



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

CLERKS REPORT – September 2021

1. **Noticeboards** – Meldon board still being replaced, Mole Avon and Soutcott completed .
2. **Open Spaces Working Group** – walk around Meldon Woods took place 8th Sept. Old Town Park to take place on 30th Sept.
3. **Hi Vis Jackets** – 25 ordered at costs agreed at last meeting. Not heard anything from supplier despite chasing, will chase again.
4. Emergency Tree Works, Meldon Woods – 2 sycamores overhanging bridlepath near Meldon Farm and one held up only by another tree. 2 quotes obtained, Clerk appointed Contractor in line with delegated authority for emergencies. Work completed.
5. Abbeyford Woods Sewage – letter sent to SWWA response now received, on agenda for discussion.
6. WDBC Enforcement Lists – WDBC have stopped producing these lists due to turnover of staff therefore they are having to reallocate all the cases to different officers. Circulation of the lists will start again when they have sorted this out.
7. WDBC/DCC Reports at meetings – at the return of face to face meetings, The decision to change the format of reporting to written was taken by the Chairman and myself after undertaking a risk assessment for the return of face to face meetings and to increase the opportunity to communicate with the wider public. Written reports would be published on line in advance of meetings thereby giving advance notice to the public and councillors time to consider the reports before the meeting enabling specific questioning to take place at the meeting. It also enables those unable to attend the meeting to have an opportunity to ask questions. This makes efficient use of time at the meeting itself for questions and any urgent updates.

A shorter meeting time reduces the Risk to those attending the meeting.

There is in fact no Statutory Requirement for Borough Councillors or County Councillors to attend Parish and Town Council meetings or indeed for them to be invited, however this Council always has, and always will, welcome the attendance of all District and County Councillors at all meetings.

At the Council meeting on 7th September, Cllr Yelland asked that Councillors discuss this decision.

Could I please ask OHPC Councillors to let me know either –

- a. If you would like to discuss this decision at the November meeting OR
- b. If you agree with the decision made and feel no discussion is necessary.

Responses by 4th October please.