

**Date:** 03 August 2023

**Title:** Report Item 13 – Business In Progress

**By:** S Adeniji (Clerk)

**Purpose:** To consider and note an update from the parish office

**Recommendations:**

- a) To consider a response to the Cuckmere Buses proposal to create a members/shareholders register.
- b) To decide how to proceed with replacing the Downlands Way notice board and decide on a new board south of the A259 near the village hall.
- c) To bring to the attention of all Councillors the South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA) Parish Priorities Statement (PPS), the PPS template and example PPS.
- d) To note a report by the Deputy Clerk on progress made since the July meeting

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The following are matters for decision:

- The Annual reports and accounts of Cuckmere Buses were circulated to members ahead of the July meeting. Among the reports was a paper on "Membership of CCB", which proposes to invite Town and parish councils to become members of CCB. Although stakeholder representatives are deemed to be members, Cuckmere Buses are looking to formalise that position and set up a members/shareholders register, to expand the involvement of stakeholders in their operations. It was decided at the AGM that parish council representatives will consult their respective councils for their thoughts on this proposal. The view of our parish representative Stewart Fuller is that there is no harm with the proposal and it potentially gets the council closer to the operations of the company. The council has therefore been asked for its thoughts on this proposal.
- **Parish Council Noticeboards** – There have been discussions about the repair/replacement of the Downlands Way noticeboard, and the possible addition of a new board south of the A259, e.g. near the village hall. A decision is needed on how to proceed.

The following are matters for report:

- **SDNPA Parish Priorities Statement** – As part of its Local Plan review, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has issued its Parish Priorities Statement (PPS) template and the example PPS. As many Town and Parish Councillors will have been recently elected to the role, the SDNPA has asked that their **PPS**, the **PPS template** and **example PPS** are circulated to all Councillors to make them aware of this opportunity.

- **Parish Priorities Statement** – the parish council requested an extension of time in which to send its consultation responses to the SDNPA, and this has been granted. We have until the second week of November (extended from 20th October). This will enable the NPSG to have a first look at responses to the Questionnaire at their meeting on 26th September (the deadline for responses is 30th September); and to have a second look at their meeting on 31st October, which will report to the parish council at its meeting on 2nd November. I know that's a bit tight. I'll keep you well informed in the run-up to the November PC meeting. The SDNPA now has a new Planning Policy Manager, she is Claire Tester, successor to Chris Paterson.
- **Letter to Tiger Inn** – A letter has been written to the Manager of the Tiger Inn asking that they revert to the pre-Covid19 arrangements with regards to placing benches and tables on the Village Green.
- **Raising money for the Roads Company** – Following on from the letter received from Wealden District Council, an email has been sent to our local MP Maria Caulfield informing her of the decision by WDC. In addition, a letter has been sent to Merton Borough Council asking for further information on their scheme.
- **Application for Feasibility Study East Friston 20mph** – Waiting for ESCC
- **Footpath 17 (Warren Lane to Peak Dean Close)** – a hedge letter has been sent requesting the clearance of an obstruction. No response has been received.
- **Installation of cycle racks in the village car park** – Wealden District Council responded to a request for an update, by stating that they are still waiting for written approval from the Gilbert Estate before progressing.
- **Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the village car park** – Wealden District Council's response is that they are still waiting for written approval from the Gilbert Estate before progressing.
- **The annual inspection of the play area** – The annual maintenance inspection of the play area has been arranged with Wicksteed. Their lead time is currently 8-10 weeks, which means a September date.
- **Application to have the village hall site re-registered as an Asset of Community Value** – Wealden District Council has approved the application for the Property to be added to the Register of Community Assets. This has been added to the Register published on the Council's website and the registration will also be notified to the Land Registry and Local Land Charges. The Property will remain on the Register for a period of five years from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Other actions which remain outstanding are as follows:

- **Fire Extinguishers Testing** – To schedule the annual test and maintenance service of the fire extinguishers at the pavilion.
- **Benches** -The photographic archive of all the benches is to be updated.