

Date: 3rd May 2018

Title: Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the progress report

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

- **Registration of village hall site as an asset of community value** – Wealden District Council has confirmed that the parish council's application to have the hall site re-registered as an asset of community value has now been approved. However, their Legal Department is researching the implications of the 'missing' triangle at the southern edge of the site adjoining Gilberts Drive. The parish council maintains that this area should be included in the registration as it is included in the lease of the hall site from WDC to EDFPC, a lease which was registered with the Land Registry prior to the date at which title was claimed by the Gilbert Estate.
- **Play area update** – the new equipment is on site though at the time of writing installation work not yet complete.
- **Repairs at the pavilion** – these are in hand
- **Repairs to recreation ground fence on west boundary** – this is also in hand
- **The Biodiversity Strip** – the council's mowing contractor has been asked to quote for strimming the biodiversity strip as an additional task, at an appropriate time in September.
- **Highway Drainage easement** – work on the easement is proceeding, and the Gilbert Estate has confirmed that it will pay ESCC's legal fees, estimated at £930 plus VAT, as well as the parish council's fees, estimated at £300-£400.
- **Plaques from the village green** – these were taken down by the council's contractor on 23 April and the flint wall made good, as requested by the Gilbert Estate. PS has the plaques in store. Unfortunately the timber post which carried some plaques has not been removed, and a glass-fronted cabinet which had a map in it was removed by mistake and is now stored at the back of the village hall.
- **ANPR camera** – the contractors did return to lower the height of the mast, which is welcome. Unfortunately, however, the further work churned up the verge again. The Chair was able to speak to the technician in charge, stress the need for reinstatement, and obtain contact details.
- **Trees at entrance to Micheldene Road** – the Tree Warden has been requested to report on their condition, and whether they are actually unsafe.
- **Emergency Access at Gore Farm Close** – TB has provided information on land ownerships; KL still needs to check planning conditions. PS is contacting the Fire Officer.
- **Allocation of new Social Housing at The Fridays** – a Freedom of Information request has been sent to Wealden District Council, asking to know the number of households on the housing register in EDF and in adjoining parishes in the South Downs National Park. The request has been acknowledged and there is a statutory obligation that it be answered within 20 days (i.e. by 16th May).

- **Outstanding highway matters** - there are a number of outstanding matters which have possibly been delayed by staff changes at ESCC/Costain. The clerk has a list and will chase them all up.
- **Rights of Way** - the parish council has expressed concern that the electric fence temporarily installed at Crowlink Corner is more powerful than is either necessary or safe. No response has yet been received from ESCC and this too needs to be followed up.
- **Hedge letter** – sent regarding the trimming of the hedge alongside Footpath 32 from Micheldene Road to Sussex Gardens.
- **Clerk's annual review** – due to the volume of business at the May council meeting, this has been deferred to June.

The following are matters of report arising from earlier meetings:

- **War Memorial** – an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is pending
- **Squeeze gate** – the family of the person memorialised has yet to be located

26/04/2018

