



## WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

THE SACKHOUSE, JICKLINGS YARD,  
WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA NR23 1AU

### CLERKS' REPORT WRITTEN FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2012 & PREPARED 26.10.2012

- 1) The word on the streets (as yet unconfirmed) is that there has been a settlement between the parties with regard to the alleged right of way through the former Gray's Arcade premises. This is unlikely to result in an immediate building start, but at least may mean that the inevitable delays built in by the Land Registry will be prevented.
- 2) Keith & Joe attended a meeting on 17 October organised by Cromer Town Council to protest at cuts and poor ambulance response times. There were about 60 representatives of Towns and Parishes from throughout North Norfolk. The East of England Ambulance Service (6 counties) gave a very good presentation stating that they were doing everything that they could to alleviate the fact that their £220 million budget is being cut by £50 million in the next few years. They explained that their greater reliance on voluntary first responders and single-manned "fast response vehicles" is one way that they are trying to tackle the problem. But they believe that an ever-increasing workload is indicative of the fact that they are the "last resort" and are getting additional work because sheltered housing wardens are being reduced, care assistants in homes for the elderly are replacing trained nurses, doctors are not working "out of hours" etc. etc. The general feeling of the meeting seemed to be that they were doing the best they can under difficult conditions and that we should perhaps be careful not to have any accidents, particularly next time we are standing in a polling booth.
- 3) Thanks as usual to lots of help from Maggie, we have managed to get all of the allotment rents paid except for two or three that we are still working on. Surprisingly, after a couple of years of having a long waiting list, we now have more vacant plots than people to fill them. So if you know anyone that wants an allotment, we can probably help them.
- 4) No doubt to tremendous excitement, the poll for a new police commissioner will take place on 15 November.
- 5) To date there has been no reply from Highways regarding the withdrawal of funding for placing out the bollards.
- 6) Keith & Greg had a meeting with David Horton-Fawkes on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Holkham are definitely intending to have the major part of their new car park up and running "by next Whitsun". This obviously will make a great financial difference to both the Town Council and the "charity groups" that have benefitted from parking on the football field over the past few years. Holkham do not want and will not allow us to compete with them, and the planners have made it clear in the past that permission for using the Recreation Field as a summer car park would not be given once the Holkham one is operational. They understand that *event parking* (for instance at Carnival events or similar) may be a continuing part of the use of the Recreation Field, but 6 car boot stalls and 600 cars is not going to be acceptable. Holkham are prepared to make a donation in respect of the loss to the charity groups but this is likely to be a lot less than the current "pool". I suspect that it will also require a mechanism for distribution as a straight division amongst those who have benefitted most recently may not be the best way. One consolation is that the site will incorporate 5 coach parking spaces. Since there can often be delays in the best-ordered plans your Clerks have decided to ask for planning permission to use the Recreation Field for parking for the 2013 season "until the new car park is operational" but not to assume that any income is available from it for the purposes of the 2013/14 budget.
- 7) A meeting has been arranged at the Harbour Office on 26 November to discuss the problem of the litter on The Quay and to seek solutions. Marcus French, Philip Platten, NNDC, WTC and Wells Harbour will attend.
- 8) The poppy wreath has been delivered. Joe will lay it on behalf of this Council this year.