

Date: 05 May 2022

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 report
b) To consider a donation to a local charity for the benefit of Ukraine
c) To receive an update on preparations for the Annual Village Meeting

The following are matters for decision:

- **Donation for the benefit of Ukraine** – deferred from April
- **Annual Village Meeting** – the Annual Village Report has been finalised and a preview has been circulated to councillors. A first draft of the running order is appended to this report (Annex A) but the following actions are still required:
 - i. The section on presentations by councillors needs to be completed with names and topics.
 - ii. The Village Hall Technical Team strongly recommends that there should be – as there usually is – a trial run using the Powerpoint sequence in advance of the actual meeting.
 - iii. Volunteers will be required to set up the two halls on the day, obtain drinks and snacks, and run the bar

The following are matters for report:

- **Exceat Bridge** – County Cllr Shing has reported the following response from the county council on the reasons for the delay in building the new bridge: *'Since submission of our planning application in April last year and consultation by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), a number of new requirements have arisen. Notably, we've been advised that the ecology compensatory area, to mitigate the small land-take required for the new bridge, now needs to be located outside the SSSI area and therefore not close to the bridge as previously identified in the planning application. We have been working with SDNPA and Natural England to identify a piece of land within the Cuckmere valley suitable to upgrade to compensate for the land loss required for the bridge. The SDNPA has also asked for a clear indication of whether or not the bridge improvement will cause an increase in traffic along the A259 and our engineers are exploring ways to demonstrate this, that doesn't require lengthy traffic modelling. Importantly we will want to highlight that a new bridge will reduce traffic through Jevington, Litlington and Alfriston as motorists will no longer have to use these routes to avoid the queues at Exceat. We are also working to alleviate SDNPA's concerns about the visual impact of the new bridge and our engineers are compiling our response,*

including the creation of specific visualisation drawings. The SDNPA also made further comments on the landscaping and planting proposals. Our design consultant, traffic engineers and ecology team are working hard to address the concerns raised by the SDNPA, but unfortunately these necessary requirements are adding considerably to the overall programme. We anticipate completing this additional work and finalising our submission to the National Park by August. Inevitably the SDNPA will want to consider and consult on our proposals, and whilst we don't know when our application will go to committee, we feel construction won't now start until next year.

- **Community Infrastructure Levy** – the council has received the sum of £1,534.42 as its share of the local levy in the accounting period ending in April 2022 (payments are made twice a year in April and October). The council must use CIL money to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure. Examples of expenditure for parishes include the provision of a sports hall, play area, bus stop, or education provision. The council must keep separate accounts of the receipt, expenditure and proper use of CIL funds.
- **Flint wall in Downlands Way** – the Hon. Solicitor advises that the wall the PC wants to remove, more likely than not belongs to the PC - it is possible that the wall to which it connects at right angles ("the neighbouring wall") may also be within PC ownership but that cannot be stated with certainty. In removing the wall, ownership is only part of the issue: the Party Wall Act will probably apply. If that is so then, subject to the PC obtaining specialist advice from a party walls act surveyor, it is likely that statutory notice will have to be served on each of the three householders whose gardens back on to the South side of the neighbouring wall - at that point the issue could prove expensive as in certain statutory circumstances the applicant must meet surveyors fees for the neighbouring property owners.
- **Bins in Downlands Way** – the Hon Solicitor makes an important additional point about the storage of waste bins in the precinct. The PC's title is subject to various third party rights including a specific right for shop owners to place dustbins within an area marked on the filed HMLR plan, being immediately adjacent to the right hand side of the wall in question (viewed facing Southwards towards the highway. The enclosure was removed because the area in question can no longer accommodate modern commercial bins, and the bins are now placed, permissively, elsewhere within the adjoining area owned by the PC. Legally a third party right (i.e. the right to store bins in the old enclosure area) can only be modified by a formal deed (an expense best avoided); the PC may consider the prospect of being challenged over this in the future to be remote given the alternative arrangements provided. It is a technical legal point, but one which the Hon. Solicitor would draw to the council's attention nonetheless.
- **Emergency Plan** – further advice is awaited from Wealden District Council which has recently begun to review its own arrangements and is encouraging all parishes to do the same. If further recommendations emerge from this process they will be notified to the parish council.

East Dean and Friston Parish

2022 Annual Village Meeting

Friday 20 May 2022

5.30pm – 6.30pm Browse the Displays

Table Displays: Parish Council; Residents' Association; Village Hall Trust; Parochial Church Council; Badminton Club; Climate Friendly Parish; Community Watch; East Dean Players; Fruit, Veg and Flower Show; Gardening Club; Over 50s Fitness; Local History Group; Short Mat Bowls; Village Website

6.30pm

Meeting Starts

i	Welcome & Introduction
ii	Minutes of the 2018/19 Annual Village Meeting
iii	Annual Report for 2021/22
iv	Presentations
	Parochial Church Council A Climate Friendly Parish Community Watch Helping Hands Badminton Club East Dean Players Village Flower Show Gardening Club Local History Group Open Art
	Parish Council – <i>Council Budget; CIL projects; Action Plan; Lead Member presentations</i>
v	Q&A
vi	Conclusion & Close

8.00pm

Meeting Closes

ED&F AVM – 20 May 2022 – Hall Layout



