting of the pavement leading from Gurton Road, towards the A120, adjacent to the Honywood playing field. This area is overgrown on both sides making the path almost impassable. The Clerk is asking for the responsible authority to come out to cut this as soon as possible.
- We are moving through our cutting and vegetation maintenance programme as fast as we can, however, we are on reduced capacity within our grounds staff at present, which will impact on the usual frequency. We will be on a further reduction next week due to annual leave as well, so we will need to ask for patience as far as bin emptying goes until the following week.

Philippa Potter

13 June 2022