

## Clerk's Report for 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Full Council Meeting

### Agenda Items

- 8.4i **Internal Audit and Control Policy** - This is an annual review, there have been no changes made.
- 9 **Recommendations from Office and Finance Committee** - The Clerk's report for the Office and Finance meeting 25.01.24 gives background information (available on the website under supporting docs)
- 11.2i **Fingerpost Field Swings** - The annual report for all 3 play areas shows just one moderate risk item - the bank of swings at Fingerpost Field (park renewal quotes due back by 14.02.24). The weekly report does not show this as a moderate issue but does show a wet pour surface and cone climber as moderate risks.
- 11.5 **Anchor Field Verges** - NC expressed concern about the rutting of the verges at Anchor Field near Springett Avenue. Highways have inspected them and do not deem any work necessary. NC suggested that the PC take action.
- 11.6 **Christmas Tree** - It has been suggested that it may be a preferable option to plant a Christmas Tree rather than erect a cut tree each year.
13. **Shopping Precinct** - NC reported that: The frontage of Ganges is tatty; needing a paint job and the dangling electric wires sorting. Empty shops are a concern and perhaps we would contact the management company to see what can be done to make the place look a bit less run down in the short term.
16. **Local Plan Consultation** - The Chair of Hamsey Parish Council contacted us to see if we (along with other local parishes), would like to submit a joint response in addition to our own.

### General

**Annual Play Area** - Inspections have been undertaken. Both Broyle Close and the Village Green parks have been rated as low risk. Fingerpost Field Park is mainly low with one exception (see papers 11.2i). If anyone wants to see copies of the full reports please let me know and I'll forward them.

**Caburn Field Trees & Green Cabinet** - Update from Tony Bonnington on 08/02/24: "As an update, the replacement trees have now been planted. Just waiting for confirmation of the removal of the TBS cabinet."

**Chamberlaines Lane Dog Waste Bins** - After many years of Mr Andy Cooper very helpfully emptying these two bins, which he installed at his own cost, LDC have now agreed to take this on at no cost to us. We wish to express our thanks to Mr Cooper.

**Jubilee Cottages** - Mr Arthur Robert Peters who was very involved in the village including being the Chairman of the Parish Council sadly died in January 2024. Cllr John Kay who served on the Parish Council at the same time will represent us at the funeral on 9<sup>th</sup> February at St. Mary's Church.

**LDC CIL Application** - Having progressed through the Expression of Interest phase, CIL applications have now been submitted to LDC for £75k towards the Skatepark and £50k towards Fingerpost Field Playpark. We should hear in May whether we have passed to the next phase (Management Board, followed by Executive Board). Successful bids will be funded in June/July.

**May 2023 Elections** - We have been billed £139.97 for the admin fee from LDC.

**Ringmer Amateur Dramatic Society** - permission has been given to place their advertising board on the village green from 25/02 to 24/03 to advertise their next production.

**Scottish Power Community Fund** - Eve Burrows emailed on 07/02/24 explaining that the fund is a one-off payment delivered when the solar farm becomes operational and is dependent on the site being consented by the local authority. The fund is typically c.£5,000 per MW installed on the site and will be agreed with the Parish in the lead up to the construction period with our stakeholder and community manager. They are planning to submit an application to Lewes District Council for a 25MW development in Spring this year which would mean the fund could deliver c.£125,000. The final amount, however, will be determined when the solar farm design is finalised by their engineering team following planning consent and the site could in reality end up delivering less power due to site or grid constraints and therefore a smaller fund. The figure provided is just an indication and will hopefully help the Parish to plan ahead and to come up with ideas on how to spend the fund. They will be in touch in March with an update as they prepare to submit the planning application to Lewes District.

**Shopping Precinct Noticeboard** - This has been delivered to the office and Tony Read has been instructed to install it.

**Almond Field** - Thanks to Jim Edwards from the Monday Club, who kindly engraved the gates for us:

