



COGGESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Report: January 2023 – Philippa Potter

Happy New Year to you all. A fairly short report this month, as we were closed over the Christmas break. A summary of our work since the last Parish Council meeting is as follows:

- Work towards the refurbishment of the play area off Fabians Close is continuing.
- The Parish Council (CPC) agreed at its December meeting to back a campaign in Essex for all town and village roads to be set at a 20mph speed limit. CPC have written to Essex County Council (ECC) – who are responsible for highways – to urge them to implement this change both in Coggeshall and in Essex as a whole. There have already been requests put in to ECC via the Local Highways Panel, for two roads in Coggeshall to be reduced to 20mph, as a start to this campaign. If these are agreed to, other areas may then be put forward.
- You may have noticed that the Millennium Garden is currently closed. This is due to one of the benches having fallen apart and collapsed. Unfortunately, we don't have anywhere to store it until it can be repaired so we have had to close the garden to ensure people's safety. We are working on getting this repaired as soon as we can.
- Bin emptying in the village is becoming a bigger and bigger task. The collection of litter and dog bin waste is done twice a week by our Operatives, but we have had to extend this to an extra morning for the most used bins, with a couple – especially the one outside the Co-op – having to be emptied almost every day. An extra storage bin has been provided by Braintree District Council (BDC) in the car park for the collected bags, which are taken by BDC once a week. However, this is also now overflowing with the amount of waste we are collecting. We are of course grateful that litter and dog waste is being put in the bins and not left elsewhere and we are working closely with BDC to find solutions. However, there are a couple of bins in the village which are being filled up with black sacks of household rubbish and nappies. These should be disposed of in the black wheelie bins, as we don't have the capacity (or the permission) to take household waste.
- We are also having to increase the amount of work in keeping the recycling bin areas tidy. Please ensure that you take all plastic bags and boxes home with you to recycle, and not leave them at the sites, either on the ground or stuffed between or behind the banks. This is fly-tipping, which may result in a prosecution if you are identified on CCTV. This rubbish is then left for our Operatives to clear, taking them away from other jobs within the village. Please also take care when disposing of glass, as smashed broken glass on the ground is a danger to people and animals. We clear this up as soon as possible, but we are not able to police these areas around the clock.
- We are very lucky to have a 'tetra pack' and mixed-material recycling bank in the village, which is located by the Football Club on West Street. However, no items other than those pictured on the front of the bin should be put in, otherwise the whole contents may end up in landfill, rather than being taken for recycling.
- The Parish Council have agreed to provide a parking space for the Community Bus in the Stoneham Street car park while they are looking for a new home.