AGENDA ITEM 9 – BANK ACCOUNT FRAUD

Committee to note that whilst I was working on the finances last week I came across two suspicious direct debit payments on the Lloyds current account bank statement:

1) 28/09/26 payment to DVLA £3.09
2) 01/10/26 payment to DVLA £3.06

I immediately informed bank signatories Cllr Romney and Cllr Callaghan and asked that they inform the bank of the suspected fraud, stop the direct debits, check recent transactions to ensure there were no more fraudulent transactions, and ask the bank to refund the transactions.

Action taken:

- Cllr Callaghan very kindly visited the bank straight away.
- Transactions were studied and it was discovered that there were several more fraudulent direct debits payments with different payees that we did not recognise. Most were for £0 value so it is suspected that maybe the fraudsters were testing the account.
- The bank stopped all these direct debits immediately.
- The bank refunded all the fraudulent transactions immediately.
- The bank were asked to explain how these DDs were able to be set up as there must be a signed DD mandate with two Member signatories on them. The bank are investigating this.
- The bank confirmed the matter will be referred to its fraud department for further investigation, with referral to the police where necessary.

Cllr Callaghan has been asked to check the bank transactions daily to ensure we can capture any further suspicious transactions straight away.

Samantha Haywood, Locum Clerk/RFO