

Parish Clerk's Report – Holkham Parish Council – 9 May 2023

We are finally free of Barclays!

I cannot understand why they seem to be doing everything that they can to discourage business, but that seems to be the way that it is at present. We are not alone in this respect. The more I speak to people about it, the more tales that I hear that are similar to ours. I had no reply to my letter asking them to close the account and send a cheque for the balance either to me, or to the new Unity Trust account. I waited patiently, but finally acted when I received a letter asking me to ring a number "as they needed to discover some details about us and had been unable to contact me". This is the second similar letter that I had received over the months. This is also an obvious lie as they have my postal address, email address, and telephone number and clearly had never tried to contact me. At that point I got Elaine and DJ to sign a cheque for the balance of the account and paid it into the new Unity Trust Account. Once we get "into the swing" of the new account we will find it very easy to operate, and far-more convenient than working with Barclays.

[Having had a similar problem at Warham, I shall be closing my personal account at Barclays. I feel sad that this has become necessary as it was originally my only bank account since I was 16 or 17. But their current attitude, plus the continued closure of branches dictates this]

Items 8 & 9 on the agenda concern signing off the accounts for the past year. If you could scan these before the meeting, it will save time when we get there!

Item 10 concerns the fact that even though we did not have a contested Parish election, we have in the past, received a bill for work undertaken by NNDC. Many other District Councils are known to waive this charge. The reason for the agenda item is that more and more work is being pushed onto Parishes by the District at the time of elections. At a recent Zoom meeting of Clerks, it was stated that NNDC has a policy of "moving towards net zero" as far as printing costs go (by moving more items online). However, part of this policy seems to be to delegate printing to Parishes. In the period since the start of the election build up, I have been asked to print and distribute numerous posters, plus forms, some of which have umpteen pages and require several copies. NNDC also ask Parishes to (print and) display posters advertising various stages in the election process for both the Parish and District Councillors, which I believe is legally their province. I feel that if we get a bill for the election, we should counter this with one for our own costs.

KL May 2023