

JULY 2022 FULL COUNCIL CLERK REPORT

I have now passed my ILCA CiLCA qualification. I have started my CiLCA qualification in June. I have one year to complete the course.

CiLCA stands for Certificate in Local Council Administration. It is a **foundation qualification for local council officers and others working with local councils**, awarded at Level 3 of the National Qualifications framework (NFQ). It checks that you can manage the council's activities, its finances and community engagement.

CiLCA is a **vital criteria** for the Council to claim **General Power of Competence**.

What is the General Power of Competence? The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it **gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation**.

At the precise moment that the council resolves that it meets the criteria, the number of councillors elected at the last ordinary election, or at a subsequent by-election, must **equal or exceed two thirds of its total number of councillors**.

The next ordinary election will take place in 2023.

I had my review which went well with the Chairman of F&GP. Thank you to any councillors who gave me feedback.

My summer annual leave dates are: w/c 25th July, w/c 1st August and w/c 8th August. Steve has kindly offered to keep an eye on my emails which will have an out of office reply set up and I will be clerking the planning meeting on the 2nd August.

The AGAR documentation was submitted to PKF on the 21st June ahead of the deadline on the 30th June.

I have created a new tab on the website home page called road works which I will keep up-to-date.

Wild About Warbleton expressed their thanks for the grant received from the Parish Council.

The funds have contributed towards the recently purchased signs which are being put up around the Parish over the next few weeks and information on the signs will be added to the PC website.

Steve has kindly offered to complete a finger post audit in the next couple of weeks.

The next WDALC meeting is the AGM scheduled for Wednesday 13th July.

The White Horse pub update – It was “verbally” announced in the village of Bodle Street on Friday 17th June that a new landlord had been found for the White Horse Inn. The planned reopening is scheduled for Friday 5th August. It should be noted this might not be a realistic date.

The Horse & Groom update – Refurbishments are going well and the owners are hoping to re-open in time for the flower show. However, there are still several technical and licensing issues which they are working on resolving before this can happen. I am working on the nomination form from WDC to relist the pub as an ACV.

I was requested at the ASM to check if holding a social event for councillors to get to know each other was acceptable and I can confirm it is.

I have had an email from a parishioner offering his services free of charge if the PC ever have need of rat or rabbit control in the parish.

Cllr Simpson has now attended a new councillor training course.

Cllr Saunders will be attending a training course as soon as wi-fi is available from his property.

I attended the Clerks Forum on the 28th June. These are held by ESALC and provide very useful information and give Clerks the chance to ask any questions.

It was reported there was a big shortfall in the funding required by ESCC which would have the knock-on effect of Highways become less effective. If every outstanding Highways issue was repaired the cost would be £300m but they only have £20m available. We were warned to be prepared.

Regarding Operation London Bridge, PCs were advised to NOT act until instructions were received from the Lord Lieutenant's office.

There is a training video available from ESALC which I have requested.

Resilience planning Update. ESALC are running a pilot scheme for several parish councils to help them develop their Resilience Plan at no cost. I have emailed ESALC asking for Warbleton to be added to this scheme explaining the difficult circumstances that many parishioners faced during the last storm. I will keep you updated.

For reference when WPC start work on their emergency plan:

Key starting points:

Identify a place of safety.

Identify how to access the place of safety in an emergency and associated phone numbers, addresses and emails etc.

Register for chain saws, 4X4, those mechanically trained, medically trained parishioners, vulnerable people – regularly check these numbers are up-to-date.

Identify any ex-military or blue light services who would have experience of emergency plans and how to make them as effective as possible.

After the pilot scheme has taken place there will be training session arranged for Parish Councils at the end of this year.

The Police Focus Groups highlighted the biggest problem identified was the rise in delinquents aged approximately 14 who believed they are above the law and the feeling nothing is being done to address this problem.

Police initiatives are being set up: a youth office based within schools and the Home Office are completing a study on the Community Safety Partnership which is run by WDC but appears to be not well known about.

Another item highlighted as a cause of concern was policing of the roads and road safety. The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership which is funded by ESCC is tied up with the statistics – if the KSI (killed and seriously injured) statistics do not match the proposed project it is unlikely to happen. However, this is likely to change in the future – watch this space!!

Engagement with PCSO was said to have improved. Over a 12-month period a PCSO is obliged to complete a patrol plan where it would be stated if they had made contact with the Parish Clerk and provide the evidence to prove this has happened.

ESALC requested all Clerks to contact them if a PCSO had not made contact within the next month.

There was also a lack of confidence in reporting police matters online and disillusionment with the action taken as a result of the complaint. Trevor Leggo is meeting with the police to work on improving this system.

Some PCs are arranging PCSO drop ins and these are reported to be working well.

The next round of Focus groups will begin on the 14th November and now is the time to ensure the PC are built into the process. The group involves Trevor and the local chief inspector talking to the parishes about policing in the area. Please let me know if you would like to represent WPC.

Sussex alerts were reported to be very useful. Once you have signed up you are emailed alerts of any crimes being committed as well as crime trends in the area. I have joined with WPC email so can forward any local alerts to all councillors but if you wish to join yourself please click on the link below:

Click on the following link: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/sus/sussex-alerts/>

Additional planning training will be available once the Government have announced their changes to the planning system.

The Civility and Respect programme is ongoing and Trevor Leggo is lobbying for the re-introduction of sanctions. At the moment the only punishment issued to councillors breaking the Code of Conduct is additional training which they can refuse. Trevor Leggo has a meeting with Boris's policy adviser in July.

Under the Equality Act if the PC has a profoundly deaf person standing for councillor then the PC would need to make reasonable adjustments. E.g., provide a signing interpreter which could be costly.

I will be receiving information shortly from East Sussex for Community which identifies any grant funding available that the PC might find useful.