

CLERK'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2024

1. Unity Corporate MultiPay card

The application has been made and I am waiting to hear further from Unity. The free Microsoft 365 Apps trial subscription has been extended at no cost for a further month in the hope that the new Unity card will be ready by then to make payment for the future Microsoft subscription.

2. Branch End bench

The bench has been delivered and fitted by the groundsman on Tuesday 26 November 2024 after there was a delay to the initial delivery date of 12 November.

3. Branch End Play Equipment

The Hexham Courant ran a lovely article featuring the new equipment and opening ceremony in an article in the 14 November edition, link below:

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/24718263.new-play-equipment-branch-end-play-park-stocksfield/>

4. NE43 News

The Christmas edition ran to 20 pages which is a wonderful achievement from our community contributors. The costs approved in the November meeting for a 16-page edition were £1190 (£500 design, £690 printing). The amended costs for a 20-page edition are £650 for design and £890 for printing, an increase of £350 overall. As this is within my delegated authority, I approved the spend myself with the agreement of the chair. The total cost then is £1540, compared to the previous year's cost of the December issue of £2,136 for a 12-page edition.

5. Events

The Habitat Survey open morning (10 November) and Remembrance Sunday service (11 December) went well, with good weather for both and a good turnout. Stocksfield Guides raised an outstanding £250 from their refreshment sales on Remembrance Sunday which will go to The Royal British Legion. The events were well attended by Councillors.

6. Tree inspection reports

MWA is instructed and the Clerk will be given an OTISS trial session in December followed by full training held remotely once the survey has been carried out.