Background Notes for Annual Firsdown PC meeting May 2023

Reports:

b. The Parish Clerk – I attended the Clerk's branch meeting in March, where we were given a presentation by a WC Officer on Emergency Planning in connection with the Government's plan to send emergency alerts to personal mobile phones. WC is also considering introducing a system of Community Hubs, where residents can go for support and information should an event result in the lack of radio/wifi/mobile phone connections. Scottish and Southern Electricity Network has grant funding available to help community resilience in such situations. There will be further presentations at the Area Board meetings.

c. The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board - the Board will be holding a social event in the afternoon of Saturday 15th July at Barry's Field in Winterslow. All Councillors are warmly invited. Times to be confirmed.

The Area Board is setting up a Health & Wellbeing subgroup to help steer/inform/advise/support the work it attempts to do on this priority, utilising a small annual grant. This work is principally around supporting older people and vulnerable adults, would anybody be interested in becoming involved, or know of someone who would?

Finance

d. To note the bank balance as at 30th April 2023 - £36,501.72, including £9325 half year precept and £1585.87 VAT reclaim for 22/23

Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

a. To note any new Highways issues:

To ask Wiltshire Council to reconsider the Parish Council's request to reduce the speed limit of the A30 through Firsdown Parish to 40mph in the light of the two fatalities in the summer of 2022.

d. To note any updates:- awaiting information from the Traffic Officer

i. Dunstable crossroads mirror
ii. Moving of 30mph sign at the byway footpath onto the nearby lamppost
iii. Installation of 2 x new Firs Road signs at the A30 junction
iv. Dropped kerb at Firs Road/A30 junction

Other ongoing matters

a. Co-option – no applications received
b. New Parish Council laptop – yet to be actioned
c. Purchase of 30mph wheelie bin stickers – yet to be actioned
d. Contribution towards the purchase of a film screen & projector for the WVH Meeting Room – I have contacted the WVH committee – awaiting a response
e. Coronation Event – Cllr Smith will update
f. Map lectern project - ordered
g. Final replacement Parish Council noticeboard - delivered
h. Replacement swing – awaiting installation, dates of access being negotiated
i. Outside leisure equipment – residents' survey re adult gym equipment/pétanque terrain – Cllr Kennedy to update

Items for the next agenda

i. Transfer of banking arrangements to Unity Trust bank, including the issuing of a debit card.

18.23 Reports

b. Parish Clerk's report

- Co-option – no applications received. The vacancy will be advertised in the Winterslow newsletter in March and April and on the website and Facebook.
- Litter Picking – the Great British Spring Clean takes place between 17th March and 2nd April. WC will assist by collecting bags of waste by prior arrangement.

c. Area Board report – I attended the last meeting in February, where the new National Highways contact gave an update on plans for the A36 plus new signalling on the ring road, working closely with Wiltshire Council Highways officers to understand the impact their plans would have on WC projects. The next meeting is on Thursday 25th May at 7.00pm in Winterbourne Glebe Village Hall.

20.23 New issues

a. New laptop a recent software update corrupted the internet access files which meant I had no access to emails – this occurred at the same time as the new email addresses went live. Cllr Brown kindly reinstated the access, but it is clear that at 6 years old, the laptop is very slow to boot up, and needs replacing. Cllr Brown recommends looking at the Dell Outlet store online, and I hope to be able to obtain a further 20% discount via my SLCC membership. Funds of upto £1000 were allocated from reserves for this in the next financial year, but it is requested that this is brought forward to this year

b. Best Kept Village Competition – the CPRE has issued an invitation to enter the 2023 competition – would the FPC be interested in leading this?

c. Annual playground inspection report – circulated with the agenda – the playground's overall risk is low. Cllr Brown has been trained in undertaking regular checks, but still awaits his certificate of attendance, the FPC hasn't been invoiced yet, despite a reminder.

d. Purchase of 30mph wheely bin stickers – I'm not sure if residents already have these, but these can be bought at £95 for 100, or £195 for £250.

e. Contribution towards supply of a film screen and projector in the WV Meeting Room – this is so the agenda can be displayed, and other presentations given.

21.23 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

c. New footpath issues – ongoing problem of owners not picking up after their dogs

d. To note an update on existing Highways/Footpath issues:

i. Cutting back trees alongside FIRS 6 – contractor instructed and work scheduled for 10th March.

22.23 Planning

e. Enforcement action – the extra caravan has been reported to Enforcement, awaiting a response.

23.22 Ongoing matters

a. Councillor training – looking at organising a day's training in June or July

b. Map lectern project – chasing the supplier

c. Bank mandate – no further news, but a further mandate amendment will be required as experience elsewhere shows that Lloyds will pay electronic payments on the Clerk's authority. If it is not possible to amend this arrangement, then the FPC will need to consider changing banks.

d. Replacement Swing – contractor advises work is currently scheduled for April

e. Coronation event – Cllr Smith will give an update
f. New website and email addresses – all live and working
g. Outside equipment – Cllr Kennedy will give an update on the proposed residents' survey.
h. New noticeboard – now ordered with new email address to be displayed.