

Background Notes for Firsdown PC meeting November 2021

74.21 Reports

b. Parish Clerk

- i. Winterslow Village Hall - there is a new muster point should the fire alarm be activated at Winterslow Village Hall – it is now by the telegraph pole in the car park at the rear end of the tennis court.
- ii. Community Governance Review – you may recall that FPC agreed to support Winterbourne Parish Council’s request to absorb 4 buildings on the mutual western boundary to regularise the path of the boundary. This request has not been taken forward by Wiltshire Council at present.

c. Southern Area Board – there will be a special parish council online event on Thursday 18th November at 7.00pm. The next formal Area Board meeting is on Thursday 9th December, hopefully face-to-face in Winterslow Village Hall, subject to any prevailing COVID restrictions.

75.21 Finance

e. Quote from preferred supplier, Greenbarnes for two information boards and associated artwork



A0, lectern-mounted interpretation panel in maintenance-free Man-made Timber, landscape format, unglazed. The overall dimensions of display frame 1289mm wide x 1006mm high give a visible display size of 1189mm wide x 841mm high.

These interpretation and information panels are framed in Man-made Timber, a recycled plastic material which has the appearance of timber but none of the associated problems. They will not warp, rot, shrink or split and, as such, offer an ideal, maintenance-free alternative to conventional wooden-framed boards. The lectern bases supplied with these interpretation panels are constructed using extremely robust 100 x 100mm legs and 50 x 100mm cross-members, again manufactured from recycled plastic.

Two options are offered for the display panels:

- digital print applied to a 3mm aluminium substrate – £996.22 plus delivery plus VAT **each**, **total cost £1992.44**

- for the ultimate in durability, digital print encapsulated in glass-reinforced plastic (g.r.p.) which comes with a 10-year guarantee when used externally under normal light and weather conditions – £1239.01 plus delivery plus VAT **each, total cost £2478.02**. There is **£2640.00** left in the budget for this project.

The Parish Council needs to supply the artwork, but Greenbarnes will incorporate it into the lecterns **I recommend that the Parish Council buys one lectern, and applies for an Area Board grant for the second one.**

f. Quotes for 22 replacement recycled plastic play area fence posts and 4 wooden railings

Contractor 1 £896.60 including delivery plus VAT. No indication on delivery time

Contractor 2 £577.54 including delivery and VAT. No indication on delivery time

Contractor 3 £386.06 including delivery plus VAT. Delivery 1 to 2 weeks

I will bring the quotes for the railings to the meeting

76.21 Governance

Cllr Walsh has requested that the Parish Council returns to meeting monthly as from January 2022.

77.21 Planning

At the time of writing, the outline application for the proposed development for 9 properties plus open space at 6 Firs Road has not been determined. I have not heard anything more about the proposed management of the open space.

e. Review of Village Design Statement – councillors to advise which sections need reviewing and updating.

78.21 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

a. Highways issues – surface water drainage – despite the gullies having been emptied, there is still a surface water drainage problem in Firs Road, and the garden of one property in particular has been flooded recently because Wiltshire County Council and its successor organisation Wiltshire Council has not maintained its pipework. Cllr Brown has been in touch with the local Highways officer and will update the meeting.

c. Footpath matters

i. 3 x BOAT signs – suggested designs have been compiled and circulated by Cllr Stewart, the Council needs to decide on its preferred choice.

ii. Frequency of grass cutting of the BOAT – the wording of the proposed survey needs to be agreed and circulated, again by way of a leaflet and also on the website. Recommended this is actioned in January, for a decision at the March meeting.

iii. To reconsider the access arrangements to the BOAT – councillors have been looking at this over the summer. Currently, a local resident very kindly allows the maintenance tractors to access the BOAT via his property, as the path from Firs Road to the Play Area end is only 2.8m at the Firs Road end, where the pole stay wire limits the width, widening to approx 4m, and narrowing down to 3.5m at the play area end. Clearly, and in the light of the recent emergency event, it is not wise to rely on the co-operation of a neighbour, however understand and agreeable- to enable access to the BOAT for maintenance and emergency reasons. The options are:

- *Moving the pole stay wire* - The WC Highways Officer has been in touch with Scottish and Southern about the possibility of moving the pole stay wire, the response was as follows:

“At this moment in time we are unable to move the stay, because it is an angle stay – used to balance the network force applied to a pole when the route changes direction. The tension applied by the cables on either side of the pole offset each other completely.

The only other option we would have is to move the pole, but this would be subject to wayleaves. Rough cost of £6k +VAT. If you wish to carry on with this please get in contact.”

- *Widening the path* – a previous councillor has been in touch with the landowner of the adjacent field, and discussed the possibility of allowing the Parish Council more land sufficient to allow a tractor access all the way from Firs Road to the play area end. I understand that she is open to the idea, but the matter has not been taken any further.
- *Widening the entrance gate* – Cllr Walsh suggests that rather than replacing the gate with an even wider gate to accommodate the grass cutters (the new gate will ultimately drop and more often than not be left open encouraging cars to use it to access the play area), a gate could be added to the side in much the same way as the house next door to Brian Edgeley's property. Then the main gate can be kept permanently locked and just use the side gate for pedestrians but wide enough for children's pushchairs, mobility scooter / wheelchair access. (See attached pic but opening is on the other side) The existing gate would then only need opening for machinery to pass through. There are many devices for self-closing gates available which any contractor can provide which would solve the problem of people leaving the gate open as they often do now. This would save money needing to be spent on a larger gate. The existing one is quite sound and will not be used very often anyway. It has quite sophisticated hinging on it which is adjustable with a large spanner.

iv. To reconsider referring to the BOAT as the Old Roman Road in future. Councillors will be aware that the Ordinance Survey maps refer to this Right of Way as Old Roman Road. However, English Heritage has undertaken field and desktop research, and cannot categorically confirm that the BOAT runs along the line of a Roman Road. Using the term B.O.A.T (Byway Open to All Traffic) does give an indication of who can use this public Right of Way, and that it's not restricted to just pedestrians, and/or horses etc.

79.21 New issues

a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Winterslow Parish Council is buying Jubilee mugs for the Winterslow primary school children. Firsdown Parish Council could find out how many Firsdown children attend Winterslow and Pitton primary schools, and could either buy sufficient to give each child a mug, or make a financial contribution instead. I'm not aware yet of any other events being planned.

b. Installation of emergency contact signage within the woods – following the recent accident in the woods, it was clear that the emergency services had no real idea of the location. It is suggested that signs be displayed giving not only the nearest post code, but the What3Words code for the entrance to the woods. The Parish Council could also recommend and encourage the take up of the app by publicising the app. The Play Area signage also needs updating with this information. Go here: <https://what3words.com/pretty.needed.chill> for more information.

c. Winterslow Village Hall rep – as a regular user of the Village Hall, the FPC is eligible to have a rep on the Village Hall Management Committee. Is anyone willing to take this on?
It would mean attending the AGM, plus one or two meetings per year.

80.21 Ongoing matters

a. Play area – the fencing is the main concern, and is in hand. The next inspection is due in December.

b. Improving communication methods with residents

i. Hybrid meetings – current legislation allows members of the public to attend virtually, but not councillors, who must meet face to face. They can attend virtually, but then would have no more rights than the MoPs, ie cannot take part in discussions, and cannot vote. A true hybrid meeting is where at least a quorum meets face to face, and councillors can also attend and interact virtually. It is recommended this is deferred for further discussion and decision until legislation permitting hybrid meetings is enacted in Parliament.

ii. Social media review – I have asked Breakthrough Communications, a supplier to the parish council sector, to undertake a free social media review of the Parish Council's social media. I will share the report when I receive it.

A formal policy covering internal and external communications will be available for review and adoption at the January meeting.

c. Picnic bench survey – the survey is live on the website, and leaflets have been produced. At the time of writing, I have not received any responses, but I understand the deadline is 30th November, with a final decision to be made at the January meeting.