

Clerk's Report September 2021

August has been fairly quiet this year, with the bulk of our leave being taken during the month as well, so we have mainly been ticking over. A couple of things to note as below:

- **Allotments:** Annual invoices have been sent out and we have received a large number of payments already. The waiting list for a plot has now grown to 23. Of these, 5 live in Kelvedon parish and 18 live outside of the parish. Priority is given to Kelvedon residents and as the other names are not rising up the list, and the turnover of plots is so minimal, there are always enough Kelvedon residents to take the next one. As such, we have taken the decision to close the list to residents outside of the parish, unless and until the situation changes. Most parishes are over subscribed at the moment, which is why allotmenters are looking around for plots in neighbouring areas.
- **Vegetation:** We have had a bumper year for nettles this year, with favourable conditions prevailing for them, along with brambles which can grow up to 2 inches a day. As a consequence, we have had high numbers of requests for cutting back the nettles on FP14 and a few other places in the village – some of which are not in our ownership or remit to cut. It is not always necessary for us to cut them back each time it is requested, as on many occasions the path is wide enough for it to continue to be passable, however, we do arrange for them to be cut back once they are starting to impede. This is an area which we do need to re-evaluate, especially as cutting regimes by BDC and ECC are being minimised.
- **Brockwell trees:** I undertook a site visit of Brockwell Meadows with our tree surgeons and have received the Annual Survey from them. The trees at Brockwell have been very well looked after by them for many years and they are extremely knowledgeable about all of trees at the site. We have a list of works needing doing, and unfortunately we do need to remove one of the big poplars alongside the football field. Due to its twin stems and huge height growing in a wet area, it is now becoming a danger to falling in strong winds and wet weather. The quote for this autumn/winter's maintenance work is on the agenda.

Philippa Potter
Parish Clerk