

Date: 02 November 2023

Title: Report Item 14 – Business In Progress

By: S Adeniji (Clerk)

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

Recommendations:

- a) To consider the offer of free trees from the Woodland Trust.
- b) To note the change in the timetable of Bus 41.
- c) To note receipt of CIL Payment of £767.21.
- d) To note arrangements for the first internal audit for 2023/24 with Mulberry & Co on 18 December.
- e) To note the Parish Council's new registered address.
- f) To note the invitation to Care for the Carers Annual Event
- d) To note a report by the Clerk on progress made since the October meeting

The following are matters for decision:

- **To consider the offer of free trees from the Woodland Trust** – The following email message was received from the Woodland Trust:

“We want to make sure everybody has the chance to plant a tree, so we’re still giving away hundreds of thousands of them every year. Together, we’ll get millions more trees in the ground in our quest to hit the UK’s carbon net-zero target.

We are currently accepting applications for free trees from local councils, town councils and parish councils, as well as from schools and community groups in their area, and we would like to ask for your support in getting the message out.

Eligible groups can apply for up to 420 free saplings per application window, with our deliveries taking place every year in March and November. Applications processed now will receive their saplings in March 2024, just in time for planting season!” Further details can be found at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/frequently-asked-questions/>

To Note:

- **A change in the timetable of Bus 41** – (Email received from Cuckmere Buses) For your info, our winter bus timetable starts on 31 October. As the ED&FPC kindly support service 41, I wanted to let you know in advance of a minor change to this Village service. From Tuesday 31 October the mid-day journey will operate 15 minutes later than currently. This

will allow shoppers going to Waitrose an extra 15 mins in the store, but it will reduce the time for those going into Eastbourne before the return journey. I've put a brief article in the November East Dean & Friston Parish Magazine. The revised timetable is on our website. See [here](#). Thanks

- **CIL Payment Received** – The sum of £767.21 CIL payment has been received from the SNDPA.
- **Internal Audit** – Our Internal Auditors Mulberry & Co. will be conducting an interim audit on Monday 18th December.
- **New Parish Registered & Correspondence Address** – Further to the discussion at the meeting held on Thursday 5th October, Cllr Seeley has now secured the consent of the Village Hall Trust for the parish council to use the village hall as its registered address.
- **Invitation to Care for the Carers Annual Event** – Councillors have been invited to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday 22 November 2023, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, at Care for the Carers, 2 Bell Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1JU. Details have been circulated via email.

The following are matters for report:

Outstanding Items from the meeting on the 5th of October

- **To request a meeting with the National Trust** – Following on from the meeting on the 5th of October, the Parish Clerk contacted the National Trust. They have refused a face-to-face meeting and would prefer to deal with the Council via a telephone conversation as the Ranger Team is not based in Birling Gap. It was subsequently suggested to them that members of the Parish council would be willing to meet them at their offices in Brighton. This has now been escalated to the Head Ranger and an email has been sent.
- **PSPO and Wealden Council**– Following the meeting on the 5th of October, the Parish clerk have written to Wealden District Council but yet to receive a response from them National

Other Items

- **Raising a levy for the Roads Company through the precept** – Nothing to report but still exploring options.

Other actions which remain outstanding are as follows:

- **Benches** -The photographic archive of all the benches is to be updated.