

Clerk's Report – Holkham Parish Council – 10 May 2022

In theory, local authority staff (which includes Parish Clerks) have their salaries assessed every year on 1st April. Over the past few years this has resulted in no change on most occasions due to the government deciding that “public sector workers” would have their pay “restrained”. When pay rises have been agreed, they are usually decided sometime after April the 1st, resulting in back pay having to be added at some time during the year. Last year, they really excelled themselves and decided the pay rise effective from 1 April 2021 just before 1 April 2022. In my case this has resulted in the princely sum of £47.84 (less tax) being payable as back pay. I am only telling you this since my pay this time will be rather higher than usual, and rather higher than next time!

We still have not managed to satisfy Barclays regarding the change of mandate. Their letters to me seem to be increasingly stupid. In the latest epistle from them they refer to Mr. Derek Jarvis and ask me to obtain another copy of HER signature. If it wasn't for the fact the cheques that are signed seem to go through without any problems, I would be throwing up my hands in horror! This is nothing new – I suspect that it is a deliberate policy to ease out business which they have decided doesn't add that much to their profits.

It would be appreciated if you could look at the Audit Papers before the meeting. In particular, The Annual Governance Statement which requires us to agree that we have done all we can to safeguard the funds of the Parishioners. If you have any problems/queries, I will gladly answer these at the meeting.

KL May 2022