

Clerk's Report

Date: 1st July 2025

1. Seggimoor Beck

14.3.25

Ian Moore Contracting has come back to confirm that he is happy to carry out the work as per the EA requirements. I'm now starting the process of applying for exemptions for the groundworks.

25.3.25 - exemptions are ongoing.

25.4.25 – Ongoing

01.07.25 – Exemptions have now been received from EA. Spoken to Ian Moore and work due to start in September.

Have spoken to FixMyStreet regarding vegetation growing on both sides of Bishop Norton Bridge. They have accepted that they are responsible for clearing this and work will commence shortly. Have spoken to the Environment Agency and they are looking at clearing the weed that is collecting in the bottom of the beck.

Removing these two jobs from the PC's budget will reduce expenditure for 25/6 by about £1000.

2. Trees behind Village Hall

The response on these trees is expected at the end of this month.

25.3.25 – Ongoing

07.04.25 – WLDC planning have approved removal of trees. Quotation to be signed off by PC.

25.04.25 – Ongoing

01.07.25 – Trees now removed and this item has been resolved.

3. Playpark

a. Equipment

Waiting confirmation from WLDC of the grant award. There is a meeting today with Grant White to confirm all UK SPF Grants that have been awarded. They will get back to me after that meeting.

The trampoline has been reserved for us, but until the grant has been confirmed we can't move on placing an order.

25.3.25 - Still awaiting information from WLDC about potential grant from UKSPF.

04.04.25 – Grant of £10k received from WLDC. Alison investigating cost of removing wetpour under swings and replacing with Grass Rubber Mat.

07.04.205 – Cost of replacing wet-pour would be in the region of £13k (this would include disposal of old surface). This is clearly too expensive an option. Alison to investigate alternatives.

25.04.25 – I've got a revised quotation for the trampoline. As the ground is much lumpier than they expected it will need more groundworks and seeding, so will cost more, but still within the grant awarded. No match funding required. This can be signed off at the Annual PC Meeting on 8th May.

01.07.25 – Trampoline due to be installed on 7/8th July. Notices have gone out on Facebook and further notices will go up in the Noticeboard at the weekend prior to installation.

b. Inspection

I've written to ROSPA to confirm we are looking for an urgent inspection. Waiting on

them getting back to me.

25.3.25

Inspection completed on 24th March 2025 and circulated to PC for comment/views.

ACTION

A notice will go up on the noticeboard on 26th March to announce the re-opening of the play area on Saturday 29th March 2025.

A notice will also be posted on the PC Website confirming the re-opening of the play area.

A post has been put on Facebook announcing the opening.

07.04.25 – This has now been resolved.

01.07.25 – Received costings from ROSPA for an annual inspection for August 2025. PC to discuss.

c. Cleaning

Still trying to find an alternative quotation for cleaning the park.

25.3.25

The park is scheduled for cleaning on 26th March 2025.

07.04.25 – Initial clean now complete. Standing arrangements have been made for regular monthly cleaning of the playground at a cost of £15/hour.

25.04.25 – Ongoing

01.07.25 – Playground being cleaned on a regular monthly basis by contractor.

4. Finances

Ongoing and to be discussed at Annual Parish Council Meeting.

25.3.25 - Ongoing

Parish Clerk training on Finance 26th March 2025.

07.04.25 – Now complete.

5. Heating in the Village Hall

Mic Burrows from NEC Energy will be carrying out his energy survey on 25th March. Steve Leary will also be attending.

25.3.25 An energy survey was carried out this morning and we should receive the report next week.

07.04.25 – Survey received. Copy enclosed for information and views. Ongoing.

25.04.25 – This has been temporarily shelved pending the outcome of increased activities and income into the hall.

6. Clock

Time seems to have stood still on this one!! Time Assured originally had two horologists carrying out the maintenance work on Turret Clocks. Unfortunately, at 79 one of them has left his wife and gone to live in Wiltshire, the other one managed to slice the back of his hand last week, but fortunately not too serious and he's hoping he'll be back working again very shortly.

25.3.25 The clock was serviced and is now working. You will be aware that the hour changes this weekend. Robert Rowe has agreed to stop the pendulum on the clock probably on Sunday and then restart at the correct time on Monday.

07.04.25 – Shortly after the clock was serviced it stopped again. Arrangements have been made with Time Assured to come out again and try to find out what is causing the problem. Ongoing.

25.05.25 – Clock still not striking. It is working though. I have reminded Time Assured that we still need them to come and sort out the problem. Ongoing.

01.07.25 – Still ongoing.

7. Policies & Procedures

Just working through a list of amendments for Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for the next meeting.

25.3.25 - Amendments ongoing.

07.04.25 – Ongoing

25.04.25 – Financial Regulations & Standing Orders will be ready for the APCM 8th May. Ongoing for the rest.

01.07.25 - Ongoing

8. Grass Cutting

AJ Williams are planning to carry out their first cut of the season next week.

25.3.25 - First cut of the grass in the village was carried out last week. Next cut will be in 2 weeks. This will include strimming and cutting of nettles, brambles, etc., on Washdyke Lane as part of the general schedule. This will be done every 3 months afterwards.

07.04.25 – Ongoing with regular cuts every 2 weeks. Washdyke Lane was not included. Alison following up.

25.04.25 – Ongoing every 2 weeks.

9. Trees in the village

01.07.25 – Willow Tree at the corner of Barff Meadows has had a wasp nest and rot in the base of the trunk. Part of the nest was removed last week. A tree surgeon was contacted, as a result of a recommendation from AJ Williams (the Grass cutting contractor) and following his examination the tree will be re-pollarded much lower on 9/10th July. Residents on Barff Meadows are aware. Tree preservation officer was contacted at WLDC and is happy with the work being undertaken. The tree is not in a conservation area.

The two horse chestnuts outside 1 The Granary Chestnut Grove will be removed on 15/16th July. Both of these trees are in a conservation area, one tree that is dying was subject to a 5-day notice with the other requiring planning permission, which was granted.

10. Section 19

Vanessa has very kindly provided me with some photographic evidence of the ingress of water into her house in 2024. Still waiting for Barry Morgan to get back to me with any evidence. Am looking at setting up an on-site meeting – ongoing.

25.3.25 – Ongoing

07.04.25 – The only information received to date was from Vanessa. The Parishioner who expressed an interest has not come back with any evidence.

25.04.25 – Ongoing

01.07.25 – Being held in abeyance.

11. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT

Parish Clerk managing the Facebook Page and Vanessa is working through the accounts.

07.04.25 – Accounts are ongoing.

Have asked Stephen Bunney if possible, for PC to manage the admin/finance of the VH and then use the volunteers who have offered to help, as and when they are available for organized events/functions. So far we have not received any interest from volunteers who want specific roles.

07.04.25 – At a recent community energy meeting at Hemswell Court there was a brief discussion with Grant White from WLDC regarding the ongoing possibilities to retain the village hall. A meeting will be organized with the PC and Grant to discuss options. As soon as dates are available, they will be circulated.

A meeting has been organized with Kirk Thomson from the YMCA (ACRE*'s representative in Lincolnshire) to see what options may be available to help support the Village Hall. Kirk is the Community Development Officer for Village Halls. Notes will be made of this discussion and brought to the PC for views and comments.

25.04.25 – Still awaiting Grant White to get back to me on WLDC input. However, a team of volunteers lead by myself have organized a number of events for the next few months (details will be provided) and the village hall seems to be on the verge of being re-energized.

Still don't have a full set of accounts for 24/5 and the Management Committee are yet to contact the Charity Commission to elect me as a trustee so that we can start to appoint further trustees. This is potentially a very serious issue with the CCLA.

01.07.25 – The meeting with Kirk Thomson was useful but not particularly relevant to GVH.

Electricity

This has finally been resolved, following the discovery that the 'freedom tariff' was not a tariff at all, well albeit a tariff that EDF used to suit the fuel costs. All of the 3-phase meters are now operating, until April 2027, on a 50p/daily standing charge. Meter readings are being taken on a monthly basis and as soon as we have some idea of costs a direct debit will be set up.

I have put in a request for one of the 3-phase meters to be replaced as this is now out of date. The meter in question is the meter that is constantly buzzing.

Village Hall Team & Trustees

There are now 4 trustees, Roger Waldock, Ian Stewart, Vanessa Smith and myself. The village hall team work exceptionally well together and we have held several very successful events to date. A couple of them unfortunately had to be cancelled, but I'm confident that next year we will have 100% success. We have several events booked for the rest of the year.

Community Fund Grant

A grant has been applied for from WLDC UKSPF funds. We have been approved to progress to application stage. The grant will be used to purchase additional equipment for the Youth Club. These has proved to be an extremely popular club and numbers grow at every session. To date, we have run 'Make Your Own Pizza', and our next session will be 'Meeting exotic animals'. We have had to change the time of the session as the bowls team are not accommodating. A conversation will be held with them very shortly to discuss a potential move, so that the hall can be used on more Fridays. It is important when applying for a grant that we can demonstrate the hall is being used across a wide age-group, as well as for community activities.