Finance and General Purposes 05/12/2024

Agenda Item 24/032 Clerk's Report

1. **Councillor Vacancies**

   Further to the resignation of Cllr A Noonan, no requests were received to fill the vacancy by election. Both current vacancies have been readvertised.

2. **Hedge Management**

   Further to Cllr Bridgman's enquiry at the District Parish Conference regarding how a parish council may assist a district council with the management of hedges and vegetation West Berkshire Council (WBC) have responded and confirmed that they have powers under the Highway Act 1980 to act concerning overhanging vegetation. Since the start of the calendar year to date, WBC have issued 341 Stage 1 and 2 letters to private individuals. In addition, they have trialled the devolution of powers to Holybrook PC for such matters. This seems to be working well, and they would welcome this being offered to other parish councils. The process would involve the parish council serving an agreed Stage 1 and 2 letter and then referring to WBC if no action is taken and a legal notice is required.

3. **Cemetery Extension**

   An initial meeting was held between the project manager, White Horse Contactors Ltd and SMPC. The project manager is drawing up a Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) contract for both parties to sign. It is proposed that the work shall be completed in two visits with the hard landscaping elements i.e. the bridge and the paths, being undertaking in January 2025 and the cultivation works and tree planting being undertaken when the weather is more favourable. White Horse Contractors are confident that they can keep ground disturbance to a minimum. The farmer has agreed to access to the site via his field and the site set out will be being undertaken shortly.

4. **Mini-Recycling Centre**

   The Custodian has cut back the Laurel to accommodate the bin for small electrical recycling.

5. **Members' Bid**

   The relevant information regarding the installation of a water supply system on the Fairground/gazing area has been submitted to Dist Cllr Carter for consideration.