

Date: 4th January 2018

Title: Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the progress report

The following are matters of report arising from the December council meeting:

- **Community Watch** – the Village Hall does not currently charge CW for their use of the hall, and will not charge for the planned event on Keeping Safe in the Age of the Internet, next March. Thereafter, the Trust will charge, in the expectation that the parish council will support CW financially under their new grant scheme.
- **Boundary Commission** – the parish council has submitted a comment to the Boundary Commission supporting the current proposal that East Dean and Friston should remain in the Lewes parliamentary constituency when the boundaries are next revised in 2019.
- **The Mowing Contract** – invitations to tender have been sent out to a number of contractors and expressions of interest are coming in. The deadline for tenders is 18 January 2018
- **Play area upgrade** - the Big Lottery Fund has very kindly agreed to give the parish a grant of £10,000 towards the play area upgrade. This is excellent news. A grant application has also been submitted to the Rampion Sussex Community Fund.
- **Went Way railings** – work on the refurbishment is in hand
- **Notice boards** – work has been ordered for the notice board nearest the Village Hall. The contractor will keep the same width but will increase the height by approx.300mm to make it level at the base with the VHT board adjacent. This will also mean the board has a larger usable display area.
- **War Memorial railings** – an ‘expression of interest’ has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish whether the parish council is eligible to apply for grant funding towards the refurbishment of the railings. A preliminary response has been received, advising that *‘There could be potential for your project to achieve HLF outcomes competitively, but you would need to include some activities which would enable people to learn about the heritage. This could include researching some of the names on the memorial, creating an information panel or a trail around the village.’*
- **Downlands Way covenants** – the Hon. Solicitor has been advised of the council’s decision to allow these covenants to be wound up, and has kindly agreed to undertake the work on a *pro bono* basis.
- **Pavilion hire** – the Club’s hire agreement is being revised in accordance with the December resolution and so is the standard agreement for private hires.
- **Rights of Way matters** – (1) squeeze gate - a quote has been obtained for replacing the rotten posts. However, the Gilbert Estate has raised some queries. (2) Diseased elms – ESCC has been asked for update on what is being done about the trees marked for felling along footpath

25. The response is that the work could not be covered by the 2017/18 budget so has been scheduled for late March /early April 2018

- **Phone mast** – County Cllr Shing has been asked to advise whether ESCC will or will not receive a fee for allowing the new phone mast to be installed on the highway verge in East Dean. Confirmation has been received that NO fee will be payable.
- **TV mast on The Brow** - confirmation has been received from Davis TV that the TV mast on The Brow is still in use serving several hundred residents and is not to be dismantled

The following are matters of report arising from earlier meetings:

- **Electronic signs at bus stops** – Brighton and Hove Buses have been asked (in a neutral way) whether there are plans to introduce digital signage at the bus stops in the A259 in East Dean. No response.
- **Motor bike racing on Birling Gap Road** – a report has been sent to Operation Crackdown (Sussex Police) and logged under reference 396921. No update.
- **Hedge trimming** – one advisory letter remains outstanding due to a possible change of occupancy
- **Tree Warden** – an invitation to fill this vacant post has been sent out and a response is awaited. No response.
- **Best Kept Village sign** - the Gilbert Estate is being consulted about the future maintenance of the signs which are affixed to their wall, and has raised some queries.

28/12/2017