

Date: 06 April 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 March

Recommendations: To note the report and:

- a) To consider a donation of £250 to the Residents' Association towards the cost of the Coronation Village Picnic on 7th May 2023
 - b) To purchase a new Ukrainian flag at a cost of approx. £15
 - c) To consider the repair of the fingerpost at the junction of Went Way and Lower Street
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The following are matters for decision:

- Donation for Coronation event – to approve a donation of £250 to the Residents' Association towards the cost of organising a Village Coronation Picnic lunch on the Greensward on 7th May. The proposed donation is equivalent to half the cost of hiring the Eastbourne Silver Band for the occasion.
- Ukrainian flag – the current flag has been torn and the fixing caught at the top of the flagpole. The council is requested to order a new flag at a cost of approx. £15
- Broken fingerpost at junction of Went Way and Lower Street – This fingerpost historically had two arms, one pointing down Lower Street and saying 'Birling Gap' and the other pointing along the Went Way and saying 'No Through Road'. The Went Way arm has broken off and disintegrated. The council is requested to consider whether to make good the post or to replace the broken arm. There is a separate arrow sign for Bridleway 13 which is the continuation of the Went Way past the last house.

The following are matters for report:

- Speed limits in the parish – a sum of £500 has been paid to East Sussex Highways for a feasibility study on the proposed 20 mph zones in the parish. This initiative has been discussed at previous council meetings, in particular Minute C.720 (i), of the meeting held on 2 March 2023, and the application has been approved in principle. However, the parish council has subsequently been advised that the feasibility study cannot be carried out at this time, and the fee is to be refunded. A re-application may be made from the end of May 2023 onwards
- CIL funding for cycle path – an Expression of Interest has been sent to the South Downs National Park Authority to keep the proposal for a cycle path from Friston Pond to

Eastbourne golf club (with offshoot to Birling Gap) on their Infrastructure Business Plan during the forthcoming review of the Plan. This has involved stating what contribution the parish council would make to the project, which was estimated to cost £400,000 in 2017. In the absence of a figure agreed by the council the application suggested £5,000 which was thought to be a feasible amount of CIL money, though CIL receipts by their nature are not predictable. It has to be said the SDNPA is unlikely to proceed with the project in the near future due to the high cost, though the initial proposal in fact came from them.

- Mowing the Micheldene triangle – the parish council's mowing contractor has been requested to add this to his schedule, and a message of thanks has been sent to the resident who has maintained this area for many years past.
- Cycle racks in village car park – following a site inspection, councillors have proposed a location alongside Footpath 24 (from The Tiger to the A259 across the Horsefield), at the Tiger end of the path. Mr Davies Gilbert would prefer a location 'closer to the village hall, ideally in the little village hall car park alongside the southern boundary'. He considers this likely to be closer to the cyclists' chosen destination. He would also prefer alternative methods of parking to be considered, adapting the method to the location, e.g. a lockable chain against a flint wall, and requests to be kept informed as discussions proceed.
- Disciplinary and Grievance policies – the council's two new policies have been uploaded to the website
- Wildlife verge corridors – following an enquiry from a resident about the disposal of cuttings, East Sussex Highways have replied: 'We will not be removing cuttings on rural verges, these will remain on the verges. The reason behind this is collection and disposal of grass cutting clippings increases the cost of grass cutting substantially. We are aware of the comments we receive around soil PH's etc. and flowers. However, simply stopping mowing can have enormous benefits for wildlife. Long grass alone can provide habitat which supports insects which in turn benefit other animals and birds. Many butterflies lay their eggs on grasses for example'.
- Memorial tree at the recreation ground – councillors are in contact with the family of the deceased who is to be commemorated
- A letter of condolence has been sent to Mrs Baddeley
- Litter picking – a donation has been paid to the volunteers from BHASS Explore who have done a lot of recent work in the parish. The donation has been paid into a personal bank account as the group does not have a business account. Councillors have authorised the payment on a one-off basis but with the polite message that any further requests will only be considered if there is a business bank account to receive the funds.
- 1 Waterworks Cottages – Wealden District Council has been requested to consider enforcement action to bring this vacant property into a safe condition. The response from their Senior Environmental Health Officer is annexed to this report

ANNEX

Section 43, Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

Treetops Cottage, 1, Waterworks Cottages, Old Willingdon Road, Friston, Eastbourne, BN20 0AS

I visited the property on Tuesday 28th February 2023 which has been clearly been empty for a long period of time with green mold like colour on the slate roof and fascia and empty rooms at the front of the property. The building itself from the front looks structurally sound with the roof, soffit, fascia, gutters, windows and brickwork looking in reasonable condition. The garden at the front of the property has been recently cleared by someone with cuttings being piled up to the front right of the property enabling clear and easy access to the front and rear of the property. The property is out of keeping with the other properties in the terrace which look well looked after, but given the work someone has put into clearing the front I would not consider the property to have a detrimental impact on area and therefore am unable to take any further/formal action under the above legislation. I emailed the Housing on 1st March asking if any action can be taken to bring the property back into use but have not as yet received a response. I'll update you once I receive a reply.

From the Senior Environmental Health Officer