

**Date:** 02 March 2023

**Title:** Report Item 7 – Clerk’s Report

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

**Purpose:** To provide an update from the parish office for the month of February

**Recommendations:** To note the report and:

- a) To consider whether to support a renewed expression of interest for CIL funding for a cycle path from Friston Pond to Eastbourne golf club
- b) To consider adding the triangle at the top of Micheldene Road to the mowing contract for 2023 at a cost of £15 per cut for a specified number of cuts

---

The following are matters for decision:

- a) **Cycle path bid for Community Infrastructure Levy funding** – at a meeting on 7 September 2017 the parish council noted that the South Downs National Park Authority had drafted an Infrastructure Business Plan which included provision for the building of a new cycle route from Friston Pond to Eastbourne Golf Club. The project was never funded and the SDNPA is now reviewing the whole Plan and asking parishes whether items like this should remain in the Plan for another round of consideration. This proposal actually originated from the SDNPA’s own Eastern Downs Team. The route was envisaged to run alongside the A259 from Friston Pond to Eastbourne Golf Club (approx.4 km, estimated cost £400,000 at the time). The parish council did resolve to support the proposal [Minute C.432, 7 September 2017]. The parish council also suggested that if the SDNPA did provide this new cycle path it could link to the East Dean bus stops and thence (probably in a second phase) to Birling Gap, taking some pedestrians or cyclists off the Birling Gap road, which is notoriously dangerous for them but is heavily used. The current wording of the Plan conflates the two proposals and attributes both to the parish council, but if EDFPC still supports a cycle path project it may be worth pointing out that the idea originated with the SDNPA’s own Eastern Downs Team.
- b) **Mowing the triangle at the top of Micheldene Road** – the council has been requested to include this triangle of grass (which is effectively ownerless) in its mowing contract. The contractor has quoted £15 per cut. If this were to be done each time the Greensward is mown (every fortnight in season, 14 cuts in all) the total cost would be £210.

The following are matters for report:

- **Repainting the red telephone kiosk on the A259 East Dean** – BT Payphones have been requested to repaint this kiosk which is looking very shabby. A set of 15 photos taken by the

Admin Officer has been sent to BT who will now get the regional field officer to review the photos to see if this kiosk will make it into this year's painting schedule or not.

- **Warm spaces** – donations of £150 have been paid to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Trust to help make this scheme free at the point of use.
- **Gritting the roads** – a payment of £284 has been made to the Residents' Association as a contribution to the gritting of residential streets in the parish this winter.
- **Emergency and Resilience Plan Template** – the template package has been purchased from ESALC's Adviser at a cost of £120. A further report will be brought to council when it has been customised for the parish.
- **Provision of bike racks in the village car park** – the Gilbert Estate has been consulted with a request for their consent, and have raised a number of questions which are reproduced in the Correspondence report for this meeting
- **Re-registration of the village hall site as an asset of Community Value** – the re-registration is in progress
- **Local Council Award Scheme** – the parish council's application for a Foundation award has passed through the Triage stage, and will be determined by the Accreditation Panel towards the end of March. At Triage it emerged that the parish council should have a pair of Disciplinary and Grievance policies to regulate the relationship between the council as employer and its officers as employees. Two draft policies following the templates published by the National Association of Local Councils have been prepared for adoption at the parish council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.