

CLERK REPORT FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

There are several issues to be raised at the Feb 23 Meeting.

1. STREET LIGHTING – I have been in contact with DCC and Holcombe Rogus is on the list for the trial of new lighting within the village. They have various obstacles to overcome (ie risk assessment, legal procedures, consideration of women walking alone at night, light pollution) to name but a few and finance. The cost of new LED lighting is
 - a. Replace 1no. existing lantern with new LED & central management cell circa £150 - £200
 - b. Replace 1no. existing column with a new column circa £1000
 - c. New base station to link central management cells £5000 - £7000

So if the PC could authorise the earmarking of £15,000 from the Solar Fund (currently worth £22,935.55) this would greatly assist for the Parish to receive the new lights in the next Financial Year.

2. DESTRUCTION OF HEDGROWS AROUND WARDMOOR – The Highways Officer at DCC has been consulted and his response to our request for advice and assistance is :

“Unfortunately, this is a common problem which the Council often receive complaints, however, as this location is in the proximity to a farm and with the increased size of vehicles currently being used within the agriculture industry this is something which the Highway Authority have no control over. It is difficult to restrict the movement of HGV’s as they are permitted to use any classification of road for access and deliveries even if there is a Weight Restriction in place (unless it is a structural weight limit). As a main through route, HGVs are directed to use the most appropriate route via motorways, dual carriageways and main roads. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to restrict the size/type of vehicles accessing the highway”

Councillors will wish to discuss this and the PC can write to the farms concerned to make them aware of the concern but perhaps you could also consider releasing funding (from the Solar Fund) to have the hedgerows reinstated?

3. DISCIPLINE & GRIEVANCES POLICY – hopefully the last policy for adopting after the Interim Internal audit.
4. DRAIN CLEARING –I have been in contact with Andy and he is still trying to get access to the lorries.

Leslie Findlay
Parish Clerk