

Town Clerk's Report for the meeting of 4th February 2010

This month has been full of the usual administration duties as well as some extra work, mostly caused by street lights not working, pot holes in the road and the start of organising our first event in May (Gravity Go Cart Race – 9th May)

The snow has disappeared for the time being and wasn't it lovely, a proper winter at last! I am sure many people will disagree, but for me it caused little inconvenience, as I can work equally as well at home as in the office and it is just a case of putting my wellies on and walking everywhere. However, obviously it is not so easy for some. Therefore, in order to keep fully informed and give some feedback, Councillor John Lucas and I will attend 'The Big Freeze Workshop' hosted by Suffolk County Council, and held at Endeavour House in Ipswich on Friday 5th February. This is a learning workshop to find ways of working better together, with regard to dealing with difficult weather conditions.

Market Invoices:

The spring quarter invoices have now all been paid and there are 7 regular pitches booked on a Saturday and 4 on a Tuesday. This is always the quietest quarter with most traders waiting for the warmer weather before attending again.

The quarterly Market Hill electric inspection has been arranged for Friday 29th January.

Riverside railings:

Work is due to start on replacing the posts and rails along Riverside on 8th February, and should take approximately 8 weeks. The Town Council is contributing towards the cost.

Community Directory:

The new directory is being published in early March.

Power of Well Being:

Framlingham is one of eight councils who have been trained and adopted the Power of Well Being including: Sudbury, Woodbridge, Ousden, Newton, Newmarket, Melton and Lidgate.

Quality Parish Council:

The Town Council's QPS status expires in November 2010, this poses a problem as the Elections are not being held until May 2011. However, I have consulted the DCEO at SALC and she has advised that a lapse period may be allowed and I should start collating evidence for re-accreditation now. It was a huge undertaking four years ago, taking up lots of my time compiling a very large portfolio of evidence. Hopefully it will not be quite so onerous this time around. I should be receiving an updated version of the scheme and its requirements through the post shortly.

Society of Local Council Clerks:

I attended the Suffolk Branch meeting in January and a presentation on VAT was given by Andy Coulson from HMR&C. This was a very interesting morning and a useful refresher course.

Apparently Town and Parish Councils are unlikely to get a visit by an inspector as they don't pose a risk! However, there are penalties for not doing things correctly. I did learn some new information which will be useful in the future, and I will be able to contact Andy via the SLCC for any individual queries and he will give an answer in writing which is very reassuring.

Eileen A Coe (Town Clerk)