

AGENDA DOCUMENTATION – FULL COUNCIL – MARCH 2022

AGENDA ITEM 9 – TREE PLANTING

At the February FC meeting it was agreed the Clerk would write to the owners of Pond Cottage to gauge their thoughts regarding a walnut tree being planted on the land owned by the PC outside of their property.

The letter was sent as a matter of priority.

A reply from the owners was received a short time later which was circulated to the Chairman of CIL who I have been working closely with on this matter.

The letter highlighted the following:

The owners of Pond Cottage requested a site visit and requested a surveyor should be present for this for the reasons listed below.

Pond Cottage is west facing and the rooms at the front of the house are quite dark. As the tree matures it would block the light further which would have a detrimental effect on the property.

The owners were concerned the tree could possibly grow to greater height than the PC stated in their letter. They also had further concerns that the branches at their widest point could impact on pedestrians or traffic.

The water table on that part of The Green is quite high. After periods of heavy rain, the area outside Pond Cottage becomes quite saturated and this may have a damaging effect on the roots of the tree.

The same site had been considered previously when the PC were planting a tree for the Millennium but was rejected due to the number of water mains situated in that area.

After careful consideration the Chairman of CIL no longer felt that this location was appropriate for planting a tree.

Due to the lack of any other potential sites, I was advised to obtain quotes for the PC's original idea of an ornamental cherry tree to be planted behind the bench adjacent to the Dunn Village Hall.

I have endeavoured to obtain 3 quotes but have only received two:

Supplier	Tree	Price including planting	Delivery only option
Staverton Nursery	Prunus Shirofugen Size to be confirmed	£118.98 Price inclusive of VAT to be confirmed	£88.98 if delivered on a Friday VAT to be confirmed £98.98 if delivered on another weekday VAT to be confirmed

Europlants Ltd	Prunus Jacqueline 8-10cm girth 3m approximately	£180.00 plus VAT	£140.00 plus VAT
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Plaque	Material	Cost	Delivery
The Workshop Aberfeldy – previously agreed	Stainless steel	£61.80 plus VAT including delivery	Approximately 2 weeks

AGENDA ITEM 10 – BENCHES ON RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

It was recommended at the CIL Committee meeting on Thursday 24th February to recommend to Full Council to purchase up to 4 black picnic benches made from 100% recycled plastic to be situated on Rushlake Green Village Green.

The Chairman of CIL to clarify the exact location of the benches on The Green.

I had used the Facebook Clerks Forum which has Clerks from all over the country as members for recommendations for companies Parish Councils had used for picnic benches.

The company with the highest number of recommendations was Marmax. This was the company the CIL committee focused on.

Please use the following link to see the picnic table recommended by the CIL committee:

<https://marmaxproducts.co.uk/products/heavy-duty-recycled-plastic-picnic-bench/>

The price is £384 per bench excluding VAT plus £50 per shipping per bench which totals £520.80 including VAT per bench.



Our Recycled Plastic Heavy Duty Picnic Bench is suitable for any type of environment, and for adults and children aged 7 years and over. The Heavy-Duty Picnic Bench can sit up to 6 people at any one time. Made from 100% recycled plastic, the product is maintenance free, does not rot, corrode or splinter, and comes with a 25-year construction guarantee. There is no staining or varnishing required, and the product can be left outdoors all year round. Our Heavy-duty Picnic Bench is available in our full colour range.

Product Dimensions

- 1500mm(l) x 1200mm(w) x 780mm(h)
- Seat height: 490mm
- Weight: 96kg

Looking to have the picnic bench secured to the ground? No problem! Our ground fixing plates (for concrete) and extended legs (for soft ground and tarmac) are perfect to add that extra security and peace of mind to the products.

- Our courier service delivers to kerbside only
- If there is an area that the driver can pull into and turn around, they will do so and deliver your order to this point
- The courier will offload the goods, but cannot move the goods or place in situ
- The courier cannot dispose of the pallets
- Once you are ready to place your order, and have proceeded to the checkout, delivery charges shown are for mainland UK only

Please see separately circulated CIL reports showing the funds available to purchase the picnic benches.

I am still awaiting answers to my questions to Orchard Landscapes which were:

- Could you confirm there will be no changes to our contract price if you have to mow around 4 new picnic benches?
- Could you confirm the feet would not be damaged by the strimmer's?
- If damage is possible would you consider moving them when you are mowing The Green?

I did check with the Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council's contractor who confirmed NO damage would be caused to a picnic bench by a strimmer.

ITEM 11 WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE UPDATE

Documentation to follow.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

I forwarded an email sent from WDC on the 28th February regarding the Great British Spring Clean 25th March – 10th April.

Wealden are keen to know if the Parish Council will be organising their own litter pick or if there is a group already set up in the area who are planning to.

They have already started to receive emails from residents wanting to take part and they would like to link them up to existing groups.

WDC will be emailing all existing groups with details.

WDC can provide assistance with collections or equipment.

Thank you to Cllr Smythe for passing this email on to the group who organised the litter pick in the parish last year.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – CARERS ALLOWANCE FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

I received an email from the Willingdon & Jevington Parish Clerk enquiring if Warbleton Parish Council would consider contacting the local MP to ask them to review the possibility of paying their parish councillors a carers allowance. If applicable this would allow them to attend meetings and carry out their duties.

AGENDA ITEM 14 – IMPACT OF THE STORM

This will be a verbal update at the meeting.

I did receive an email from WDC regarding Emergency Plans.

Emergency Plans

Over the winter we have had a number of requests for emergency planning information from Town and Parish councils which have prompted me to write to you.

There seems to be a greater interest at parish level to formulate or revise emergency plans now that we are coming out of the pandemic and learning to live alongside Covid. Nationally, there has also been consultation around the Civil Contingencies Act, which suggests some revisions are on the way from Central Government. We've also had some enquiries about radio sets.

So, what we would like to know for now is:

- do you have an emergency plan?
- if you do, are you willing to share this with the Council (Word or PDF file preferred) – this will be held securely, accessible only to those with an Emergency Planning responsibility.
- the name of your Emergency Planning lead contact, their phone and email contact detail.
- Any emergency planning resources you have e.g., radio equipment.
- **Would a basic emergency planning awareness or training session be of use to help with your overall awareness and the role of the various responders? – Is this an idea the Parish Council support?**

Once we have collated those contact details, we will circulate a copy of the Council's Emergency Plan to the contacts notified to us and develop a work plan for working more closely together in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 15 – WHITE HORSE PUB UPDATE

The White Horse Pub has been closed since March last year. It is an Asset of Community Value.

It is rumoured the tenancy ended in December last year.

I have contacted Wealden to see if there is anything the PC can do to find out more about the current situation.

