

## Clerk's report – Full Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

9.4.i



**Tree Planting Policy:** Planting window amended from September to December, to November to February, on advice from tree surgeon. To add the following clause:

“That Memorial Tree applications meeting this policy’s criteria are automatically approved until a tree surgeon confirms that the designated planting area is full”.

Clarification of planting location at Broyle Lane Recreation Ground (edged in Red)

9.4.ii **Grants Policy:**

Point 2 – To update the figures used to calculate the maximum S137 figure that can be used.

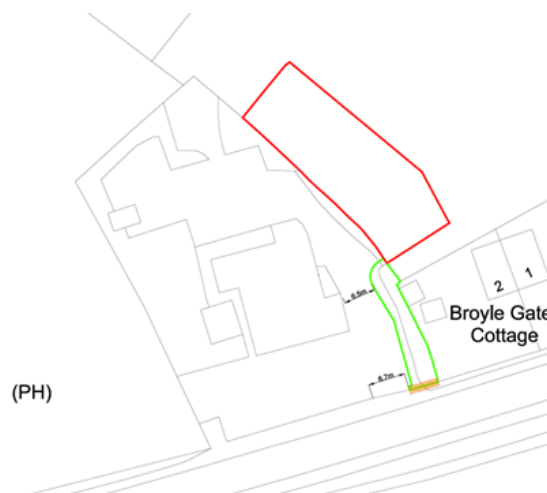
Point 5a – To add the word “meeting”

Point 7f - To amend the delegated power for Office and Finance committee to be able to grant funds from £500 to £5k to align with Office and Finance Terms and Conditions. For 2025/26 a budget of £1,500 has been allocated, this can be increased by the PC by reallocating funds from reserves or underspent budgets but is capped / limited to £45,510 for 2025/26.

10.1 **Allotments:** PC has agreed in principle to the installation of a composting toilet. The final decision has been deferred until a proposal to form an Allotment Association is considered. It was felt that an Allotment Association could be better placed to obtain funding and oversee the running / maintenance of a toilet.

10.2 **Green Man ACV – Right to BID Moratorium Periods:** Our EOI was acknowledged on 18<sup>th</sup> June. For info - The Community Right to Bid does not give the right of first refusal to community organisations to buy an asset that they successfully nominate for inclusion on the local authority’s list. What it does do is give time for them to put together the funding necessary to bid to buy the asset on the open market. If an owner wants to sell property/land that is on the list, they must tell the local authority. If the nominating body is keen to develop a bid, they can then call for the local authority to trigger a moratorium period, during which time the owner cannot proceed to sell the asset. There are two moratorium periods. Both start from the date the owner of the asset tells the local authority of their intention to sell. The first is the interim moratorium period, which is 6 weeks, during which time a community organisation can decide if they want to be considered as a potential bidder. The other is a full moratorium period, which is six months, during which a community organisation can develop a proposal and raise the money required to bid to buy the asset.

Further info has come to light. There was a condition of the sale that the land shown edged red on the plan below would be transferred to Greene and King (and works undertaken to make up that “red” land as additional car parking).



Nb: The drawing received by RPC from LDC did not show this parking addition.

10.3 **Village Green Path:** An accident occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> June. A lady fell on uneven path at the back of the Green towards the church. She attended Minor Injuries Unit at Uckfield who due to the extent of the injuries referred her to East Grinstead (Facial and Oral Trauma Unit). She saw a specialist facial trauma doctor at East Grinstead Hospital who checked her mouth, eye sockets, teeth, neck, jaw, head movement and re-assessed for concussion. As of 18<sup>th</sup> June, she was left with severe ulceration around the wound in her mouth, which rendered her unable to eat and drink properly. She has lost confidence in going out and reports being terrified of tripping over.

Costs incurred to replace mobile, repair sunglasses etc have been reimbursed - £113.09

Carol met with her husband at the site and gave flowers. He asked the Parish Council to “recognise the disrepair of the path in several places, and the possibility of future accidents that could cause equally awful injuries as my wife endured, or even worse, if it is not repaired.

10.4 **Streetlights:** We currently have 4 streetlights: 2 at the precinct, one on the B2192 at the bottom of Vicarage Way and one on the B2192 near the junction with Bishops Lane. The two situated on the B2192 are in the same areas as ESCC streetlight clusters. The Bishops Lane and one of the precinct lanterns are now obsolete so cannot be replaced. The precinct lights have been turned off since Dec 22.

Historically, running costs for the unmetered electricity supply to these units was approx. £1900 p/a. We were able to enter a contract last year that brought the cost down considerably (approx. £600 p/a). It transpires that this contract was issued in error, and we do not qualify so costs will revert to approx. £1900 p/a. There are very few suppliers available to take on these unmetered supplies and to do so we would need to be able to supply Elexon codes, which we do not have.

Options going forward for consideration:

1. To continue as we are.
2. Disconnect, removal and disposal – approx. £1,000 per unit.
3. Standard transfer of service for functional equipment - approx. £2500 per unit. Standard transfer of service would include replacing/upgrading the current equipment (column and lantern) which would negate the need for an Elexon code and would allow another supplier to take over the supply at a cheaper cost.
4. Replace lanterns only- price dependent on lantern type but minimum cost is £500 each. This option also allows for supply transfer

11.1 **Community Energy Pathways (CEP) – Parish Energy Plans:** CEP is working with Lewes DC to deliver 3 Parish Energy Plans (PEPs) within the district. LDC is looking for 3 parishes that are interested in collaborating on a PEP for their community - this service is funded by the district council and is free for parish partners. CEP is one of the pioneers of the UK's community energy sector – they have been advising and supporting communities to transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future since 2013. Community energy is about people working together to generate electricity locally using renewable technologies that both reduce carbon emissions and save money. CEP have evolved from a hub in the south-east and now work across the country under their new name: Community Energy Pathways. They are located in Lewes and host the Lewes Climate and Energy Hub. The hub has dedicated spaces open to the public to talk about energy and climate which they've developed with Lewes District Council.

*Their vision - We want every district, borough or unitary authority in the UK to benefit from a community energy group that can provide independent, professional advice to households on how to reduce their energy costs and go green. It's about harnessing renewable electricity generation and storage, and ramping up the efficiency of homes, including by retrofitting them with the latest innovations and technologies.*

*Their mission - Our mission is to develop a thriving community energy sector and ensure that local authorities meet their Net Zero ambitions, in line with their energy and climate change strategies.*

## General

**Devolution of LDC Assets:** Meeting held with Mark Langridge-Kemp, Head of Property and Asset Management, LDC, JK and AH on 02/07 for initial discussion on any assets that RPC may be interested in taking on. He has acknowledged our interest in Fingerpost Field and confirmed this site does not form part of the HRA. Having been made aware of the lease break clauses and our management of the site he feels that this is a good example of an asset that could be transferred. He advised that, parcels of land that were part of original council housing estates were generally HRA but will investigate the open spaces at Green Close and Fairlight Field and will confirm. He noted our interest in Broyle Close Park and will confirm the status of Anchor Field Car Park. LDC are not looking to transfer any budget with transferred assets. He will report back to us for final decision on which assets we would like to pursue.

## **Planning Decisions**

Description	RPC Decision	LDC Decision
<b>LW/25/0192: Lynchetts Lewes Road. BN8 5ET</b> Construction of front porch and front bay window, enlargement of existing front bay window, pitched roof over existing side dormer, replacement windows and addition of conservation style side rooflights	No comment	Approved (06/06/25)

<b>LW/25/0195: Dower House, Lewes Road. BN8 5QD</b> Prior Notification under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A for a single storey rear extension with flat roof incorporating a rooflight, brickwork on the neighbours side and bi-fold doors on the other two elevations to measure 4.00m total length, 3.00m eaves height and 3.50m total height	No comment	Approved (30/06/25)
<b>LW/25/0231: 7 Queens Drive. BN8 5FU</b> Installation of rooflights to the front roof slope and rear roof slope	No objections	Approved (24/06/25)
<b>LW/25/0242: 29 Springett Avenue. BN8 5HD</b> Two storey rear extension and alterations to side and rear fenestration	Object	Approved (17/06/25)
<b>LW/25/0248: Land Adjacent To 1 Trinity Field Bishops Lane</b> Non-material amendment of application LW/24/0056 to reduce total gross internal area of the development, relocate rear elevation gable, amend external materials and fenestration	No comment	Approved (04/06/25)
<b>LW/25/0271/CD: Shepherds Mead Lewes Road. BN8 5ES</b> Discharge of Condition 5 (SuDS Completion) in relation to approval LW/22/0230	No comment	Approved (17/06/25)
<b>LW/25/0205: 14 Ballard Drive. BN8 5NX</b> Section 73a Retrospective application for the retention of front garden store		Refused (04/06/25)