

Date: 06 May 2021

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations:

- a) To note the progress made since the April meeting
- b) To approve giving authority to the Admin Officer to make payments online in the absence of the parish clerk.
- c) To countersign the amended Cricket Club Hire Agreement 2021
- d) To approve two other proposed hires of the pavilion for one-off events
- e) To formally approve the renewal of the council's Council Guard insurance policy for the year from 01 June 2021
- f) To authorise informal remote meetings of councillors to make Planning Application recommendations to the SDNPA on behalf of the council until such time as either remote Planning Committee meetings are permitted or physical meetings may resume.

The following items are matters for decision:

- **Online banking mandate** – in order to complete an action from the council's Risk Management Strategy (Item 3.3) it is recommended that the Admin Officer be authorised to make payments from the council's business account online in the absence of the parish clerk
- **Cricket Club Hire Agreement 2021** – the amended Agreement has been sent to the Club and has been accepted and signed. It should now be countersigned on behalf of the council. In addition:
 - The Club has been advised that they may dismantle the broken bench provided the memorial plaque is saved, and they are inspecting it to determine how much can be saved.
 - The Club ask whether they would be permitted to paint a white line round the outfield instead of using boundary rope, if they were to purchase suitable equipment in the future.
 - The Club seeks permission to liaise direct with the council's mowing contractor over the mowing of the outfield. This has not previously been permitted.
 - The Club reports that quite a lot of the external ship lap of the pavilion is coming away in areas and is looking very weathered. Maintenance may be required.
- **Other pavilion hires** – Micheldene W.I has requested to hire the pavilion on Monday 5th July 2021; East Dean Church has requested permission to hire the pavilion on Sunday 25th July 2021. The Cricket Club has no objection to either request, and the pavilion caretaker has confirmed that in each case there should be time for the premises to be cleaned following the preceding hire. It will be the responsibility of each hirer to manage their event in a Covid-secure manner.

- **Council Guard insurance renewal** – the broker has been notified that the council has accepted the recommendation to move to the Military Mutual as the new Council Guard policy provider with effect from the next renewal date (1st June 2021). However, the latest advice is that the change cannot be made prior to the policy renewal on 1st June 2021 after all. The council is requested to formally approve the policy renewal with RSA continuing as the policy provider for the third and final year.
- **Remote meetings** – the council is requested to authorise informal remote meetings of councillors to make Planning Application recommendations to the SDNPA on behalf of the council until such time as either remote Planning Committee meetings are permitted or physical meetings may resume. A decision was made in the High Court on 28th April that remote meetings will NOT be able to continue after 6th May 2021. The parish council's contingency plans will therefore be needed. NALC is making string representations to government that primary legislation should be brought forward as soon as possible to permit remote meetings to continue.

The following items are matters of report:

- **Fish and chip van** – at the time of writing the Chair and Vice Chair are acting on the delegated authority of the council (5th November 2020, Minute C.300(b)) to sign a permission for a fish and chip van to trade in the Downlands precinct on Saturdays from 4.30 to 8.00 pm.
- **Handover of Defibrillator to Beachy Head Chaplaincy** – arrangements are in hand for this to take place in June or July.
- **Donation to Care for the Carers** – a further donation of £203 has been made, and the charity has acknowledged it with thanks.
- **Relocation of dog bins** – Wealden District Council has been asked to advise on the cost and procedure for relocating dog bins. Their contractor can relocate any bins originally installed by them, at a cost of £200 plus VAT. Provisionally it has been suggested that the following three bins should be moved (all previously installed by WDC): (1) from the recreation ground on Gilbert's Drive; (2) from the Village Hall car park; and (3) from Crowlink lane adjacent to Friston Pond. Wealden have also been asked to confirm the suitability or otherwise of the following three new locations: (1) Footpath No 33b at end of The Link; (2) Upper Street footpath No25; and (3) Old Willingdon Road on the opposite side of the road to Footpath No8. A response is awaited prior to further consideration of this matter by the parish council.
- **Location of additional yellow lines** – information has been sent to Maria Caulfield MP as agreed at the April meeting. Some relevant paper plans cannot yet be retrieved
- **Tree safety survey and insurance** – Climpsons have reported on tree safety at Friston Green, and have been asked to provide a quotation for the works that may be required, for consideration at a future meeting.

