

Parish Clerk Report – 15th April 2024

Fittleworth Village Signs and Garden Trail

The Sports Club have spoken to Charles about collecting one of the signs for the pavilion, the other 2 will be auctioned at the Garden Trail with the proceeds split between the Garden Trail fundraising and the PC.

If anyone wants to borrow some litter picking equipment, Chris Welfare has 4 sets available.

Water on road in Lower Street

Reported to WSCC Highways 20/03/2024 reference 3264213 and this response received;

Enquiry Number: 3264213 (WSCC-597978181)

Street: LOWER STREET, FITTLEWORTH (E: 501050.28 , N: 119015.82)

Subject: Drainage

Highways Team Update:

There are similar occurrences County wide - Ground water levels are still extremely high and on closer inspection water is coming up through the ground - There has been a history of this at this location . Initially Southern Water checked for a leak and said there was not. Will need to wait for ground to start drying out - Regards

Additional Waste bins on Hesworth Common/Birchwalks Wood

Our bins are currently emptied by CDC. I emailed them to see if they would take on additional emptying. Their response below;

Unfortunately we are not installing, or servicing, any new dog or litter bins at present. Our service is working at full capacity and we are unable to take on any further collections.

Cllr Cross has reported this is a District wide issue and as such, he is escalating it 'up the line'. He suggests that CDC may consider relocating a bin as long as it's dual purpose. One neighbouring parish have been allowed to relocate an existing bin. We could remove the dog waste bin from the Hesworth car park and a litter bin from the play area at the rec and install 2 x dual purpose waste bins elsewhere, subject to CDC approval.

Chichester Police All Parishes Meeting

Response from Inspector Merrifield to query raised at last meeting about invitations to All parish meetings;

Please accept my apologies. It certainly has not been forgotten, and it is an error on my part on not arranging one sooner. However, due to a number of operational matters I unfortunately not given it the priority it deserves.

I will endeavour to tray and arrange something in the coming weeks.

End of Year update

The accounts are up to date and the end of year reports run from Rialtus, however I have yet to complete the annual return and analysis required. This needs to be done before the internal audit on 7th May.

Birchwalks Wood CIL

£1500 funding from the previous bid has been applied for and approved.

A new EOI for the 2024 round has been submitted, based on the 100 tree project in the strategic plan.

Millennium Arch

I have asked Oakmasters for a quote to finish the works.

Bowling Club

I have emailed 3 contractors asking for a quote for a metal 5 bar gate with a short stretch of fencing either side, to secure the Bowling club site if necessary.

Rifle Club

I visited the Solicitors and got a copy of the lease, which I have forwarded to Cllr MacKenzie. I have emailed asking them to contact me regarding the lease expiry in September, no response yet.

Parish Council AGM

This will be the meeting on 20th May 2024

HCMC

The HCMC have asked for a resolution to suspend Standing Order 18c

- a. **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds in standing order 18(f) is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity.**

In relation to the awarding of a Contract for Heathland restoration and maintenance on Hesworth Common, on the grounds that Financial Regulation 11.1 ii applies,

- i. for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;