

Date: 1st June 2017

Title: Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide an update on progress since the May meeting

Recommendation: To note the progress report

The following are matters of report and/or requests for further instructions arising from the Annual Council Meeting (May 2017) and the ordinary May council meeting:

- **Play area upgrade – item for decision** - the council will give full consideration to taking this project forward at the July meeting, but in the meantime it is suggested that the play area signage be upgraded without delay, to include information about ownership; contact details for reporting damage or accidents; and a warning to beware of cricket balls. A mock-up and costing should be available at the June meeting.
- **Village Hall Trust** – The Trust's Hon. Secretary has been told informally of the PC's decision not to exercise its option to appoint a representative as a Managing Trustee. The PC has requested being included in the circulation of Trust documents but the Trust's informal reaction is that the PC only has the right to see the Annual Report (a public document). The request for more inclusion will need to be justified.
- **Bank mandate** – the update is in hand
- **War Memorial** – certain matters remain outstanding (snagging; refurbishment of plaques; invoice; insurance valuation; quote for refurbishment of railings/enclosure)
- **Litter bins** – three more bins have been ordered and paid for. The manufacturer has held the price at the original £338.17 per bin (total cost £1,217.41 incl. VAT)
- **Repairs at the play area** – Maintenance work is being undertaken by PH and PS (cabin slide; barrel roll; football goal)
- **Open Air Cinema Event** – the prospective organisers have been informed of the council's decision not to give permission for an event in 2017 but to reconsider in 2018 with more complete information, if so requested
- **Fridays car park** – the Housing Services Manager at Wealden District Council has been notified that a tent has been pitched and left in the residents' parking area for some weeks. The Estate Warden will inspect the site and decide whether further action is required
- **Hire of the recreation ground** – the Cricket Club has advised that it will not be entering a second team this season but is planning for next season. The Club proposes to put up temporary signs at the roadside during matches, to warn passers-by of the danger of flying cricket balls
- **Bulbs in the village car park** – Wealden District Council's surveyor has been asked to comment on the possibility of crocuses being supplied by the Rotary Club for planting in the village car park (owned and managed by WDC)

The following is a matter of report arising from earlier meetings:

- **Sussex Police** – the speed checks requested by the parish and the RA are in hand and Insp. Wakefield will let us know when new equipment is available that will enable monitoring to be done over seven days in an unobtrusive way, both on Micheldene Road and in Gilberts Drive

Actions arising from the SLR meeting on 11th April 2017:

- **Friston raised kerb** – a site meeting between councillors and an East Sussex Highways Project Manager was held on 10th May 2017. As reported at the AVM, ESCC will monitor traffic over a four week period and report to the PC thereafter.
- **Flooding at East Dean Pond** – the Highway Steward has organised a drainage investigation (Case 98575) but it is in a queue due to high demand, and properties where water has entered are being prioritised. It has been reported to ESCC that at times of peak rainfall water has been flowing down the steps and front path of Garden Cottage
- **Verge cutting on Birling Gap Road** – the ESCC Community Highways team has advised that one extra verge cut in the Birling Manor section of the road (Rural 7) would cost £100.53 (for 0.4188701 ha), and the next section (Rural 8) down to the coast would cost £139.25 (for 0.5801764 ha). The clerk has asked ESCC to confirm whether there is any possibility of ordering extra cuts this year. Now that the cost is known, the National Trust can be asked whether they would be willing to contribute
- **Retaining wall on A259** – the East Sussex Highways Structures team has investigated and reports: 'This wall is not an East Sussex Highway asset and has been constructed on private land. This was originally constructed some years ago and is visible on Google Street View as early as April 2011. We are not aware of any works which have been undertaken on it since the change in Highways contract in May 2016, however a permit was agreed to carry out maintenance works under two-way traffic lights and these works were carried out prior to the change in contract. In addition, the local Highway Steward has inspected and advised that he does not consider it to be causing an obstruction onto the highway'. The original enquirer has objected that the wall was not 'maintained' but rebuilt, and a temporary 'road narrows' highway sign is still there.
- **Birling Gap brown sign/ pedestrian signs** – the National Trust has yet to be contacted about the amendment of the brown sign (which they would have paid for originally) and a possible contribution to pedestrian signage
- **Bulbs and wildflowers on verges** – cultivation licences need to be applied for. Planing would be done in the autumn
- **Twitten railings** – quotes to be obtained for re-fixing all posts except the top three
- **Jevington Road** – some patch repairs have been done. Information is awaited on the next phase of work
- **Cleaning road signs** – PH/PS to identify an area
- **Forthcoming site meeting** - 'Yellow lines day', to cover Upper Street and Lower Street; also to include review of lineage at Crowlink Lane

25/05/2017

