

Clerk's Report – June 2019

Still the planning applications are rolling in – two more this month. The only decision received was approval of a new bungalow at The Barn, Cothey Butts.

Lushington Landscaping have replaced the oak posts on the Lower Green and they look very smart. Thanks go to the local residents for some creative thinking to prevent the usual parking problems whilst the work took place. Whilst on the Lower Green, the information board has been removed temporarily before it succumbs to a combination of rotting wood and eroding shingle. A new site will be arranged as soon as possible. Whilst on the subject of boards, the Perspex in the board by *The Fishbourne* has been replaced and it is now possible to read the notices.

The IW Council's Tree Officer, Jerry Willis, came to a Tuesday morning surgery last month and gave us a lot of good advice regarding various tree issues in the Parish. One of these was an oak tree next to the bus stop just beyond the traffic lights on Kite Hill. It was leaning at a potentially precarious angle and has now been dealt with by Island Roads.

I attended a meeting with Helen Miles, the IWC Monitoring Officer, several members of the Legal Team and other clerks. The meeting was very informative and was mainly concerned with the question of conduct, bullying and similar issues. At present, the Monitoring Officer has few powers to do anything but this may change when the Government gets around to considering new legislation. Hopefully this will go some way to restoring some of the powers that were removed in 2012.

Finally, I had some fun and games with the *IW County Press* over our account. This had been set up but not activated and so I could not use it when placing an advert regarding our vacancy. At one point I was informed by Newsquest (the owners) that even if it was activated, I might not be able to use it! If that were the case, then what would be the point of having it? However, sanity prevailed and it was all sorted out.

Sheila