

Clerk's Report – Full Council Meeting 13th October 2026

Agenda Items

9.1	Finance EDF costs. We have been debited by EDF to the value of £4,158.55 in September. This is inaccurate and is caused by an error in the data sent from UKPN to EDF whilst unmetered supplies were migrated to half-hourly billing – an OFGEM reform. It has caused approximately £2,400 of additional billing. EDF are aware and are working with UKPN to make sure that the correction takes place, at which point we will be refunded. UKPN hope that this will be in October but are not in control of EDF who must make the refund.
9.5	Internal Audit The Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit is £120,000 per provider. Parish Councils are limited by the number of banks who offer accounts for them and if significant funds are held it is not possible to spread funds across sufficient providers to protect all funds. This is considered annually at Office and Finance when an accounts review takes place, with any recommendations being taken forward to Full Council. A new audit requirement is that Council minute proof that they considered the independence and competence of their Internal Auditor when making the appointment.
10.2	Broyle Close Play Area The existing wet pour is shrinking causing a trip hazard. Infill repair is needed.
10.3ii	Year 1 Tree Work There is an opportunity to engage the services of Bonnys Wood who produced the 3-year tree survey, to check the quality of the works undertaken before payment. This would be at a cost of £45 per hour
10.4	Village Green Pond The latest tree survey suggests that Council may want to fence off the fallen willow to prevent anyone climbing out over the pond. The surveyor suggested a chestnut fence to stay in situ until the brambles spread which would then make a natural barrier at which point the fence could be removed. This has been quoted as a separate item as it has been discussed at Council previously but was decided against. Following the recent works carried out at the pond the Parish Council has generally received positive feedback. There have been requests to clean the pond of rubbish and comments that the woodpiles look unsightly, asking if they can be removed. A resident has expressed an interest in being part of any further improvements. There has been recent discussion around pond safety.
10.6ii	Christmas Trees A budget of £1250 was agreed for the provision of a Christmas tree on the village green last year. Some time later it was agreed to provide an additional tree at the precinct. Following discussion between Mr Lew Howard, Leader of the Shopkeepers Association and Cllr Chaloner it became apparent that a large tree was not deemed the best way forward. Previously, Christmas trees sited there have been vandalised. Mr Howard suggested that a preferred solution would be for the shopkeepers to install individual trees above their shops. Many already have brackets in situ, and that any funds that would have been used for a large tree, be diverted to help fund the alternative.
11.1	Policies for Review and adoption. Dignity at Work Policy This is a NALC model policy. The paragraph in red was omitted at the time of adoption as the Council had not signed up to the Civility Pledge. IT Policy – This policy needs to be reviewed annually. It will be brought into line with other annual reviews next may for ease. There are no changes proposed.
11.4	St John Ambulance – 150th Anniversary fundraising Fete 2027 “Our cadet group are doing a course subject on fundraising. The event would potentially include some side stalls, with other emergency services, maybe even getting the cricket club on board, predominantly looking at fundraising for our cadet group, so the Cadets will be suggesting ideas, looking around May /June time”.

General

Insurance Renewal – Year 3 of 3 year contract.

Premium £2,292.42. Fidelity limit is £1.5million. Cyber Security is not included in the contract. Advice from Ash Towner states that this is not necessary for the Parish Council. If it were to come under attack the issue would be how much time was lost in recovering files. If everything was lost it would be a case of wiping the system and reloading from our offsite back-up with any loss of documents limited to a maximum of a 24hour period.

The Clerk's desktop computer

This has been replaced at a cost of £711. The previous machine was failing but has been set up in the office for visiting Councillors as a tool to access emails and internet. The cost was met from EMR 323 – Office Equipment Replacement under the Clerk's delegated authority.

Planning Decisions

Description	RPC Decision	LDC Decision
LW/26/0385 - 3 Elphick Road, Ringmer. BN8 5PR Single storey side extension to form garage with utility room/WC to rear and alterations to existing conservatory to replace polycarbonate roof with solid insulated tiled roof	No objection	Approved (24/09/26)
LW/26/0362 – Ivydene, Vicarage Way, Ringmer. BN8 5EX Conversion of existing outbuilding to habitable space, including alterations to side fenestration and the installation of 2 no. rooflights	No objection	Approved (04/09/26)