

The Hennys', Middleton & Twinstead Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Anthony Lyster
Clerk: Shelley Boydell. 15 The Paddocks, Bures CO8 5DF
Email: parishclerk@hennysmiddletontwinstead-pc.gov.uk

Clerk's Report

Parish Council Meeting 8th March 2021 at 7.30pm ONLINE

Budget & Precept

The Clerk submitted the signed precept request to Braintree District Council and confirmation was received. Whilst the Parish Council has held the Precept at the same level as in 20/21, a slight increase in the Tax base means the Band D rate has decreased very slightly.

Payroll Service

The Clerk produced a report for the Parish Council to select a new payroll provider.

Grass Cutting

The Clerk has been researching options regarding a new grass cutting contract and has shared findings with the councillors; the clerk is currently waiting on two more quotes.

Website & Facebook Page

The Clerk has been maintaining and updating the PC's website and Facebook page with relevant information including a link to Highways website to report relevant issues.

CiLCA

The Clerk has been submitting work for assessment and has passed all modules submitted so far.

Open Spaces

The Clerk confirmed with the Open Spaces questionnaire that Twinstead Village Green (including the water pump) should be included.

Communication

Clerk forwarded information regarding e-learning provided by Cllr Smart onto Cllr Finch.

Clerk's Pension

The Clerk's pension has been implemented and backdated to 1st April 2020 and payments have begun.

Mobile Phone

A mobile phone for use by the Clerk has been purchased and the new number has been circulated. It was confirmed that any historic payment towards the use of a telephone will cease in place of the mobile phone contract which is now being paid.

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Highways - Footpath

The Clerk reported a broken footbridge in Twinstead on 08/02/2020:

Essex Highways – Public Rights of Way – Enquiry 2702037

Reference Number: 2702037

Issue: defective furniture on ProW

Location: footpath 27 Twinstead

Current status: awaiting inspection

We have assigned this issue to an inspector, who will undertake an initial assessment, which might include a site visit. The assessment outcome will determine what, if any, action may be taken. This process may take up to 56 days (from the date reported).

Highways responded on 17th February with the following:

Reference Number: 2702037

Issue: defective furniture on PRoW

Location: footpath 27 Twinstead

Current status: inspection outcome

We have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Our recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects we are aware of, so we have recorded it and will consider it when we are planning future works in the area. Consequently, you do not need to report this issue again.

This issue will be monitored through future scheduled inspections to see if the situation has changed. This may result in its current prioritisation being altered.

Every report we get is important to us and we aspire to repair all Public Rights of Way defects in good time. Essex is a large county and across a network covering nearly 4000 miles of Public Rights of Way, we need to prioritise how we spend your council tax money to best effect for all residents.

Thank you for helping us to keep Essex Public Rights of Way in the best condition we can.

Regards,
Essex Highways

Highways - Flooding

Further to the flooding issues discussed Cllr Lee Wotton kindly provided the following report which the Clerk forwarded to County Cllr David Finch:

Telegraph Pole / Verge Disturbance

The two issues are related and refer to the Essex Highways road drain that runs from a road grid drain outside Clarke's Farm on Pebmarsh Road, Twinstead to a ditch on the opposite side of the road. This drain remains substantially blocked despite an attempt to clear it in December. This causes the road to permanently flood.

The ditch that takes this road drainage water has a Essex Highways maintained underground rain water drain that runs along the edge of Pebmarsh Road from Clarke's Farm to Waggon and Horses on Pebmarsh Road. It is this drain that Telec installed new telegraph poles directly adjacent to last October and likely damaged and blocked the drain since nothing is draining since they have been installed. A camera survey is required in the first instance. There is a history of this drain blocking and needing to be jetted / unblocked. I and others have issued a number of Highways complaints dating from December 2019 (latest submissions) but nothing has been done and the road is constantly flooded causing damage.

A response has been received by Cllr D Finch confirming that he will ask Highways why nothing has been done following earlier communications on this issue.