

Date: 05 January 2023

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note a report by the Clerk on progress made since the December meeting, and:

- To request all councillors and officers to sign individually to the Civility and Respect pledge supporting the council's Dignity at Work policy
- To consider requesting WDC to install bike racks in the village car park

1. **Civility and Respect pledge** - in pursuance of the decision made at the December meeting to request all councillors, officers, and members of sub-committees to sign up individually to the Civility and Respect pledge, a form is appended to this report for signature at the meeting on 5th January, and will be forwarded to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (9th January 2023) for signature by the non-councillor members of the Group.

2. **Bike racks in the village car park** - a councillor has been approached by a resident, asking if the Parish Council could consider installing a couple of bike racks in the Village car park. Currently there is nowhere secure to leave a bike, other than to chain it to railings. The Parish Council does not own the car park, as this is Wealden's responsibility. The councillor did, however, agree to raise the issue at the next PC meeting with a view to asking Wealden to consider installing bike racks, possibly at the same time as they undertake work to put in electric charging points.

3. The following are matters for report:

- Purchase of Leaffield bin – the replacement bin for the East Dean bus stop (north side) has been ordered and delivery is awaited
- Parish council grants – letters of thanks have been received from all the organisations to which grants have been paid. The grant awarded to the Parish Magazine is not yet paid but is scheduled for payment.
- General Parish Elections and Annual Council Meetings in 2023 – NALC has issued the following statement: *We now know that Monday 8 May will be an additional bank holiday to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III. The 2023 local election date is Thursday 4 May and councillors would ordinarily take office on Monday 8 May. Our view is that councillors will now take office on Tuesday 9 May making the relevant 14-day meeting period for the purposes of paragraph 7 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 Wednesday*

10-Thursday 25 May inclusive. The East Dean APCM will be held within this period on Thursday 18 May 2023.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Points – the Clerk attended a webinar on 1 December 2022, run by Connected Kerb, the contractor chosen by WDC and ESCC for rolling out the provision of EVCPs in the County and the District. Transport is the largest source of carbon emissions locally, and hence there is a drive to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles among residents. East Dean and Friston's village car park has been chosen as one of the sites to be included in the first phase of the roll-out. The criteria for inclusion are: available space; a convenient electrical supply; local eligibility for government funding; and the presence of a significant number of homes where residents can only park their cars on the street so cannot provide their own charging points. East Dean qualifies on all counts. The initial provision will be at least three charge points fed by 'node boxes' which sit securely underground, and may include some passive supply points for future expansion. The public facing 'Gecko' units above ground will be easily replaceable for upgrading at some future date. All power will come from renewable supplies. It is intended that installation will begin in February or March 2023 and will take one or two months to complete. It will be open to parishes to 'piggyback' on these works and get the same contractor to work on additional sites, but this would be under a separate contract and done at the parish's own cost. The cost of using the supply is currently benchmarked at 35p per kW hour but is liable to vary in line with the rest of the market. In order to use the facility, members of the public will need Radio Frequency I.D. cards (RFID) and there will be wide publicity on how to obtain these. It is expected that in the first phase the type of charger installed will be Rapid (which actually takes a long period e.g. overnight), but there will be future upgrades to make it faster. It is likely that the chosen bays will be alongside a boundary wall where the charging posts are not likely to be knocked over. People often ask for them to be placed where several bays can access them, but this has proved problematic. Similarly, there can be a problem if people leave their cars in the bay after charging is complete (more likely to be a problem in a paying car park). There needs to be some kind of enforcement, but latitude will be allowed at first as people genuinely will not know how long they should allow for a charge to complete. It was an interesting session.



CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

In collaboration with the Society for Local Council Clerks, the National Association of Local Councils, One Voice Wales, and County Associations of Local Councils

We, the undersigned, confirm that we will put Civility and Respect at the top of our Agenda.

We agree to the following criteria:

1. All Councillors, Clerk, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers will be treated with civility and respect.
2. The Parish Council will have good governance in place for all meetings.
3. We will commit to adopting the highest of standards and respect for each other including the Dignity at Work Policy adopted by the Parish Council on 6th October 2022.
4. We commit to calling out bullying and harassment when and if it happens.
5. We commit to implement professional assistance should civility and respect issues arise in the course of our work.
6. All Councillors, Clerk, employees, and members of sub committees will sign this pledge in acceptance of their role.

Name and role	Signature	Date
Cllr Paul Seeley – EDFPC Chair		
Cllr S Thorogood – EDFPC Vice Chair		
Cllr T Bryant		
Cllr M Bustard – NPSG Chair		
Cllr G Fowler - NPSG		
Cllr P Hill		
Cllr M Keller		
Cllr C Lees - NPSG		
Cllr H Milligan - NPSG		
K Larkin – Parish Clerk/RFO		
D Picknell – Admin Officer		
L d’Urso – NPSG Vice Chair and Chair EDF Residents Assoc.		
J Timberlake		
P Williamson		
Gina Zelent		