

## **Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### **Clerk's Report**

#### **Finances**

There is a separate report on the status of finances on the agenda.

#### **Communications**

I have not sent out the email updates as frequently as previously, largely for lack of content and engagement. I hope that the focus on communication from the “Rural Leadership Group” will provide some clarity on the role of this service.

#### **Streetlights**

As Councillors are aware, we have invested a significant amount of time and funding to streetlights over the past 6 months or so, and – when current works are completed – we will have upgraded the majority of our estate of ca. 30 lights to the latest technology. I would like to come forward with a plan to upgrade the remainder of our lights over the summer.

#### **Utilities**

I have initiated the process of re-tendering our electricity supply. I am using a broker – Clear Utility Solutions, [www.clearutilitysolutions.com](http://www.clearutilitysolutions.com) - who have been competitively selected by the Avon Local Councils Association, and therefore fulfil our Financial Regulations requirements. They will also only consider renewable supply.

We have 4 separate contracts for electricity:

- The Rhymes Pavilion
- The Riverside Toilet Block
- Streetlights
- All-weather pitch floodlights

This has been on my wish-list for some time, as it has not been undertaken for a few years, but unfortunately now coincides with the current turmoil in the energy market, so it may take some time to get reasonable prices.

#### **Playground Project**

I continue to oversee completion of the first phase; the installation of the slide, the netting, and the handrail.

#### **Riverside**

As Councillors are aware there is a lot of activity in the Riverside area: the establishment of the Forest Garden by Grow Batheaston; tree work; light repairs and repairs to some of the hard landscaping; and there is the possibility of a proposal to use the toilet block as a shop.

There is a separate item on the agenda to re-establish the Working Group with Cllr Lewis as lead, as a means of ensuring we have appropriate coordination of these tasks.

**Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk**