

**Date:** 01 December 2022

**Title:** Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

**By:** K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

**Purpose:** To provide an update on progress since the November meeting

**Recommendations:**

- a) To note a report by the Clerk on progress made since the November meeting
- b) To approve £1 per hour salary increments for the Clerk/RFO and Admin Officer backdated to 1 April 2022
- c) To approve the purchase of a replacement Leaffield bin for the East Dean (north side) bus stop at a cost of approx. £400 - £500
- d) To consider the date of the May 2023 Planning Committee meeting
- e) To consider the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding for an access ramp at the pavilion to provide full disabled access to this communal facility

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The following are matters for decision:

- a) To note the report
- b) **Staff salaries** – to note the £1 increment at all spine points on the national salary scales for 2022/23 approved by the National Association of Local Councils in November 2022; and to approve the payment of the increment to the Clerk/RFO and to the Admin Officer, backdated to 1 April 2022.
- c) **Replacement of Leaffield litter bin** - to approve the replacement of the damaged bin at the East Dean bus stop (north side) at a cost of approx. £400 - £500
- d) **Timetable of Meetings 2023** – to review the date of the May 2023 Planning Committee in the light of information about the timing of the meeting to constitute the new council after the May 2023 general parish elections
- e) **Use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds** – the South Downs National Park Authority has confirmed that the following three projects would all be suitable for CIL funding: (1) the new Village sign in Gilberts Drive; (2) the rainwater harvesting project at the recreation ground; and (3) the construction of an access ramp to the pavilion. The council has received £9,279 in CIL funds in this financial year and has approved in principle expenditure of approx. £700 on the village sign and £5,000 for the rainwater harvesting. Regarding the access ramp, an application for a grant from Wealden District Council's Tackling Inequalities fund has been refused, and the project is expected to cost approx. £2,000. The council is requested to consider allocating CIL funds to this project which will add value to a council-owned community asset and make the pavilion fully accessible to all residents, including disabled access, for the first time.

The following are matters for report:

- **Cricket Club Hire Agreement** – the Cricket Club has received confirmation that their current 2022 Hire Agreement of the pavilion has been extended by resolution of the council to January 2025.
- **Parish Council grant scheme** – the grants approved for Wealden Citizens' Advice and the Bowls Club have been paid.
- **Local Council Award Scheme** – the council's application for a Foundation award has been submitted to the LCAS with supporting evidence. As the LCAS is currently mid-way through a round, the EDFPC application will progress to the next round which commences in January 2023. The standard procedure is for NALC to provide triage feedback to applicants, and this should be received by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The council will then have until 10th February to respond to the triage. The application will then proceed to the actual assessment panel which will publish its results by 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- **Parish Action Plan update** – the proposal to secure Electric Vehicle Charging points in the parish has received a boost from the Wealden District Council's agreement to let the village car park be considered as part of their feasibility study for the roll-out of EVCs. An information webinar will be held by Connected Kerb (Wealden's chosen contractor) on 1<sup>st</sup> December and either the clerk or a councillor will attend and report back.