

Date: 07 December 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) Consider a request to spend £250 on removing the last tree at the Grange.
- b) To resolve to adopt the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2023-24 and backpay to April for the Deputy Clerk and June for the Clerk.
- c) To consider whether to apply for the South Downs National Park Authority ReNature Grant for Friston Pond
- e) To note the updated pricing from Rialtas
- d) To note a report by the Clerk on progress made since the October meeting

The following are matters for decision:

- **Application to spend £250 on removing the last tree at The Grange** – At the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 21st November. The issue of the trees at the Grange was discussed. An extract from the minutes of the meeting:

“The Tree Warden reported that the trees on the boundary adjacent to the village hall car park, previously reported as being in an unsafe condition, were now being reduced or felled, with the exception that one large fir tree which had been omitted from the contractors’ schedule of work (possibly accidentally, as being of a different species). The contractors would be prepared to fell the tree for an additional £250 which the care home would not pay. The Tree Warden asked whether the parish council would agree to pay.”
- **Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2023-24** – The Local Government Association has announced that the Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The new pay rates for local councils are attached and have been agreed with SLCC and ALCC.
- **Potential Grant Opportunities For Friston Pond** – To consider whether to pursue potential grant funding opportunities via the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) ReNature Grant Funding for improvements to Friston Pond. The deadline is the 15th of December.
<https://southdownstrust.org.uk/renature-fund/>

The following are matters for report:

- **Rialtas Price Increase** – Rialtas have announced an update to their prices effective from 1st April 2024. The price increases are as follows:
 - Alpha software annual support and Maintenance increases from £155 to £192.00 per annum
 - Alpha - Making Tax Digital VAT Submission (Per Company) increases from £85 to £111 per annum.
- **Christmas waste collection revised dates** – To note Wealden's District Council Christmas waste collection revised dates for 2023.

Outstanding Items from the meeting on the 2nd November

- **Letter sent to resident** – A letter was sent to a resident in The Ridgeway regarding a broken garden fence panel that is leaning dangerously into the tarmac. No response has been received. A second reminder has since been sent.
- **Offer of free trees from the Woodland Trust** – An application has been made for 120 saplings which will be delivered in March 2024..
- **A complaint letter to Barclays** – Over the past few weeks, Barclays Bank have sent emails to the Parish Council asking for the council to verify its account. This has been done, yet Barclays Bank keeps sending threatening emails. A complaint letter from the Chairman of the Council was sent to Barclays on the 23rd of November.
- **PCSO** – The new PCSO has been invited to attend a future meeting of the Council. However, his rota does not accommodate this. He is however available to meet up with any Councillor at the Village Market on a Wednesday.
- **Invitation to Wealden Communities Development Worker** – The Wealden Communities Development Worker from 3VA has been in contact. She specialises in helping organisations with funding options. The Parish Clerk has tentatively invited her to attend the February meeting to see if or how she may be able to help either the Parish Council or local organisations with external funding and grants.
- **Lopping of the trees on Michel Dene Road** – Following the last meeting, instructions were sent to Climpson Brothers to proceed with carrying out the agreed tree works in Michel Dene Road. Climpson Brothers have been unable to give a date for when the works will be done.
- **Play Area Annual Inspection Report 2023** – The Parish Clerk has written to Wicksteed asking for a quote on the cost of carrying out the remedial works highlighted in their inspection report
- **Hedge on Hillside** – The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Seeley and the Parish Clerk visited the property as requested by the resident. The resident has been very co-operation and has arranged for their Arborist to come to trim the hedge on Monday 18 December.
- **Update on Grant Application** – An email was sent to over 25 organisations inviting them to apply for the grant, but so far none have applied. A reminder has been sent out.

- **SDNPA's Neighbourhood Portion of CIL reporting requirements** – The Parish Council has received a CIL reporting form from the South Downs National Park Authority. The form enables the council to report on whether the money has been spent and what it has provided for the community this year. In addition, the council must publish on its website the amount of CIL funds received and spent this year. The SDNPA has sent a form SDNPA Parish 'Annual Monitoring Return' form for publication on our website.

Sussex Tree Surgery

3 Coopers Cottages
Coldharbour Road, Upper Dicker
East Sussex
BN27 3QE
01323 840250
sussextreesurgery@gmail.com
www.sussextreesurgery.org
VAT Registration No.: 397851926



VAT Invoice

INVOICE TO

East Dean & Friston Parish
Council
Village Hall
Village Green Lane
East Dean
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 0DR

INVOICE NO. 1778**DATE** 29/11/2023**DUE DATE** 06/12/2023**TERMS** Net 7

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	1x Pine (agreed on day of work and with owner of East Dean Grange care home)	1	250.00	250.00
	- felled to ground level			
	All waste chipped and removed from site			

SUBTOTAL	250.00
VAT TOTAL	50.00
TOTAL	300.00
BALANCE DUE	£300.00

Please quote invoice number as payment reference

Sussex Tree Surgery
Acc Number: 12149540
Sort Code: 40-20-06

VAT SUMMARY

	RATE	VAT	NET
	VAT @ 20%	50.00	250.00

Please quote invoice number as payment reference

Sussex Tree Surgery
Acc Number: 12149540
Sort Code: 40-20-06

6 NOVEMBER 2023

E01-23 | 2022/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2023

We have been informed by the Local Government Association that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The new pay rates for local councils are attached and have been agreed with SLCC and ALCC.

Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible.

For all spinal points to 43 the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1,925. For scale points above that the award was 3.88%.

The Joint Council notes on backpay for employees who have left employment: "If requested by an ex-employee to do so, we recommend that employers should pay any monies due to that employee from 1 April 2023 to the employee's last day of employment. When salary arrears are paid to ex-employees who were in the LGPS, the employer must inform its local LGPS fund. Employers will need to amend the CARE and final pay figures (if the ex-employee has pre-April 2014 LGPS membership) accordingly. Further detail is provided in section 15 of the HR guide and the Backdated Pay Award FAQs, which are available on the employer resources section of www.lgpsregs.org.

Historically the calculation of hourly pay for local councils has been reached by dividing the annual salary by 52 weeks and then by 37 hours. This is different from the recommendation of the Joint Council which calculates hourly rates by dividing annual salary by 52.143 weeks (which is 365 days divided by 7) and then divided by 37 hours (the standard working week). This marginal difference causes some confusion, and it is intended that next year we shall move to the approach recommended by the National Joint Council.

NALC continues to be disappointed that the annual settlement has been delayed for reasons outside the Association's control.

	1 April 2023		Scale Ranges
SCP	£ per annum	* £ per hour	Based on SCP
2	£22,366	£11.62	Below LC Scale (for staff other than clerks)
3	£22,737	£11.82	
4	£23,114	£12.01	
5	£23,500	£12.21	
5	£23,500	£12.21	LC1 (5-6) (below substantive range)
6	£23,893	£12.42	
7	£24,294	£12.63	LC1 (7-12) (substantive benchmark range)
8	£24,702	£12.84	
9	£25,119	£13.06	
10	£25,545	£13.28	
11	£25,979	£13.50	
12	£26,421	£13.73	
13	£26,873	£13.97	LC1 (13-17) (above substantive range)
14	£27,334	£14.21	
15	£27,803	£14.45	
16	£28,282	£14.70	
17	£28,770	£14.95	
18	£29,269	£15.21	LC2 (18-23) (below substantive range)
19	£29,777	£15.48	
20	£30,296	£15.75	
21	£30,825	£16.02	
22	£31,364	£16.30	
23	£32,076	£16.67	
24	£33,024	£17.16	LC2 (24-28) (substantive benchmark range)
25	£33,945	£17.64	
26	£34,834	£18.10	
27	£35,745	£18.58	
28	£36,648	£19.05	

	1 April 2023		Scale Ranges
SCP	£ per annum	* £ per hour	Based on SCP
29	£37,336	£19.41	LC2 (29-32) (above substantive benchmark range)
30	£38,223	£19.87	
31	£39,186	£20.37	
32	£40,221	£20.90	
33	£41,418	£21.53	LC3 (33-36) (below substantive range)
34	£42,403	£22.04	
35	£43,421	£22.57	
36	£44,428	£23.09	
37	£45,441	£23.62	LC3 (37-41) (substantive benchmark range)
38	£46,464	£24.15	
39	£47,420	£24.65	
40	£48,474	£25.19	
41	£49,498	£25.73	
42	£50,512	£26.25	LC3 (42-45) (above substantive benchmark range)
43	£51,515	£26.77	
44	£52,752	£27.42	
45	£54,017	£28.08	
46	£55,325	£28.76	LC4 (46-49) (below substantive range)
47	£56,648	£29.44	
48	£57,854	£30.07	
49	£59,418	£30.88	
50	£60,856	£31.63	LC4 (50-54) (substantive benchmark range)
51	£62,323	£32.39	
52	£64,335	£33.44	
53	£66,341	£34.48	
54	£68,356	£35.53	

	1 April 2023		Scale Ranges
SCP	£ per annum	* £ per hour	Based on SCP
55	£70,385	£36.58	LC4 (55-62) (above substantive benchmark range)
56	£72,388	£37.62	
57	£74,417	£38.68	
58	£76,405	£39.71	
59	£78,290	£40.69	
60	£80,216	£41.69	
61	£82,188	£42.72	
62	£84,214	£43.77	

* Hourly Rates

As per the national agreement, hourly rates are calculated by dividing annual salary by 52 weeks and then by 37 hours. Please note that these hourly rates differ from those published by NJC for Principal Authorities as the calculation basis differs.

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ReNature Fund

About Us 

Support us 

Impact 

Apply for Funding 

Grants

Beelines Fund

Trees for the Downs Fund

ReNature Fund

The Sustainable Communities Fund

Boltini Litter Picking Fund

Outdoor Learning Grants

Youth Action Fund

Community Pitch 2023-24

Our ReNature fund seeks to support community projects focused on changes in land management that will lead to increasing space for nature.

ReNature funding supports land owners, land managers and community organisations to create new nature sites, and to manage existing sites better for biodiversity. We are looking for projects that will showcase positive management for nature in the community.

Projects could create wildflower meadows, heathland, hedgerow, areas managed as chalk grassland, more natural rivers or dewponds.

Applying for a ReNature Grant

Grants between £2,000 and £25,000 will be made by the South Downs National Park Trust (SDNPT) towards capital expenditure. Applications will be judged on their proposed outcomes for biodiversity, value for money and ongoing management of the site as well as community outcomes. A grant panel will decide on applications over £5,000.

Important information about this funding:

- It will not fund organisational costs, training, transport, work already undertaken, recoverable VAT or costs associated

with fulfilling a statutory obligation or planning consent.

- If funded, you will be asked to submit monitoring information, responsible for maintaining equipment and built items (gates, fences etc.) for a minimum of 5 years, as well as carrying out the actions in your maintenance plan.
- SDNPT will share information with the SDNP and external partners to monitor the outcomes of your project and publicise the fund.

Who can apply?

Local Authorities, Parish Councils, CICs, charities, and constituted voluntary groups can apply. Applications from commercial partners and private land owners are considered where projects are not-for-profit, however, the proposed benefits for biodiversity and cash/ management contributions will need to be considerable to be prioritised above other groups.

Projects with community benefit are more likely to be successful. The applicant must be the land owner or have the land owner's permissions to carry out the project and actions in the management plan.

The site

Sites must be within the National Park boundary and should not already be managed for nature (e.g. a SSSI)

Current ReNature projects include Chalk Grassland improvements on a Golf Course, reversion of recreational spaces to wildflower meadows and supporting the transition of an old arable field to grassland.

What will it fund?

You can apply for a combination of natural landscape features (such as trees and ponds), built items (e.g. fencing), equipment and tools where this enables delivery of the outcomes in your application.

For community organisations we will consider grants towards the first year of your management plan where essential to establish the site.

Match funding

Although there is currently no set limit for match funding, projects will be judged based on value for money. See Part 3 of the application form notes for more information.

Wildlife trusts, private land owners or commercial partners are unlikely to be funded over 80% unless a considerable contribution is being made in cash and/or in-kind through labour, equipment and future land management.

Guidance Notes and Application

See the [ReNature Application Guidance Notes](#) for more information and help to apply.

Send your [ReNature Funding Application Form](#) to the [Grants Officer](#).

Applications close at midnight on **Friday 15 December 2023**.

Review and shortlisting will take place between December and the end of January with decisions and grant offers being made from mid February 2024.

Need inspiration?

The following short film illustrates the nature recovery seen at the former Waterhall Golf Course.