

Background Notes for Firsdown PC meeting April 2022

27.22 Reports

b. Parish Clerk

- *Training* - I attended the Society of Local Council Clerks branch meeting, where we received a presentation on the tendering process. I have subsequently signed up to the SLCC's formal training on Quotes, Contracts and Tendering webinar
- *Internal audit* – The 2021/22 internal audit will take place on Thursday 21st April.
- *Locum Clerk* – I am now locum clerk to Grimstead Parish Council

c. Southern Area Board

- There will be a special Climate Change Event at Whiteparish Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 27th April at 6.30pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 26th May, venue to be confirmed.
- Youth service provision – representatives from Community First, which has undertaken research in the needs of young people not covered by the uniformed groups on behalf of Wiltshire Council did make door-to-door enquiries in Firsdown. Those who responded advised that they travelled to Winterslow if they needed to.

17.22 Highways/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

b. Tasks for the Parish Steward

c. Footpath matters

i. Picnic tables/benches – Wiltshire Council has raised no objection

ii. Motor cycles on the Byway, and their impact in the wood – voluntary restraint notices – Cllr Rogers may be able to update with a response from Wiltshire Council.

28.22 Finance

A and b – I hope to be able to report verbally on the bank balance at the meeting, and to circulate the Q4 bank rec – at the time of writing, I have yet to receive the bank statements

e. Quotations for picnic benches.

3 quotes have been received for recycled plastic benches

Contractor 1 - NoButts

1 x Octagonal black picnic table/bench £765.00

1 x Octagonal black wheelchair friendly picnic table/bench £775.00

Delivery now 4 to 5 weeks

Total: £1540.00 plus delivery plus VAT

Contractor 2 Earth Anchor

1 x brown picnic table/bench £540.00

1 x brown wheelchair friendly picnic table/bench £540.00

Anchor kit £52.00

Delivery £80.00 in 4 to 5 weeks

Total: £1212.00 plus VAT

Contractor 3 Glasdon

1 x black Pembridge picnic table/bench £868.22

1 x black wheelchair friendly Pembridge picnic table/bench £868.22

Free delivery in 8 to 10 weeks

Total: £1736.44 plus VAT

30.22 New issues

a. Proposed community shop in Pitton – Rachel has advised the shop will not be viable after 2025, and has proposed that the community investigate setting up a community shop. A steering group has been formed, a survey distributed to Pitton, Farley and Firsdown villages, and two public meetings held. Initial responses strongly indicate that a community shop, and post office facilities, are of vital importance, and the steering group is already looking at a possible venue. The current shop premises will not be available.

b. Proposed Right of Way from Pitton to Monarchs Way – this is a Pitton initiative, to extend the existing dead end PIFA43 footpath to Pitton. Below is an extract from an email sent from a WC officer in the Properties Dept to the Pitton & Farley Clerk

Roundbarrow Farm. It is a County owned farm and has been tenanted out for decades.

The sitting tenant of Roundbarrow Farm decided to move on when his contract expired last summer and my colleagues in the Council's Property department have taken the opportunity to explore what may be possible in managing the farm for greater ecological benefits and improvement to the environment. At the moment there is not too much to report as nothing has been formalised or costed, but the site is being surveyed to establish what is possible and I believe advice is being taken from the RSPB and Wildlife Trust with regard to conservation farming etc.

The intention, regardless of whether there is any change in how the farm is managed going forward, is to dedicate a formal right of way which connects the currently dead-end footpath PIFA43 (the purple line which stops at the north-east boundary of Roundbarrow Farm) to Pitton. Once the site has been surveyed fully and plans start being formulated, we will be able to assess the most suitable line for this path and get things moving on that front, ...Potentially if it is viable, creating another path that connects Pitton and Firsdown directly across the site would be another favourable outcome too.

31.22 Ongoing matters

a. Play area – I have contacted Lapsett re the zip wire, and South West play re the space net.

i. Signage – awaiting a final quote

ii. Fencing – the original Contractor 1 has now advised that it no longer supplies the posts in the size required, these are the original quotes:

Contractor 1 £896.60 including delivery plus VAT. No indication on delivery time

Contractor 2 £577.54 including delivery and VAT. No indication on delivery time

Contractor 3 £386.06 including delivery plus VAT. Delivery 1 to 2 weeks

I recommend an update quote is obtained from Contractor 2, and the Clerk is given delegated authority to process a quote of up to £850.00.

b. Map lecterns – as we are now in the new financial year, I will now submit an application to CATG for a grant for one of the two lecterns required

c. Access for maintenance & emergency services – yet to explore the widening of the footpath from Firs Road to the byway.

d. Emergency contact signage in the woods – information to be incorporated into the map lectern design.

e. Proposed Automatic Speedwatch Camera – Cllr Rogers may be able to update with a response from the Community Policing Team

f. Community Jubilee Event – Cllr Walsh will update the meeting.

g. Highways – Dunstable Crossroads – Cllr Rogers has submitted a joint request from Winterslow and Firsdowm Parish Councils for this location to be reviewed again for accident mitigation work.