

Date: 05 March 2020

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the progress report

The following items are matters for consideration:

- Trees: public service information bulletin – discussion was deferred from the February meeting
- Visiting cards – discussion was deferred from the February meeting

The following items are matters of report:

- Charity of the Year – dates have been offered by the JPK Project for a handover event and the council needs to respond. The total donation including proceeds of fund raising events in 2019/20 will be £736.77.
- Diseased elm felling subsidy – the 40% felling subsidy has been paid for work done at Birling Manor
- Felling of ash trees on Friston Hill – the Tree Warden has obtained advice from Forestry England regarding their local policy on Ash Die Back. Their advice is that East Sussex County Council is doing the right thing in proposing to fell the trees alongside Friston Hill. They agree with the parish that healthy ash trees should not be felled where possible, but strongly advise that Friston Hill is not the right environment to attempt this, for safety reasons. In Friston Forest it has been found that the combination of free draining soils, tightly planted trees and little genetic diversity has resulted in a very high mortality rate, and the same is likely to apply on the Hill. However, if felling does proceed, the parish council will no doubt wish to lobby for appropriate replanting.
- Defibrillators and cabinets – three cabinets have been delivered. The surgery manager is hesitating to permit one cabinet to be installed on their outer wall, and has requested a maintenance guarantee. A copy of the regular inspection check list has been supplied to them. The Beachy Head Chaplaincy would be delighted to accept one defibrillator for mobile use, and will suggest dates for a handover meeting.
- Email and Internet usage policy – this new policy has been published on the council website
- Drone Code –enquiries are being made of the National Trust as to whether they impose any restrictions on flying drones over their land, as it would seem sensible to coordinate the messages sent out by local landowners, including Eastbourne Borough Council. No update is yet available.
- Memorial bench at Friston Pond – the new bench kindly donated by a local family has now been installed

- 1 Waterworks Cottages – an attempt is being made to contact the absentee owner of this property