

Clerk's Updates

8th September 2021 Meeting

Landslip

I receive email updates when they are published which I share to both the Facebook page and the website, but unfortunately these are not received very frequently. The last report said that there is no sign of recent movement, but there was evidence of historic slippage. The slope continues to be monitored and further assessment work is being undertaken to establish what, if any, work is required to the slope, although it may be several weeks before the full results are known. CBC will continue to offer housing assistance to the two affected families.

We are told that the portacabins for the school will be in place ready for the middle of September with most children doing on line work for the first couple of weeks and key worker children and vulnerable children getting a hybrid of school time and on line. After that all the children will be in the portacabins which will be up at Bransty school. The Village Hall will continue to be used as the sports hall. It is anticipated that to reduce disruption for the children the portacabins will probably be in use until at least Christmas although that will be under review. Orian will provide the school meals at Bransty for both sets of children.

Play Area

I have sourced an inspection check list which I am customising for our equipment and Councillor Armstrong has volunteered to carry out the weekly checks once the play park is open again. The play park is on hold until the area has opened up again. Although the gravel boards are deteriorating, they are alright at the moment, but we will probably have to put money aside to replace them next year.

Litter Bins

The contract with Cumbria Waste Recycling has been completed. They require payment by direct debit so that is on the agenda for approval. To get things moving I have paid the first month in advance and will reclaim that through my expenses at the next meeting once the invoice has been received. Opinion was split over whether I should contest the invoice from CBC when I emailed everybody. I believe it could be a waste of time to argue back and forth over what could amount to a compromise saving about £20 at best, or nothing at worst, so I have included it with the payments for approval which you will have to decide upon later in the meeting.

Garages

1 tenant has still not settled the outstanding rent, although if a direct payment has been made into our account since August 12th, I would not see that until I receive the September statement. In total now, three tenants have returned their tenancy agreements, four have not. I have not received any correspondence objecting to the agreement for any reason from those four. One tenant has completed his agreement and kindly sent a covering letter to help allay fears over the wood-burning stoves. He states, "These units are household standard issue. They are installed on concrete bases, the garages are of concrete construction and have metal roofs. These burners are only used with the owners in attendance. I hope that this will allay any concerns that there may have been."

Independent Advice

Copeland Borough Council were unable to assist and suggested I ask CALC. The chief officer of CALC said that this would be beyond the normal level of service that they would offer. She has suggested an outside consultancy and I will contact them to find out their charges. She also suggested that her assistant may be prepared to take on the review outside of her normal hours, but would obviously need paying for her time. I shall try to get a cost estimate from both of these sources for the next meeting.

Donation to the school

I have emailed the head teacher to ask if there is anything that she requires, but have not yet received a response. I suspect until everything is set up, she may not be certain of what she may require. If I don't hear back by the end of the month, I shall ask her again.