Clerk's Report
Monday 12 January 2015

Training Session

Approval is sought for the Clerk to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks training event on 11 February 2015 in East Grinstead. Subjects being covered include; Legal and Employment briefings on recent changes in the sector and how these impact on the powers, duties and procedures of parish councils. Neighbourhood Development Plans help from the Neighbourhood Development Planning team at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), with practical advice on how to effectively engage your community with your plan.

Local Plan modifications

The final scheduled session on the examination in to the Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies Pre-submission 2014-2029 was held on the 3rd December. The Inspector advised the Council to consult on the Proposed Modifications as she considers they go to the heart of the Chichester Local Plan and are required to make the Plan sound. Any minor changes required on the basis of accuracy, clarity or for updating purposes will be included in the adopted version of the Chichester Local Plan. Anyone wishing to comment on the Proposed Modifications should confine their comments to the Proposed Modifications as set out in the schedule. It is important to note this consultation does not provide an opportunity to raise other matters which should have been raised during the earlier rounds of public consultation or at the hearings. The Proposed Modifications consultation runs for six weeks from 8 January 2015 until 5.00pm Thursday 19 February 2015.
The Parish Council is advised to hold a separate meeting to consider any response once Councillors have had an opportunity to review the proposed modifications.

Transparency Code for Councils with turnover under £25,000

The Government has published the final version of this Code which replaces the need for external audit for parish councils with turnover less than £25,000. The code will require the on-line publication of information which the Government says will provide taxpayers with a clear picture of the council's' activities, spending and governance and will improve the ability of communities to hold local public bodies to account. Although the Code is published initially as recommended practice, the Secretary of State told Parliament on 17th December that he intends to make the code mandatory by the start of the 2015 to 2016 financial year and will offer support to the local council sector to help authorities comply with these requirements.
A copy of the code is attached.

Any other important matters that arise will be reported verbally at the meeting.