

## Correspondence for Feb 2026 PC meeting

### **a. Information re pothole on A272 w/c 12<sup>th</sup> January and incident on 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Several emails went back and forth with Highways including pics and videos. Many phone calls between Clerk and Highways manager. Chair called the Police. Owners of cars that had damage contacted for evidence, this is blanket email being sent out FYI.

*Thank you for your email. I can confirm the pothole was first reported by a Parish Councillor on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Highways, which I followed up on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January and flagged as an emergency which was confirmed under reference PWC000742. They attended that day to make the road safe and close part of the highway. They returned on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January to do a permanent repair, however this failed the following day, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January in that heavy rainfall. Due to the severity and several cars being damaged, the Police were called under reference 832 of 15/01/26 and the pothole was re-reported to emergency highways under the same ref number as Monday. I have attached a video I have on file that shows the severity of the pothole and that it is covered in water due to a blocked drain so pothole is not visible to drivers.*

### **b. Complaint re gulleys on A272**

Dear Mr Taylor

I am writing this email of complaint on behalf of myself and my neighbour [REDACTED] about the extreme difficulty we have had in getting ESCC Highways to take action when reporting on serious drainage issues on the A272 between my property ([REDACTED]) and [REDACTED]. The main areas of complaint are:

1. Why has annual gulley clearance not been done on this part of the road (last regular clearance was done in March 24)
2. Why when problems are reported does it take so long, if at all, to act on these reports.

I am attaching a chronology of events that Mrs Johnson and I have put together with the information and records that we have kept as well as the information I received from a FOI request that I made to ESCC.

Taking the above two questions in a little more detail:

1. Annual gulley clearance – this stretch of the A272 has a 60 mph speed limit and is the only straight piece of road for approximately a three mile stretch and therefore cars are travelling/overtaking at high speeds which has been proven by speed data that you have taken. Both [REDACTED] and my family have lived in these properties for a number of years and have had consistent problems with gulley clearance and water in the road and, in the past, there were a number of serious accidents including one fatality directly as a result of the water in the road. ESCC upgraded the gulleys on this stretch of road approx. 8-10 years ago and, at that time, it was agreed that the gulleys would be cleared on an annual basis. We would like to understand why this annual gulley clearance has not taken place? I have now been informed that the gulleys will be cleared by the end of January – that is ONE WEEK to go.
2. Reporting problems – as you can see from the attached chronology of events, [REDACTED] (and Cllr Standley) have been reporting the problems with the gulleys on this stretch

of roads since November 24. The gulley at Civers (gulley no GY54692) was only cleared properly one year later at beginning of December 2025. We understand that the Clerk of the Parish Council was informed by the staff in your Highways gulley section that they ALWAYS acted quickly when a gulley was reported as a problem. This is clearly not the case and I would ask you to investigate why it has taken one year to rectify this very serious problem which could have caused serious accidents (indeed the police were called as an emergency when the water flow was iced over). I am attaching photos that were sent in January 25 as well as in Dec 25 (when the problem appears to have been resolved - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is having one of her internal drains cleared so we will be able to confirm this later). I think you can see from these photos, this was not a 'minor' problem.

I await your comments on the above two issues and would ask that you take this complaint seriously.

**c. Removal of items from an ex-Cllr garage re asset register**

If you recall, I have some items in my garage belonging to the Parish Council (items on the asset list). I'm having to completely empty my garage prior to commencement of building work at the end of February.

Might you raise this at the next meeting and action someone to come and collect these items before the end of February?