

Croscombe Parish Council

Clerk's Report to 15 Oct 24

Updates at Unity Trust Bank were completed. Legacy access has been removed where necessary for all councillors who have resigned, the Clerk now has Admin access (and so can see the record of all those who currently have access and the level of their access) and councillor Gudzelak can approve payments.

Confirmation was made with Unity Trust Bank that the council is covered under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

In response to a request from Somerset Council's Street Naming and Numbering Officer, confirmation was provided that 'Fayreway' should be written as one word and not two, as is currently recorded in Somerset Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Royal Mail's Postcode Address File.

The Clerk attended an online meeting with users of Parish Online, the website used to track plots in the cemetery. There is now a Somerset Parish Online Users Group, of which Croscombe PC is a member, liaising with Somerset Council on the incorporation of information on Parish Online from various databases of the former district councils. This will complement any information gathering Croscombe PC does directly with Somerset Council.

The title and plan, and conveyancing documents, were obtained for the cemetery/field off Thrupe Lane, showing that the cemetery and field were purchased in 1992. The earliest record of a burial in the Register of Burials is 1996. The documents were forwarded to councillors. Copies of these will be held along with the leases for the play area (lease confirmed as still valid by Somerset Council Estates Department although nominally ending in 2014) and the allotments area off Long Street.

A number of broken links were highlighted on the council website by Ionos, our website host, because of changes to Somerset Council web pages. The links were updated or deleted as appropriate.

The Clerk has signed up for two webinars. The first is a standard SALC course on the Code of Conduct (all councillors and officers are required to attend this at some point) and the second a free webinar on the responsibilities of councils with respect to trees that they own. Any relevant information gathered from the latter will be relayed to the Parish Council and the Orchard Group.

A notice of road closure from Somerset Council was posted on the usual channels, referring to the closure of Long Street between Duncart Lane and Back Lane on 28th and 29th October to allow Wessex Water to repair a broken manhole cover.

Following an inventory of dog and litter bins in the parish requested by Somerset Council, they confirmed that there will be no charge levied for the emptying of bins in the parish after they take the street cleaning contact currently with Idverde in-house from April, 2025.

There was an additional inscription carried out in September on a memorial in the cemetery.

The annual report of Somerset Rivers Authority was published in September and forwarded to councillors and the Flood Group.

In support of the renewal of efforts by the parish council to improve traffic management and road safety in Croscombe, notice of a meeting of the Shepton LCN (Local Community Network) Highways Working Group was forwarded to councillors along with supporting documentation.

Budget reporting was updated to clarify funds raised/donated, and expenditure, for the Play Area and Orchard Group.

At the request of the Mendip Hills National Landscape Team an invitation was extended via the usual channels to parishioners to provide input to the team's Management Plan, which is being developed to define the priorities for the area for the period from 2025 to 2030.