WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

# CLERK'S REPORT WRITTEN FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD JULY 2012 & PREPARED 22.06.2012

1) With regard to street lighting, the legal people at the Norfolk Association of Local Councils have now decided that we have no obligation to move to the contractors that have been appointed by the liquidators of our former contractors. We are therefore able to move to the Council's preferred choice.
2) Our esteemed leaders working under the direction of Mr Pickles decided that every local Council including Parishes would be required to agree a new Code of Conduct with effect from 1 July. They would provide guidance. This arrived Mid-June. The suggestion was that Parishes could either follow the "Code" produced by their local District Council, the draft produced by the National Association of Local Councils, or their use their own wording. It was said that it would normally be better to use the District's model, since their monitoring officer would adjudicate if there were any problems. However, the models that have arrived in the last couple of weeks would seem to suggest that the NNDC model is totally slanted to District Councillors and unsuitable for Parishes. I would therefore recommend that we follow the NALC model. Copies of both have been issued to Councillors.
3) Greg and Roger Arguile met with Estelle Packham, NNDC Head of Customer Services, who has been asked to review the provision of Tourist Information Services in North Norfolk. Her visit was informal, to gauge the Council's stance and consider any suggestions or solutions. NNDC's main objective is to save money but no decisions have been taken. She thought one way forward may be with the Maltings Project and she has met with them. Another idea was to earn additional income by selling local interest books/maps etc., something which was happening at Sheringham and Cromer but not at Wells due to a lack of published material; (NOT TRUE! KL) an opening for local groups and authors. She will be looking at both short and long term strategies. She was told that the council would be against the loss or reduction of the present provision and that we would wish to be kept fully informed. She was asked to present her findings to the whole council before any decisions were made.
4) This would normally be a fairly unstressful time of the year, being one of the quieter times, before the busy autumn work hits the office. However, this year is not going to pattern, and Greg and I are running hard to try to stop moving backwards. This is partly because two people working 15 hours each have to spend time briefing each other, and cannot do what one can do in 30 hours. It is partly due to the calendar, with two weeks between one meeting and producing agendas for the next, not really being adequate. It is partly due to life-changing/enhancing decisions emanating from Westminster (see above). So if things are less efficient than normal, please bear with us! >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Keith Leesmith Town Clerk 01328 710564
clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk

E
Striving for Excellence