

Clerk's Report – Holkham PC – Tuesday 14 March 2023

Bank Problem:

Last autumn I received a letter from Barclays Bank asking me to complete a long form and saying that this was required to prevent money laundering etc. I started on the form and about the third question was something like "Are you a Charity, or a Club?" etc. and telling me to tell them what we were (Parish Council) and return the form if we were not a Charity or Club. A bit later I received an identical form (no letter) which I again got to the third question and sent it back. I heard nothing until 19 January when I received a letter telling me that unless I returned the completed form they would close the account in two months' time – on 20 March. I wrote to them telling them the above story and have not received a reply. I have had similar problems with the Wells Local History Group which I am the secretary of and have concluded that Barclays are no longer interested in our sort of business. Following similar problems at Warham about three years ago we changed to Unity Trust Bank and have found them very efficient and easy to deal with. That is why I have completed forms to open an account with them.

Dale Hole:

Those members who use email will know about the recent application for planning permission, which all were unhappy with. The following is the comments uploaded to the NNDC Planning site: *Holkham Parish Council objects to this application. Whilst we have no problem with the plans for the main residence (even though we suspect that it will not be a main residence and will in fact be a second or holiday home) we strongly object to the "work at home annex" proposed for the garden.*

For anyone working from home, the obvious place to build an office area would be adjacent to the main house, particularly in view of the other alterations to be carried out.

This annex structure is clearly intended, at some time in the future if not immediately, to be another residential unit. Whilst it might be argued that a kitchenette is required in an office area to make cups of tea/coffee and to wash them up afterwards it is difficult to justify the need for a shower when the main house is only a few steps away.

We understand that the current regulations only allow for two vehicles to be used at the property, because of potential traffic problems on the adjacent main A149 road. We believe that this regulation should continue and that nothing should be allowed to change it in the future.

I sent a copy to Peter Fisher, and we have since spoken on the issue. He is considering "calling the application in" which means that it will be discussed and decided by Councillors rather than staff. He asked me if I would be prepared to put Holkham PC's point of view at the meeting if this happens. I have said that I am.

Flood Meeting:

DJ, Daisy, and I are attending a meeting on Friday 10th which will discuss coastal flooding problems between Hunstanton and Wells. We will advise the meeting on the 14th if anything interesting arises.

Elections:

The periodic elections for the Parish Council and District Councillors take place on 4th May. It is therefore necessary for all Parish Councillors to complete a form to register as candidates at the election if they wish to continue as Parish Councillors. We will undertake this after the meeting on 14 March.

KL March 2023