

# CLERK'S REPORT MARCH 2026

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

30/01/2026 Prostate Cancer UK – Thank you letter for fundraising.

13/02/2026 YMCA, Family Centre - Due to changes in our service delivery, we will unfortunately be cancelling our booking at Woolmer Green. Our last date we will be there will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to allow us the opportunity to ensure we have removed all resources. Our last session will be there on 7<sup>th</sup> April, families will be informed.

I just wanted to thank you for all your support over the years.

26/02/2026 Tesco Mobile - We're getting in touch to remind you about an upcoming change to your basic monthly usage price (for the mobile number ending 331).

As explained in your terms and conditions, your basic monthly usage price (for data, minutes and texts within your allowances) will increase each April. From April 2026, this price will increase in line with the 3.4% CPI rate\* published in January 2026 + 3.9%.

This allows us to invest further, so we can keep providing you with an award-winning service.

Your current basic monthly usage price (not including any discounts you may have) is £7.98. From your April 2026 bill, it'll change to £8.56. Any existing discounts will be applied to your new price and reflected on your bill.

27/02/2026 Isabel Hospice - Dear Clerk

Hospices across the country are facing financial crisis. Rising costs, stagnant NHS funding and growing demand for specialist end-of-life care have forced many hospices - including Isabel - to cut vital services. You may be aware that we recently had to make the difficult decision to close our solely charity-funded services: Living Well, Compassionate Communities, and Children's Services from April 2026. This action was taken to safeguard the hospice's long-term financial sustainability and to ensure that we can continue to provide our core specialist palliative and end-of-life care for local people and their families. In addition to having to raise £5 million this year to cover our core running costs, we also urgently need to fund the replacement of equipment and vehicles which make a vital contribution to our retail operations and income.

As well as generating significant funding to maintain our services, our 17 charity shops across eastern Hertfordshire provide affordable goods for local residents, promote sustainability through reuse, create volunteering opportunities and act as welcoming community hubs for connection and support.

Unfortunately, the till systems in our shops are at the end of their useful life. They are slow, unreliable (causing a loss of sales when out of operation), expensive to maintain, and do not meet the needs of a modern charity retail operation.

Furthermore, our 'fleet' of three ageing vans, which are primarily used to collect stock and distribute it to our shops each day, are also no longer fit for purpose. They are each costing several thousands of pounds a year for running repairs and their unreliability is significantly limiting our retail operation.

We are seeking total funding of £112,000 to replace the shop tills and one of our vans to bring our retail operation back to an acceptable operational level.

I would be very grateful for any information you may have about funding programmes which are not in the public domain and might be able to provide part or full funding. Also, if you know of any individuals, businesses, or organisations who support charities which benefit the local community and might therefore consider supporting the hospice which provides palliative and end-of-life care for Woolmer Green residents, I would appreciate any contact details that you may be able to share.

Many thanks for your time.

Kind regards

**Trusts & Foundations Manager**

**Isabel Hospice**

02/03/2026 Resident - Just a random question I'm afraid.

Do you happen to know what is happening to No 2 Garden Close.

It was sold about a year ago. We met a lady and her daughter who arrived on and off but never moved in. The place is looking very scruffy and abandoned. The garden is terrible and there is rubbish left in the front garden.

[Residents] who live either side are most concerned.

Not sure if you know anything but will be grateful if you do.

Thank-you

### **WHITESPACE PUBLISHING/UK BRIDE ISSUE**

The Council has been informed that a mediation appointment has been arranged for Friday 17 April, 12.00pm-2.00pm.

### **PENSION**

Information from Herts Pension Fund:

We recently informed you that we're introducing a new self-insurance approach which will enhance the stability and management of ill-health retirement and death in service benefits within the Hertfordshire Pension Fund (the Fund).

Next steps

The new self-insurance approach will come into effect automatically on 1 April 2026, and all employers in the Fund will be covered from that date onwards, unless you let us know that you wish to opt-out. We're confident you'll welcome the cover this provides but if you'd like to opt-out and haven't already, you can do so by filling out the short form on our dedicated self-insurance website <https://herts.self-insurance.co.uk/#optout> You must opt-out by 1 March 2026 if you do not wish to be covered by the new approach.

Find out more

We understand you may have questions about the changes to our ill-health self-insurance strategy, and we want to make sure you have access to all the information you need.

The Fund hosted a webinar covering self-insurance on 27 November 2025 and a copy of the recording was emailed to you. We've also created a dedicated webpage with detailed information about self-insurance including a timeline with key dates to look out for and an FAQ section. Please visit <https://herts.self-insurance.co.uk> to find out more.

### **TRANSPORT**

The raised road at the junction of Carvers Croft will be installed during the school summer holidays.

### **MEMORIAL BENCH**

The bench has been pre-ordered and will be delivered after 23 March.

### **INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE (ICO)**

Woolmer Green Parish Council has registered with ICO.