

Freshford PC Chairman's Report –12 Oct. 2020

1. Clerk's Salary

With the current Covid-19 situation, some things are a bit delayed this year.

The Clerk's salary is contractually defined to be pay scale SCP 22, subject to an annual increase as defined by the national pay awards.

NALC have confirmed that the hourly rate for pay scale SCP 22 has increased from £13.68 per hour to £14.05 per hour.

This increase is back dated to the start of the financial year.

2. Phone Box

The old phone box near St. Peters church is no longer in use as BT disconnected the phone some time ago. How long ago is unclear.

This leaves an empty phone box which is a modern eyesore rather than a traditional red phone box which adds not aesthetic value and wastes useful space.

The PC is requested to support the proposal to request BT to remove the post box and make good the space that it used.

3. Planning Working Group

The Planning Working Group (PWG) is currently looking for another member from the local community to make up the required numbers.

The Terms of Reference for the PWG states that it should be reviewed annually.

The key purpose of the PWG was to provide a mechanism to enable expert planning knowledge to inform the PC on each Application to improve PC decision making.

Comments on the PWG are welcome from anyone and everyone. Processes can only be improved by understanding any shortfalls or problems.

4. Website Redevelopment

It would be fair to say that progress by Zonkey has been slow. An early development site has been produced, and there is a way to go.

Zonkey is a small, local company who are in the throes of building sites for other PCs and Local Authorities as well. Selina has been in contact with another PC who is following the same path. They are further down the line and report that they had similar frustrations, and concerns, but they are pleased with how things are turning out. So, there is a positive to take here.

There is a meeting with Zonkey before the next PC meeting, a verbal update will be provided.

A request has been put out for images to be provided from residents that might be able to be used on the redeveloped website, and some wonderful images have been provided. One thing that has stood out is that Freshford does seem to be most picturesque when covered in snow.

Many thanks to everyone who has submitted images to date – I hope that they keep on coming.