

DECEMBER 2024 FULL COUNCIL ITEM 9 CLERK REPORT

It has been an exceptionally busy month – my highest level of overtime so far this year. This has been mainly due to the Christmas Fun Night preparations and the budget preparations and meeting.

However, January, February and March are historically quieter in the build up to year end so my hours will return to normal levels.

Hilary and I will both be on annual leave for the Christmas week. Hilary will be in the office on Thursday 2nd January and working her normal hours for that week. I will back Tuesday 7th January.

I attended a very useful face-to-face Clerks Forum last week where we had a presentation from ESCC Highways. We were informed that there is very little money available and there are no road resurfacing programmes in place for the foreseeable future, patching work will only be completed if absolutely necessary. The plan is just to continue to fill in potholes. The full presentation is being sent shortly and I will circulate this to all members when it has been received.

Please note that utility road repairs are the utility companies' responsibility but any defects should still be reported to Highways.

Highways encouraged Clerks to advise reporting any faded white road lines.

Highways also encouraged Clerks to log on to One Network which highlights all the upcoming road works in the area.

Hilary has been continually chasing Highways re the painting of the zebra crossing. The work has been booked in many times already, but the weather has caused delays.

More and more parish councils were moving over to gov.uk emails.

Hilary is currently re-arranging the parish council / village hall liaison meeting which has been postponed until January.

ESCC have been informed of the parish council's chosen grass cutting option for next year.

Myself, Hilary, Gary and Andy have now completed our stair climber training and the parish council's stair climber is now in situ. It will be publicly available from January.

A big thank you to all the councillors for their support at the Christmas Fun Night. It was nice to see so many faces and for all the help on the night.

Another big thank you to Gary for installing the new zip wire seat.

Thank you to Sue for working closely with Hilary and I on the new website. We have established a good working relationship with James from parishcouncilwebsites already and I am hoping to circulate the first look before Christmas.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the council especially the Staffing Committee for all their support with my recent health concerns.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and New Year and I am looking forward to a productive 2025.