

Date: 1st February 2018

Title: Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the progress report

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

- **Budget 2018/19** – the precept request has been delivered to Wealden District Council
- **Play Project** – a response has been sent to Southern Gas Networks accepting their kind offer of £1,000 towards the play area project, and also their offer of free labour from their contractor, DJ Utilities, for mutually agreed works in support of the project
- **War Memorial** – work is proceeding on an application for grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the renovation of the railings. This involves collating information on the heritage aspects of the memorial and making it publicly accessible
- **Bonfire** – informal discussions are ongoing to see whether any club or society might take on the running of a future event
- **Squeeze gate** – the Gilbert Estate has been informed of the council's decision to proceed with the repair of the squeeze gate on this occasion, but to find out whether there is continuing demand for it to be retained, given that the practical need for it no longer exists now that livestock in the Horsefield are fenced in
- **Diseased elms** – ESCC has re-inspected the elms alongside the Twitten (footpath 25) and marked a number of them for felling due to infection with Dutch Elm disease. Some are in a privately owned field, and three are in Friston Churchyard. The resident whose property has been affected has been notified of the support grants available from ESCC and from the parish council. The parochial church council has also been informed and has the matter in hand
- **Hedge cutting** – the ownerships and responsibilities affecting Footpath 19 need to be checked as the lower part of the path is partially obstructed
- **Footpath 8 signpost** – ESCC will re-install the post in the correct position shortly. The Chair of the RA will have advance warning of the contractor's visit. A member of the public has contacted the council querying the removal of the sign, and has it been reassured that it will be replaced. It is felt to be useful as this path is not immediately obvious
- **Tree Warden** – no candidates have come forward, or been suggested
- **Best Kept Village signs** – the Gilbert Estate has agreed to the removal of all the signs from their wall, but requests that the flint wall be made good with lime mortar where the fixings are removed
- **Brown tourist sign** – a query has been sent to the Highway Steward as to whether the sign that has been removed from the A259/Gilberts Drive junction is to be repaired and replaced
- **Cricket Club** – the Club has agreed to supply a sketch of their storage requirements as a basis for consultation with the Gilbert Estate.
- **Friston bus shelter** – the Perspex window is to be replaced

- **Notice boards** – the boards at Windmill Lane and the Village Hall have been removed to the contractor's workshop and should be replaced around mid-February

The following are matters of report arising from earlier meetings:

- **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.
- **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.

25/01/2018