

## Parish Clerk Report – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

WSCC Highways attended The Fleet in August 2023 and found the drain cover by Limbourne Lane to be jammed, as it was the previous year. They have responded to my November enquiry that they will arrange for it to be unjammed.

Drains in Lower Street by Swan Green were reported as blocked in November and still no action.

Broken drain cover in Tripp Hill awaiting repair.

Railings on Lower Street from Walnut Tree Yard to Orchard House still not repaired, although Highways have sent an update, they have asked a contractor for a quote.

I have emailed Cllr Duncton for an update.

### Alley Dick

Grasstex have cleared the ditch and culverts on both side of Alley Dick.

The Recreation Ground ditch has been cleared.

Grasstex have agreed to use a smaller mower at the beginning and end of the cutting season, to reduce risk of damage to the playing surfaces.

### Swan Green

Jon Coleman and I have viewed the original sale documents held by the Solicitor and can confirm that the Swan green was not included in the 1979 sale.

### Communications Group

I had a chat with a resident who had contacted the PC about our request for help with the website and social media. Unfortunately, their skills are in website design and build and having looked at the website, they felt that the website itself is ok but some of the information is out of date. We need help with administration and content.

### Defibrillator

Unfortunately, we were not successful with the 2 Grant bids made, however we have qualified for a reduced-price defibrillator and locked cabinet for £750. However, we will have to pay for the new cabinet to be installed. I have a quote from DS Electrical for £90 plus VAT, so total cost is £840 plus VAT. The Severnside quote is £975 plus VAT.

In the meantime, the defib has started working again, so is back on the network ready for Emergency use.

### Fittleworth Relief in Sickness Charity

Dr Crook and Lady Barttelot have been appointed as Trustees.

Over the last three years 21 grants have been made, though in several cases the same person has received more than one grant. The majority of the grants have been to Fittleworth people, though the trustees are permitted to consider cases where the person concerned lives in Fittleworth, Stopham, Bedham, Coldwaltham, Watersfield or Egdean.

## Grant Applications

We have received 4 new applications for funding, from 4sightvision, Samaritans Bognor, St Marys Church, F&S Magazine. £600 is left in the budget for 2023/24. Details of the applications received have been circulated.

Organisation	Date received	Criteria met	Accounts Provided	Previous award (23/23)	Grants requested for	Amt requested	Awarded
Fittleworth S&SC	21/08/23	Yes	Yes	£0	Breast Cancer Support	£300	£300
4sight Vision	08/12/23	Yes	Yes	£100	Support for 2 clients	£100	
Samaritans Bognor, Chichester and District	27/11/23	Yes	Yes	£0	Support to run branch	£0	
St Marys Church	27/12/23	Yes	Yes	£200	Repairs to ironstone wall	£250	
Fittleworth Magazine	27/12/23	Yes	Yes	£100	Printing costs	£50	
				£400		£700.00	£300.00
Budget available for 23/24 - £900							

## SID Device

A question has been raised about whether we can download speed data from the SID. The SID does not have the data collection unit fitted but it can be retrofitted for £479.00 + VAT, and £55.00 + VAT return carriage fee.

The 2023/24 budget for moving the SID was based on a cost of £50 an hour, unfortunately Wilbar increased their hourly rate to £60 an hour, so we only have budget to the end of December unless Council agree to fund January to March with an additional £760 from general reserves.

## Play area gates

We have an ongoing problem with the safety locked gates on the play area, a combination of gate hinges dropping and locks failing. SC Landscapes who do the maintenance on the play area are recommending we replace the gate at the top of the play area with a metal gate. Alternatively we can have the lock changed so it's the same as the one on the lower gate.



I have quotes for 3 new signs, the cheapest is £14 per unit.

#### Precept request and Determination of Taxbase 2024-25

I have submitted our precept requirement for 2024/25 to CDC, (£40133). The taxbase for Fittleworth has risen from 541 in 2023/24 to 5 47.9 for 2024/25. The effect of this is that the 12.5% overall increase in monetary terms equates to a 11.08% increase per property.

#### Drop down post to limit access to Recreation Ground

I met Grastex on site and we agreed that a single drop down post will be insufficient to restrict access to the Recreation Ground. Grastex has suggested either a concrete bollard on the corner where the paving meets the grass, with a drop down post betwixt this and the playground, or a row of bollards, or other fencing, alongside the paved area, which will limit the turn onto the field.



#### Hawkins Field Street Name Plates

A resident has raised a query about the size and design of the Street name plates at Hawkins Field. I have emailed CDC to see if there is any planning guidance on size, design, and wording.

#### Q3 Forecast

The Q3 forecast suggests we will be £2500 overspent on budget for 2023/24. This impacts on our general reserves, which are on the low side, so further spending from general reserve needs careful consideration.