



Clerks Update–November (December meeting)

SYA – Youth Club Three councillors and the Clerk have now completed DBS checks, ensuring the Youth Club can continue operating even when volunteers are unavailable, avoiding closures experienced in previous years. Special thanks are extended to Councillor Vinall for stepping in last week to prevent closure.

Christmas Light Switch-On Event Preparations are well underway, including organising lighting, raffle prizes, advance ticket sales, civic awards, posters, and social media promotion. Local organisations are involved, with the school choir (led by Amy) performing, and song sheets provided for members of the public wishing to sing around the tree. Hopefully have a final amount raised to report at this meeting.

Santa at the Centre Councillor Pinches and I recently met with Bridgnorth Fire Station to finalise arrangements for 11th December. The fire engine will visit the Centre with a revised route. Volunteers are providing refreshments (hot chocolate, mulled apple juice, mince pies), supported by councillors. The public are invited to attend in pyjamas or festive outfits, with Christmas music adding to the atmosphere. Funds raised will support the Fire Service.

CiLCA Qualification I am pleased to confirm I have now passed CiLCA. Thank you for your support. My contracted hours will reduce from 1st April, with updates to be made through the Staffing Committee in line with council policies.

Clock Tower The repair and refurbishment of the clock tower has now been formally instructed, as efforts to locate the mechanism have so far been unsuccessful, with only the clock hands recovered. Sincere thanks are extended to Councillor Marshall for his support in this process.

Best Kept Village Awards Approval has been sought to use the prize money towards next year's competition, including a banner, prizes, and entry fees, to build on this year's success.

Allotments Discussions are ongoing with a local builder to undertake tree cutting work, with the agreement that he may retain the wood. This arrangement could reduce costs for the council.

Budget and Precept The 2026 budget and precept have been approved, and figures entered into the finance software giving us a better picture of the long-term financial commitments for the council.

Pension Every three years, the Local Government Pension Scheme requires employers to attend briefings on contribution changes. Updated slides will be shared once released following this year's meeting last week.

Parish Matters There has been a noticeable increase in the number of residents seeking advice and assistance during office drop-in sessions. Queries have covered a wide range of issues, including road closures, planning matters, support for new residents, tourist information, reporting through Fix My Street, damaged trees, and incidents of fly tipping.

Clerks Annual Leave I will be out of the office on Tuesday 9th December from midday at Highley School and Wednesday 10th December for my daughters Masters graduation in Liverpool and have planned holidays to take over the festive period when the office would otherwise be quiet. These have all been approved by the staffing committee. I am available via email at any time and emergencies by telephone **07496 821159**