

Clerks Report Sept 2023

The **Unity Trust Bank** matter had been delayed because, a few years ago, the Parish Council made the decision to establish a bank account for the Poor's Charity when there was an urgent need for a new charity account. While it was a completely separate account, this account was under the umbrella of the Parish Council's main account. The charity has been actively working to set up a new account elsewhere, and this process has been successfully finalised, with all funds now transferred to the new charity account in the last few days. With this task completed, I can now proceed with switching the current account for the Parish Council.

Village gateways - should be installed by the end of 2023, and at the very latest March 2024.

Information placed on the website from Borough Cllr Sue Lintern regarding the Borough Councils **energy-efficiency grants** for low-income households.

Council Tax Support consultation (BCKL&WN) – Information placed on the website re: The Council Tax Support consultation invites your input on proposed changes to the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for working age individuals in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Your views are crucial as these changes impact council tax payments, affecting the council's income and budget allocation for community services.

Correspondence received, and replied sent, from a member of the public regarding **The Berny Arms**. They wished to know:

Has the Parish Council taken any steps to see the pub reopened, or being used in line with its legal classification?

Has the Parish Council applied for it to be listed as an asset of community value (ACV)? As an ACV the community would have much greater say over its use should any planning applications be made, and indeed first rights to buy it if it is sold.

Reply sent:

Change of Use - the Parish Council lacks direct authority over planning matters and enforcing the property's designated use falls under the jurisdiction of the Borough Council of King's Lynn. The Parish Council's role is as a consultee in the planning process, allowing the council to share local views and insights but without the final decision-making power. The Parish Council have not received a 'change of use' application to comment on from the Borough Planning Dept. Whether or not a change of use is required is a matter for the Planning Dept. At the last Parish Council members did request a discussion on this matter be included on the next agenda (Sept meeting).

Reopening The Berny Arms – the Parish Council have no powers in reopening the pub

Nominating The Berny Arms as an ACV - the Parish Council has not pursued this designation. Regarding ACV in general, while ACV status gives a group a 6-month window to secure funding and make an offer to purchase it, the property owner is not obligated to accept the offer from the group. There is no 'right to buy' with ACV status.