

Clerk's Report – January 2025

Training attended:

- Procurement Law (Scribe)
- Pathway to Net Zero (Scribe)

Scribe offer finance packages to Parish and Town Councils and are increasing in popularity. However, they also offer free training to Councillors and Clerks and the training is usually of a high quality. To access the free training, there is no obligation to subscribe to their financial package. However, it may be something Council would like to consider when there is a change of clerk. In their package, they provide all the tools for compliant financial reporting, audit, budgeting, etc. which could be beneficial for any employee new to parish council finances..

Meetings: Attended Parish Council Alliance meeting at Woolverstone – the minutes of the meeting are included with the supporting papers. GHGW didn't meet in January, but met in February. Stutton Parish Council have asked for a member of GHGW to talk to them about collaborating in the future.

The Community Caretaker reported a fence panel down in The Cut. The Chairman repaired it.

Litter Picking at Holbrook Creek: the litter pick has now been re-scheduled and will take place on Saturday 15th February at 9.00 a.m. I will bring black sacks and hi-viz jackets and some litter picking devices (we have about 8). I expect the pick to last about an hour.

Community Speed Watch: I am trying to organise a meeting with the outgoing coordinator to get all the paperwork and equipment in the hope we will find another coordinator soon.

Electricity supply to pavilion: the current plan ends on 18th March. E-On Next are offering 1, 2 or 3 year fixed business plans (all of which are being quoted at the same price of £227.31 annual estimated cost). If we do nothing, we would be put on the flexible business tariff at a cost of £388.84 p.a. We need to opt into the fixed plan by 17th March, or it will automatically revert to the flexible tariff.

My HP pavilion computer keeps seizing up and I have had a couple of days where it has stopped working altogether. This is exactly what happened about 18 months ago and we bought an extended warranty and the problem was temporarily fixed. I have taken it to an IT specialist this week and they are suggesting that it wouldn't be worth spending any further money on a support package from HP. Our last package, ironically, expired in December 24. It is currently working again, so fingers crossed.

Jo Hazlewood
Clerk – HPC, January 2025