

Clerk's Report – Binham Parish Council meeting – Monday 18 May 2020 – by email

Last autumn I decided to retire from Binham PC and gave 4 months' notice of my intention to finish at the end of the financial year – 31 March. Sarah Hayden, an experienced Clerk of several Parishes, including Hindringham, agreed to take over on 1 April as Locum until a permanent new Clerk could be found. By the middle of March, I had sorted most of the 15-years' worth of paperwork and computer files that Sarah would need, and we agreed to meet up on the 2nd of April to undertake the handover. Needless to say, we were thwarted! Although we could make a doorstep exchange somewhere, any necessary explanations would be difficult if not impossible. It therefore seemed sensible for me to continue until normality (or something closely resembling it) resumes!

In the first few days of lockdown there seemed to be a dozen or more email messages arriving each day. Despite the fact that many of these were saying the same thing, I felt that it was up to you, not me, to decide which ones were deleted and which ones read. Thank you for your forbearance! I am pleased to say that things seem to have calmed down now, and the number of emails arriving is now little more than normal.

You may have noticed that I have been sending out emails using a Gmail address. It wasn't that I just fancied a change, but it seems that the password for the outgoing mail server on my Apple desktop has been changed, without my knowledge, and since I don't know what the new password is I cannot send out mail using my usual address. There isn't a problem using an iPad, and there isn't a problem receiving mail at the old address, so it seems that I will just have to put up with it for the time being.

In the early days of lockdown, the Norfolk Community Foundation were offering grants to help defray the additional costs of working during the coronavirus emergency. I applied for £800, saying that the Parish Council would add £200 from its own funds. I heard nothing, not even an acknowledgement, and assumed that I had failed. However, on opening the bank statement at the beginning of May, I found a credit for £800 which must have been paid the day after I had applied! I was asked to say what the money was intended for, and said the cost of printing/stationery to distribute to every household, plus reimbursing local volunteers for mileage incurred in collecting and delivering food, & prescriptions etc. The "etc." needs some discussion!

Keith
May 2020