

Croscombe Parish Council

Clerk's Report to 07 Jun 2023

A Health and Wellbeing Networking Seminar was attended at the council offices in Shepton Mallet. This was relatively lightly attended – a total of 27 attendees including those presenting. It was, however, a very useful seminar with a lot of information. This is summarised in a slide presentation called Health and Wellbeing Grants for Somerset Local Councils which can be made available to anyone interested. There are small scale grants available, up to £2,500, for related projects (although not capital funding) for a given council, and up to £35,000 for larger projects where councils work in collaboration. The smaller grants appear to be readily available and the council could take this opportunity into account during parish planning.

A webinar on the Basics of Cemetery Management was attended, run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. There was a lot of useful information in it, although mainly related to the practicalities of legal requirements and gravedigging rather than the process we have to follow for Croscombe Cemetery. They did provide a set of slides from the webinar along with sample rules and regulations which will be examined to see if there are any useful or necessary points which could be applied to the Croscombe Cemetery rules.

One interment of ashes took place on 19th May and arrangements are in place for a memorial to be added.

An issue was identified with mail going from Ionos accounts to Gmail addresses – Google had increased its security and emails from Ionos accounts failed to meet the new standards. This was resolved by adding a modification to the DNS settings for the council website. The solution was tested from the Clerk's council email address to a known problematic Gmail address and it seems to have worked.

The council's annual insurance renewal was completed with Zurich Insurance.

An issue raised by a parishioner with the ad hoc development of a parking facility related to the former village shop was passed to the Enforcement Officer at Somerset Council and is being addressed by him. It is understood at the time of writing that a grass verge to the pathway towards the allotments is being reinstated.

The internal audit was completed satisfactorily. There were a few comments and suggestions which will be considered prior to the appropriate material going to the external auditor.

Playsafety have reconfirmed that they will inspect the play area sometime in June. Creative Play were also in touch to say they would be taking some photos of the area, presumably as an example of their type of development, but it was stressed to them that although it is a public area, if the area is in use when they visit they should not take any photos without the explicit permission of any adults present, and in any case not at all if there were only children present. They promised to conform to those instructions.

The Environment Agency installed flood-monitoring telemetry at the rear of the bus shelter. They will be liaising with the FEWG about how this should best be exploited.