**Clerks Report to Council January 24**

**Phase 3 electricity.**

Still ongoing. Electrician coming to do back wiring on 17th January.

**Police rent –**

I have received a copy of the lease, but the police will not accept a yearly rent review. I have asked for legal advice, and pointed out that they pay for no utilities, and are allowed to park their vehicles in the TH car park.

**Solicitors –**

The work has now commenced following the cyber-attack, our solicitor is/has been in touch with both parties I am informed.

**Kitchen/BAR -**

This work is in the main completed, floors have been laid and we are restocking with certain items that were not hygienic from prior to refurbishment. We are trying to get the tea urn and under sink hot water boiler connected with the plumber/electricians. There are some inevitable teething problems, but these are being worked through. Cynthia will write to all hirers and inform them we are working to get the kitchen fully operational, and that the car park is useable.

**Health & Safety Audit.**

This had identified some immediate actions which I need to take, some are simple signage which can be accomplished relatively quickly. Others are more complex 63 actions.

**Tree Survey.**

We have had to do some tree work on Tod’s Piece, pollarding a tree for additional safety. I would like to commission a tree inspection for Tod’s Piece but especially the large trees fronting High Street North.

**Play areas inspection.**

I have commissioned this report as I do annually.

**Works to the wall along the alleyway. Deeds for TH – Where are they stored.**

Our immediate neighbour wishes to do some works on the wall between our properties, this would involve the attachment of scaffolding to our building. I am still in discussions, but I have pointed out that he needs our permission to do this and also, I would need to be sure that he or his contractors have appropriate public liability insurance. There was a suggestion I could close the alleyway but as we have found out with the National Grid works, people just move the barrier, and I can’t have any safety liability on this council.

**Band D Council Tax figure.**

I have received thus from RCC and on checking it is lower than last year, whilst the vagaries of who pays / reductions etc are in force, I still believe that this is incorrect. I am awaiting an answer.

**Local Plan**.

As you are aware from the email trails, I lodged our response to the LP consultation. The extension of the consultation period was not agreed by RCC.

**Bank Mandate**

Confirmation that the Nationwide mandate has been updated.

**Website**

As you will be aware email trails regarding the issue with the website provider, LRALC and other agencies SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) are actively engaging with Cuttlefish the owner and I should have more to report over the next week or so.

**BIFFA**

I received an email yesterday reporting that BIFFA will no longer be offering their services from 1st April. I will therefore be exploring some options to get a contract in place prior to that date.

**Cemetery Spaces.**

I have now obtained the original rules of the cemetery and whilst this does state a headstone cannot be erected without the space being purchased, it does not expressly say that a burial plot may not be charged for. I suspect that there could be spaces not paid for, I just happened to question this case as the first one in my tenure.

**E V Chargers.**

On the 19th of December I finally received the Supplementary Licence for Mercers Yard which confirmed the following

*The licence is supplemental and collateral to the existing licence. And that the licensee or a contractor authorised by them intends to carry on the work under this licence*.

This then allowed me to sign the host agreement with BP pulse to install the brand new 50KW charger. This will happen in January and means we will not be paying the £80 per month electricity charge.

**Utility Aid**

I am currently trying to fix electricity charges, but I have to wait until this EV policy is removed, hopefully soon after the 19th of January. Works in progress.

**Meeting dates**

**Staffing 17th January**

**Full Council 7th February preceded by planning**

**Finance 21st February**

**Full Council 6th March preceded by planning**

**Amenities 20th March**