**Clerk’s Report 30th January 2023**

**1. Ash die back disease at Hoyle Copse**

Those trees with ash die back disease and within striking distance of the footpaths at Hoyle Copse have been felled for safety reasons. Some of the work was kindly carried out by the Hoyle Copse volunteers.

The volunteers have already planted around 370 trees with planted to replace a further hundred next winter.

**2. Parish Asset Register**

Councillor King and the Clerk have commenced inspection of the Parish Assets and findings will be reported by the Finance Committee.

**3**. **Finance Software (Scribe)**

The Council have commenced use of a finance software package, Scribe, which will afford more efficient and robust management of the Parish finances.

**4. Clerk’s Payroll**

The Parish Council are now sing SHDC Payroll to manage the Clerks Salary, Tax and NI Contribution payments.

5. **Water leak on footpath from Duncannon Lane**

There is a long-standing water leak on the footpath from Duncannon Lane to Duncannon Steps. South West Water Authourity are aware and a case has been raised but they will not repair a leak on someone’s property.

Items from the previous Clerk’s Report of 28th November 2022

**6. Cavanna hedge cut and repairs to the stile bank at the Narrows**

Mr Darnes at Cavanna Homes committed to the Cavanna management company cutting the hedge prior to the Full Council Meeting of 28th November but no date has been set by the management company. Mr Darnes will confirm a date.

The management company have also committed to repairing the roadside bank at the stile, but no date has been committed to yet.

Once the bank has been repaired then repairs to the stile will be enacted: Enquiry reference W221551174 relating to Public Right of Way (Public Right of Way)

**7**. **Steps at Aish**

The condition of the steps on the footpath at Aish was reported on 4th November and there is a commitment to repair them, and they are on a contractors list to do so.

I have not viewed the steps to see if the repair has been enacted.

**8. Waste dumped in Fleet Mill Lane**

Mrs Edmunds (DCC Highways) instructed that waste material which should not have been dumped to be removed, and it has been, however that waste which DCC Highways were entitled to put there will not be removed.

**9**. **VAT claim for the previous 4 years**

The Finance Committee have agreed to wait for the previously submitted VAT Claim to be processed rather than submit an online claim as this will be time consuming.

This decision will be reviewed if the VAT is not repaid soon as we approach year end.

**10**. **Paved Area at Rydon Acres**

Despite enquiries with both SHDC and DCC it is no clearer who is the owner of this piece of land.

**Rob Barber**

**Clerk to Stoke Gabriel Parish Council**

**30th January 2023**