Parish Clerk Report – 19th February 2024

Update from PROW warden on Churchwood Footpath

‘Just to update a colleague who lives in the village took another look for me and the situation remains the same as it was in December. He describes the route as follows; “ the majority of the path is wide and clear. Muddy and with vehicle tracks but perfectly usable”.

We did both note a short poached section by the properties to the N/E which may be suitable for some surface material. I will add it to my list of potential volunteer tasks and see if we can improve this later in the year when conditions allow. The route is also on the list for an annual cut so will have a strim each year to keep vegetation under control.

Village Gates and signs

Charles has emailed to say he has 2 of the old Fittleworth village name plates at his house and is wondering what we want to do with them. Wilbar have now removed the third one from Egdean and will drop it off to him.

Charles has suggested;

1. We could put a notice in the Mag for bids with a cut-off date. I can photograph them as per E bay!

2. We could ask Wade to auction them at the Hort Soc quiz but we would need to make a contribution to that society

3. We can hold them until the Garden trail and sell them then in a silent auction with a contribution to the church / garden trail

Please let me know what you want doing with the signs as we need to move them from Charles house.

WSCC Highway Enquiry updates

Lower Street Railings from Walnut Tree yard to Orchard House, update received 30/01/2024

**Enquiry Number:** 3253604 (WSCC-579873750)
**Street:** LOWER STREET, FITTLEWORTH (E: 500970.55 , N: 119132.2)
**Subject:** Condition

**Highways Team Update:**
Contractor to carry out remedial works here this financial year – Regards

Fly tipping in Village

Someone emailed to say they had witnessed rubbish being dumped in School Lane on Monday 5th Feb at 13:25 and more waste was dumped in Church Lane and the layby by Hesworth Car Park. I reported the fly tip to be cleared and passed the witness’ details onto CDC, who are investigating.

Tree Survey – April 2024

We have received a quote from Gale Tree Consultancy for tree surveys. We allowed £1000 in the 2024/25 budget for this, so the quote for £2110 has been split into 4 parts. To avoid using General Reserves, we could carry out some of the work this year and then add budget in 25/26 to complete the work. This would also spread the financial burden for urgent tree works over a longer period. All costs below are before VAT.

Area 1 – areas previously surveyed in 2021 - £550.00

Area 2 – Recreation Ground - £425.00

Area 3 – Sandy Lane and Centenary Gardens - £275.00

Area 4 – Hesworth Common PROW - £850.00

Council needs to consider the tree inspection requirement that Cllr MacKenzie has circulated, (included in the meeting pack), for adoption by FPC.

Vegetation control Walnut Tree Yard to Orchard House

I reported the overgrown vegetation to WSCC as this is a Highway verge. I received a ‘Job Complete’ update but when I had a look, the only thing I could see was a small branch on the roadside had been removed. Jon Edgar has confirmed that the piles of brambles etc he has had to cut back to repair his fence are still there, and in addition, nobody appeared to ‘crown thinning’ that had been notified for Friday 2nd Feb. I have emailed Janet Duncton to see if further works are intended as it hasn’t resolved the issue.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator is still working but I have added the request for payment for a replacement from London hearts to the payment list for this month. Once the new defib and equipment are received I will ask DS Electrical to fit the new cabinet.

Upper Street Bench Location

Highways have agreed that the verge outside 1 and 2 Littlepin Cottage is suitable for a bench but have asked that we engage with residents before they place a notice there.

Review of website content

I’ve had a meeting with Steve Peterson about help reviewing the website, as I know that some of the information is out of date, or no langer valid. Steve has offered to help review the content and I have accepted subject to approval from the Cllrs.