

Westfield Parish Clerks Report – For period covering 31st July to 31st August

Fingerpost Parsonage/Bluemans Lanes

- 3rd Aug – chased Phill Signs for an update on collecting fingerpost from Sidley depot.
- 3rd Aug – sent e-mail to East Sussex Highways to ask if Cllr Tim Hills can collect the fingerpost.
- 6th Aug – received a call from East Sussex Highways so say Tim could pick up fingerpost from Sidley depot. Tim and Paul Masters made arrangements to deliver and fix fingerpost in place.
- 7th Aug – fingerpost reinstated.

WW1 display – November 2018

- 31st July – attended Working Group meeting
- 6th Aug – following confirmation from a majority of Councillors that they were happy to absorb the costs of commission, set up Eventbrite events page to issue on-line tickets in exchange for a donation to the Royal British Legion (RBL).
- 6th Aug – confirmed ticketing details with Ruth Carter, and approved posters to be included in newsletter, and published on noticeboards etc.
- 30th Aug – placed posters for film showing ‘Battle of the Somme’ 3rd November on noticeboards
- 30th Aug – as of today issued 12 tickets (70 available)

‘There but not there’ silhouettes

- 29th Aug – received e-mail to say silhouettes should be delivered in the next couple of weeks

Poppy Display/Workshop

- 5th Aug – booked Bowls Club for poppy making workshop, Saturday 29th September 2-4pm. Put details in the August newsletter and created an event on FaceBook and put details on the village website.
- 13th Aug – e-mailed new Chairman of the Scouts Group inviting the Cubs and Beavers to create poppies to be displayed at two of the four roads coming into the village for the poppy display.
- 24th Aug – received an e-mail from the Chair of the Horticultural Society: ‘The Hort Soc committee have been thinking about our flower bed which as you know is on a mound of grass outside of Corbierres. We have planted poppies in the flower bed but they are not taking well. We would like to decorate the entire mound with poppies we are making including the fence of Corbierres (obviously with Jean’s permission, but we think she will be keen). Would this be OK?’
I replied to advise that I didn’t think Council would have any objection, but just to be mindful of site lines at the junction of Main Road/Wheel Lane.
- 30th Aug – designed posters and placed on noticeboards (will give to New Inn and shops to display)

Cottage Lane Footpath

- 15th Aug – e-mailed Project Manager at East Sussex Highways asking for an update
- 22nd Aug – received the following update from Joseph Okai, Project Manager East Sussex Highways:
I had a meeting on site with officers of East Sussex County Council Land Searches (ESCC), the owner of Westfield Garage site, and her agent to ascertain the true location of the highway boundary. We are currently awaiting verification of our highway boundary drawings from East Sussex County Council Land Searches to finally know which strip of land is to be acquired from property owners or be dedicated by them for the footway works. The validated drawings would then enable us to have discussions with the East Sussex County Council legal team.
The detailed design has been safety audited and the recommendations are being addressed for a target cost to be calculate. We have liaised with Rother District Council Planning in connection with the planning requirement to provide a footway across the frontage of Westfield Garage. Like the owner of the Westfield Garage, they are happy for East Sussex County Council to undertake the footway works across their private forecourt.
As this is a Community Match Scheme whereby the Westfield Parish Council’s provides 50% of the cost, I would be grateful to know if Westfield Parish Council is still happy to provide the required funding to enable East Sussex Highways proceed with the scheme to completion.
- 22nd Aug – Cllr Bowe advised he met the ESCC surveyor who was in Cottage Lane, who advised there were concerns about safety if the pavement ends at Chapel Lane, as there would be a gap of approx. 15m before the start of the footpath on the east side. There was discussion about extending the footpath along Cllr Bowe’s boundary or creating one on the grass verge in front of The Old Stable

Grass/hedge cutting

- 31st July – grass cutting on Parish Field around bin and kissing gate at the main entrance has been completed
- 3rd August – met new Contract Manager at iDverde in Recreation ground and walked around Parish Council sites to discuss contract.

Nutkin's Wood, Cottage Lane

- 9th Aug – e-mailed the Forestry Commission England to enquire if a tree felling/coppicing license has been issued for Nutkin's Wood.
- 13th Aug – received the following reply:
I can confirm there is a current felling licence for this woodland – Reference number: FLA 019/333/17-18, issued on 28/11/17 and valid for ten years. The proposed works include cutting sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice and thinning, mainly oak.

Parish Walkabout – 15th August

- 15th Aug – spoke to Cllr Monro to advise that I would not be able to attend due to illness. E-mailed a spreadsheet to Councillors outlining the risks highlighted in the recent RoSPA playground reports and listing other items that need to be assessed.
- 1st Sep – advised Cllr Monro that I would add the works scheduled as a result of the Parish Walkabout as an agenda item for the October meeting, and asked him to provide me with the updated spreadsheet beforehand.

Cricket Club lease

- 15th Aug – sent draft lease with comments from Ian Taylor to Cllrs Edwards and Monro, asking them to add their comments before sending to Wellers Hedleys solicitors. Cricket Club have confirmed they agree to an annual rent of £50.
- 24th Aug – e-mailed Wellers Hedleys with points raised by WCC, Cllrs Edwards and Monro.
- 31st Aug – received e-mail from Ian Taylor chasing revised lease. Advised that not received a response from Wellers Hedleys yet, but if Council don't have it in time for discussion at September meeting, then at least hope that WCC will be able to review the revised draft at their committee meeting on the 10th September, and that Council can approve it at their October meeting.

Cricket Ground – Memorial bench

- 16th Aug- e-mailed Roger Carrier to advise that his request to install an oak memorial bench on the Cricket Ground has been approved by Council. Asked him to liaise with Ian Taylor regarding position and fixings, and advise me accordingly.

Mill Close – telegraph poles

- 3rd Aug - received a letter from residents of Mill Close objecting to the erection of two telegraph poles on Mill Close and enclosing a petition signed by other residents requesting their removal. They have also sent letters to Open Reach and RDC. E-mailed the following reply:
'I was not aware that the telegraph poles had been erected, but I will certainly advise Councillors of your objections, and look into the matter further. It is however worth noting that the Parish Council does not have any statutory powers with regard to telegraph poles. I will also inform our District Councillors in case they are not already aware.'
- 3rd Aug – sent e-mail to Cllrs Johnson and Maynard asking if they had been advised of the objections.
- 11th Aug – residents forwarded copies of letters received from MP Amber Rudd, Openreach, and RDC. N.B. Openreach have a statutory right to install apparatus in the public highway, without consultation of planning permission.
- 13th Aug – received a reply from Cllr Johnson to say he had not been informed about any issues with the poles. He will follow up with Cllr Maynard.
- 22nd Aug – received notification from resident that Openreach have advised they will be removing the telegraph poles as a result of the petition signed by residents.

Recreation Ground

- 26th July – asked Paul Masters to repair cement that has come loose on the footpath between the Tennis Courts and Recreation Ground.
- 7th Aug – Paul carried out a repair but made the following comment:
- 'I think a more permanent solution may be needed, I suspect when the ground gets more moisture it will move again. The gap is a minimum of 75mm. I have done this same repair 3 times and someone else has done one repair in 11 years.'

- 23rd Aug – received notification from Paul that the vehicle gate is damaged, this is a broken repair, last time the gate was re-welded, it either needs re-welding or replacing. A new 0.9 gate (not measured) is about £80/£90

British Heart Foundation Clothes Bank

- 1st Aug – bin has now been emptied and moved onto grass verge to provide additional parking
- 6th Aug – person who empties bin commented on FB page that they cannot empty the bin when a car is parked in front of it. Replied to FB comment asking them to e-mail me so that we could try and resolve the problem.

Parish Field

- 22nd Aug – Brian Firman advised that someone has filled the key hole in the bin in the play area in the Parish Field, meaning he is unable to empty the bin. Reported the same to Paul Masters and asked him to remove substance.
- 23rd Aug – received notification from Paul that bin has been repaired.

Action in Rural Sussex

- 3rd August –booked places for Cllrs Monro, Hill, Hall and myself on the South East Community Led Housing Conference - 'How to transform locally affordable housing' in Battle 10th October 2018 9.45am to 4pm

Bus shelters – Main Road and Westfield Lane

- 31st July – spoke to Nick Stretton (who has cleaned them in the past) to arrange cleaning as soon as possible. Should take place week commencing 13th August.

Autumn Village Tidy

- 5th Aug – e-mailed hall booking manager to see if Church Hall is available on Saturday 6th October for village tidy.
- 6th Aug – hall is not available on 6th Oct. Have arranged for Saturday 13th October 10am to 12pm. Included details in newsletter.

Window on Westfield

- 7th Aug – completed newsletter article and e-mailed to editor for printing.

SALC Meeting with Chief Constable of Sussex Police – 16th November

- 15th August – forwarded e-mail from SSALC to Cllrs asking if they have any questions they would like raised at the meeting

New Councillor – Martin Hall

- 15th Aug – sent notification to RDC of co-option to include completed Declaration of Interests
- 15th Aug – e-mailed Cllr Hall Councillors induction pack
- 15th Aug – sent e-mail to other applicant for position, Kate Mencner, thanking her for her application and encouraged her to apply again if another position becomes available, as she was a very strong candidate.
- 24th Aug – attended meeting with Cllr Hall to discuss meeting procedure, ongoing projects etc.
- 24th Aug – created Councillor page on village website for Cllr Hall and created a post on FB page.
- 24th Aug – sent e-mail to Cllr P Edwards chasing for photo and profile information for website etc.

Bulb planting

- 15th Aug – researched several wholesale suppliers to find native species of bulbs. Sent recommendation to Councillors of a supplier who can supply 100 bulbs each of 6 varieties for £190. (Council has budgeted £200 for the project). Received conflicting opinions from Councillors about the type of bulb required, so a report will be put together for Council to discuss at the meeting.
- 24th Aug – Horticultural Society confirmed they would like to help with the planting, and they will make an announcement at the forthcoming Autumn Show on Sat 6th September

Planter – next to 'Westfield' sign on A28 by Whitelands

- 24th Aug – e-mailed Chair of Horticultural Society to ask if she knew who was responsible for the planter, and if they would be interested in tidying it up/ re-planting, as it is looking a bit sorry for itself (it is not on the Council's asset register?). Received a reply to say she doesn't know anything about it, but thought that the committee would agree to help with it.
- 2nd Sep – e-mailed Councillors to ask if they know who is responsible for it.

Land between Goulds Drive and Church Lane

- 16th Aug – sent e-mail to complainant to advise that Council discussed the removal of hedgerow, parking of vehicles and erection of a greenhouse.
- 16th Aug – sent a further e-mail to Cllr Carl Maynard to ask who the correct contact would be at ESCC regarding this matter as yet to receive a reply from the Land Management Team.

Allotments enquiry

- 16th Aug – answered an enquiry from a resident about the provision of allotments. Advised that Council looked into the matter in some detail 8 or 9 years ago and could not identify any suitable sites. Advised resident would add her to a list of people interested in allotments and would advise if any sites become available.

RDC Development and Site Allocation Plan (DASA)

- 23rd Aug – received a call from Holly Harrison, RDC Planning Officer. She is working on site plans for the 'Submission Version' of the DASA Plan which will be subject to a further consultation period in Autumn/Winter 2018. Holly advised that the proposed cycle path being Goulds Drive is proving difficult because of land ownership and landscaping issues. RDC were therefore keen to know if there was a demand for allotments in Westfield, as this was being considered as an option. I advised that there are currently no allotments in the parish, that we had received a recent enquiry, and that an extensive work was carried out by the Council in 2009/10 to find a suitable site. Also advised that the strip of land in question was considered to be the best option in this report, but unfortunately ESCC leased it to someone else (I believe in 2011) without offering it to Council first. Advised that we have received reports of problems with property owners extending their gardens into this strip of land, and erecting greenhouses etc.

Land at Churchfield

- 16th Aug – sent a letter to Disposals Project Officer at Optivo to enquire if they would be prepared to dispose of the land.

Bin - Churchfield

- 31st Aug – received a report from Cllr Green that bin at Churchfield (next to British Heart Foundation bin) is damaged. The concrete base has come loose from the ground. Sent photo to Paul Masters and asked him to have a look.
- 1st Sep – received notification that the bin has been reinstated. Went to check, and all looks ok.

Parish-on-line – Online mapping

- 29th Aug – confirmed to RALC that Council will pay the renewal fee of £40 p.a. for the on-line mapping service

1066 Community Coffee and Information Project

- 16th Aug – e-mailed Chair of 'The Hub' to enquire if they would be interested in holding a joint event.
- 17th Aug – visited 'The Hub' and spoke to Chair. She will make contact with the project organiser and let me know the outcome.

NatWest Community Banker

- 2nd Aug – forwarded e-mail from NatWest Community Banker to the Chair of The Hub, to ask if it would be of interest
- 24th Aug – Chair thanked me for forwarding the details on, and she has now had an opportunity to discuss with members. They do not feel it is of interest at the moment, as they have received negative feedback about NatWest and the service offered.

Bye Laws on SSSIs Consultation

- 16th Aug – forwarded consultation questions to Cllr Hills and asked him to provide a response before the deadline of the 22nd August 2018.

Invitation for Free NHS Health Checks for your community

- 8th Aug – received message from Cllr Hills to advise that he has spoken to the GP's surgery Practice Manager, Keith Newman, who has advised that holding the Health Checks outside the surgery would be detrimental to the surgery and could potentially reduce one of the practice nurse's hours.
- 16th Aug – e-mailed Councillors to advise of the same

Kate Darbyshire (Parish Clerk)

2nd September 2018